



# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

Tel: 0121 357 9892

Email: [enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk)

Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



**WEDNESDAY 13th NOVEMBER**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to welcome everyone back to school last Tuesday. This week's gospel was about finding joy and happiness in our many gifts. We are very blessed at St. Mark's to have so many children with so many gifts. Please make time this weekend to reflect on your child's gifts (and your own) as these gifts make the world a happier, kinder and more respectful place.

Our new Catholic screens on the gates on Kingsdown Avenue provide more privacy from the general public and also serve as reminders of our faith. The children designed the playground screens and they are a brilliant addition to our playground!

Here are some pics of our new playground additions:



On Monday, we remembered and prayed for the Holy Souls that have died, and we respectfully stayed silent for 2 minutes at 11am to commemorate all those that died in the world wars. Thank you for supporting the poppy appeal in school. The children have been incredibly respectful and well behaved in school this week. Well done to our guardian angels who led the anti-bullying week assembly on Tuesday. The children presented alongside staff from COMPASS and the message was very clear!

Have a good weekend, God bless!

## Our beloved Mrs. Nellist

Last Friday, we paid our respects to our beloved Mrs. Nellist and we came together as a family. To support her family with her loss. Thank you for the kind messages we received. As a school we will be remembering Mrs. Nellist in a special school mass next Thursday on 21st November. You are all invited to attend this along with her family and friends. There will be refreshments provided afterwards.



As you know Mrs. Nellist had cancer and as a school we are going to be speaking to the children next week during the week of her special mass about cancer as we want to avoid any children making the association that should someone they know have cancer, they will die.

## ATTENDANCE UPDATE


Well done to **Year 2** for their attendance this term and to **Year 3** 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 **94.3%**.

	So Far This Term No. Of Lates %	So Far This Term Attendance %
RECEPTION	1.5%	94.8%
YEAR 1	1.2%	94.0%
YEAR 2	0.8%	<b>96.4%</b>
YEAR 3	<b>0.5%</b>	94.8%
YEAR 4	0.9%	95.4%
YEAR 5	1.5%	92.4%
YEAR 6	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>91.8%</b>

### Dates for the diary:

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

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

Wednesday 13th –15th November—Bikeability for KS2

Monday 18th November—Y1 Parent Meeting on Phonics at 3.30pm

Thursday 21st November 2024—Mass in school for Mrs Nellist

**Monday 25th November 2024—Teacher Training Day— (School closed for pupils)**

Wednesday 27th November 2024—Y4 Trip to ThinkTank—more information to follow)

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

Friday 6th December 2024— Year 3 trip to Cadbury's World—(more information to follow)

Friday 6th December 2024—Christmas Fayre 3.00-5.30pm

Thursday 12th December 2024—Reception trip to Warwick Castle—(more information to follow)

Friday 13th December 2024—Christmas Disco during school hours

## Recycling at Home

Good morning, the Laudato Si' Mission Team are working very hard to improve recycling both at home and at school. They have put together a few questions to gain some feedback about recycling at home. Please could you spend 5 minutes answering these questions.

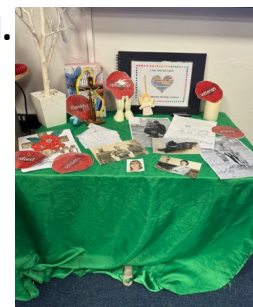
<https://forms.office.com/e/ssjRh2Pka?origin=lpLink>

Many thanks for your support.



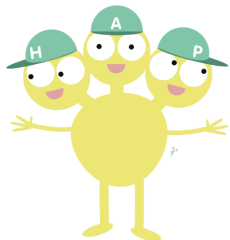
## Month of November

**November is the month of Holy Souls.**  
**Thank you to those parents that have supported with our poppy appeal and with providing children with a photo of a loved one that has died.**



## Bikeability

This week in school some of our Key Stage 2 children have been learning to develop their cycling skills. Please encourage your child to ride to school if they can!



## **My Happy Mind**

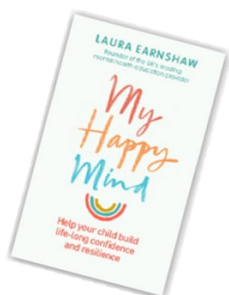


This half term we will be introducing a program to all year groups in school called 'myHappymind'. myHappymind is all based around helping children to understand how their brain works and to support them in developing positive skills and habits to be their very best selves. This will supplement our PSHE and RSE curriculum as well as provide the children with life-long skills to manage their own mental health, relationships and resilience.

myHappymind will be delivered in school by your child's teacher through a series of interactive lessons and then the children will be applying what they have learnt throughout the day and week!

Look out on Class Dojo for what we are up to!

To further embed this learning, myHappymind has developed a Parent App. These resources can be accessed online on your computer, or through an app on your phone. The Parent App will support you as a parent in understanding what your child is learning, activities for you to do together at home and also a Kids Zone featuring myHappymind Games plus much more!



To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> to create your free account. You will need to enter your name, email, and authentication code. Your authentication code is 148973. Or simply scan this QR code below to sign up! Once you have created your account, you will receive an email with the next steps on downloading the app.



We really encourage you to make use of this free content so that