



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

Tel: 0121 357 9892

Email: enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk

Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



FRIDAY 24th October 2024

Dear parents and carers,

This week we have celebrated Vocations Day and it was wonderful to witness so many of our children talking about their future careers. A big thank you to all of the parents who came in to school to speak about their work—many of our children have been left inspired!

This month we have been learning about 'Change Makers' as part of Black History Month. On Wednesday 6th November, Catholic Life Leaders will be leading an assembly on **what** they have learned during Black History Month and **why** this is important. You are all very welcome to attend this assembly!

Well done to all the children for making a very successful start to this new academic year. Last night at parents' evening it was good to speak with many of you about your child's experience of school. Your feedback as parents is very much appreciated—thank you for taking the time to chat with me. I am pleased to say that there was a lot of positive comments and every positive comment is much appreciated by us all!

I wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe half term holiday. We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday 5th November.

Have a great half term holiday!

Mrs. Linley and The St. Mark's Team

GETTING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL REALLY DOES MATTER

DID YOU KNOW?

| In a school year if your child is late every day by... | Your child would have lost approximately... | Or they would have missed approximately |
|--|---|---|
| 5 Minutes | 3 Days | 12 Lessons |
| 10 Minutes | 6 Days | 24 Lessons |
| 15 Minutes | 9 Days | 36 Lessons |
| 20 Minutes | 12 Days | 48 Lessons |
| 30 Minutes | 18 Days | 72 Lessons |

PLEASE ENCOURAGE PUNCTUALITY TO MAINTAIN ATTENDANCE

Punctuality Matters!

This half term, we have been reviewing punctuality at St. Mark's. We work closely with parents/carers to help improve school attendance and punctuality. Lateness and particularly persistent lateness disrupts the education of your child and often the whole class and persistent lateness impacts on their emotional well-being. We want to build good habits for life for our children so that when they enter the world of work, they are well prepared to achieve success. Here are what our children have said about being late to school:

"I don't like missing the start of Fluent in Five because I feel behind". Anonymous

"I don't like walking in late to assembly as everyone looks at you." Anonymous

"I hate being late". Anonymous

We appreciate your support with getting your child/ren into school on time. Gates are open from 8:30am - 8:45am.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to **Year 2** for their attendance this term and to **Year 2 & 4** for having the least amount of lates.

Please can **Year 6** ensure they attend school everyday and that they arrive to school on time.

Gates open between **8.30 and 8.45am**.

Registers closes at **8.55am**.

Our target is **97%** we are currently at **94.0%**.


Attendance & Punctuality so far this year is a concern, we have had the following:

No. of home visits conducted to children due to not attending school = **5**

No. of children who have received punctuality letter this half term for having 3+ lates = **34**

No. of children who have received attendance concern letters due to having 10+ days off this half term = **8**

We will be monitoring the number of days off much closely after half term, so please can you ensure you work with us and bring your child in to school every day and on time.

|  | So Far This Term No. Of Lates % | So Far This Term Attendance % |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| RECEPTION | 1.5% | 94.8% |
| YEAR 1 | 1.1% | 93.8% |
| YEAR 2 | 0.9% | 96.2% |
| YEAR 3 | 1.5% | 94.7% |
| YEAR 4 | 0.9% | 94.9% |
| YEAR 5 | 1.6% | 92.3% |
| YEAR 6 | 2.0% | 91.2% |



Dates for the diary:

Friday 25th October—Teacher Training Day—School closed for pupils

Monday 4th November 2024—Teacher Training Day—school closed for pupils

Wednesday 6th November 2024—Black History Month assembly at 2:30pm

Thursday 7th November 2024—Open afternoon for perspective parents—1-3pm (call school to book slot)

Friday 8th November 2024—School closed for Mrs. Nellists' funeral

Monday 11th—15th November—Anti-bullying week (children wear odd socks to school)

Tuesday 12th November 2024—Reception writing workshop

Thursday 14th November 2024—Open afternoon for perspective parents—1-3pm (call school to book slot)

Friday 15th November 2024—Y2 Trip to Library of Birmingham—(more information to follow)

Wednesday 13th –15th November—Bikeability for KS2

Wednesday 4th December 2024—Whole School Flu Vaccination—(rescheduled date)

Afternoon Tea with Mrs Linley

Well done to our children who were chosen this week for a special afternoon tea lunch with Mrs Linley. They were chosen by class teachers for following our 'Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe' school rules, being excellent role models and for working really hard. We look forward to seeing who is chosen next half term.



Letter-join

This half term, the whole school have been working hard to improve their presentation. Please remember that we have Letter-Join to support your child with forming letters and then joining letters correctly. Please spend some time over the half term practicing you child's handwriting.

Pen licences will be awarded after the holidays.



Desktop log-in

Login Desktop Tablet


Username: kh13756

Password: home

Tablet log-in

Login Desktop Tablet

Username: kh13756

Swipecode: 

Bike Ability 2024!

Over this academic year, we will be working with BikeAbility to provide cycle training for Y3 - Y6.

Bikeability cycle training equips children with vital life skills. Pupils not only learn to cycle, they gain independence, social skills and a sense of wellbeing.



After Bikeability, children are better at responding to risk and report increased confidence. As a result, more children cycle to school which in turn improves mental health and wellbeing. This allows children to get more out of the classroom, improving their attention span and engagement. Healthier habits lead to increased attendance and improved academic results. **Bikeability goes beyond a training course; it impacts children's lives.**

A letter was sent out earlier this week to all KS2 children asking parents about your child's cycling proficiency. Please can this be returned ASAP to ensure all children get placed in the right group and have access to this training during their time at St. Mark's.

Harvest Festival 2024

On Thursday 17th October, we celebrated our Harvest Festival Mass. Our Mini Vinnies planned and lead a beautiful Mass where all children brought in donations to send off to Fr Hudsons Caritas and SIFA Fireside. We have worked closely with Fr Hudsons in the past and this year, as part of our Live Simply Award, we are supporting SIFA Fireside. SIFA Fireside support homeless people in Birmingham, we are supporting them as part of our mission to live in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in our local, national and global community. Well done Mini Vinnies for all your hard work and to all our families for your kind donations.



Y5 Trip to the Butterfly Farm

On Monday 14th October, Year 5 went to Stratford Butterfly Farm to learn about the Ancient Maya Civilisation.

During the visit the children learnt about, Mayan gods and temples. They learnt about food eaten by the Maya, sacrifices that they made and the Mayan calendar.



**Compass
Birmingham**
Mental Health Support Teams

Here at St. Mark's we work closely with Compass Birmingham Mental Health Support Team to provide support for children in our school. To read more about how this could benefit your child, please visit the Compass website by searching online or scanning the QR code. If you feel this service would benefit your child, please speak to a member of staff.

