



Week Ending Friday 12th January 2018

Dear Parents,

Gospel of Sunday 14th January 2018

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, "Look, there is the lamb of God." Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, "What do you want?" They answered, "Rabbi," – which means Teacher – "where do you live?" "Come and see," he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour. One of these two (who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said) was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, "We have found the Messiah," – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, "You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas," – meaning Rock.

(John 1:35-42) The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B)



WELCOME BACK

I would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous new year. Also, I would like to welcome you back to St. Mark's and hope we continue to work just as hard and effectively together this term.



CONGRATULATIONS

I would like to announce that Mrs Hussain has been blessed with the birth of her second child 'Hasan Ali Habib'. The newest member of our St. Mark's family was born on 5th January 2018. Mother, father and baby boy are all doing well. Congratulations and well done.



THANK YOU

For all the cards, good wishes and extremely generous gifts that we received. Many thanks for your kindness and generosity. Staff were also inundated with beautiful gifts that they thoroughly enjoyed.



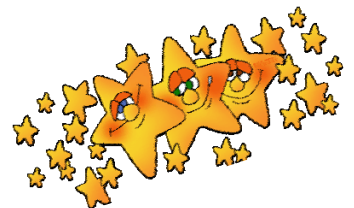
TRAGIC LOSS

It is with a heavy heart and with my deep regret that I write to inform you of the sad passing of Mrs O'Shea's father Patrick. I would also like to share with you the news of my mother Julia, who has been very unwell as many of you knew for a long time, has also sadly passed. Please bear both these family members in your thoughts and prayers. Many thanks.



Best attendance for week ending 12th January – **Year 5 with 100% attendance** – Well done to Mrs Khan and class for such good attendance. Keep up the good work!

Class	Attendance	Lates	Class	Attendance	Lates
Reception	95.4%	2	Year 4	95.8%	2
Year 1	93.3%	2	Year 5	100% ☺	2
Year 2	92.1%	2	Year 6	95.4%	1
Year 3	97.5%	6	School	95.7%	17



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...

The following members of our school have and will be celebrating their birthday next week: - Zia Shaikh (Y1) and Samuel (Y6).

We wish them a wonderful birthday and hope all their wishes come true.



THURSDAY MASS DATES/PRAYER SERVICES

Family and friends are very welcome to join us on the following dates:



18 th Jan	Year 6
25 th Jan	Year 5
1 st Feb	Year 4
8 th Feb	Year 3
15 th Feb	Year 2



Class Assembly Dates/Times:

Please note: All assemblies will start at 2:30pm



Friday 16 th February 2018	Year 4
Friday 9 th March 2018	Reception (Mother's Day Assembly)
Friday 16 th March 2018	Year 2
Friday 22 nd June 2018	Year 1
Thursday 19 th July 2018	Year 6 Leaver's Assembly















SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Please see below a list of important dates for Year 3 children preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Please see additional **Alton Castle** retreat day listed below:

Thursday 8 th March 2018	3:30pm – Journey of Faith at St. Mark's school
Tuesday 13th March 2018	Alton Castle Retreat All day – Adult to accompany child
Thursday 15 th March 2018	4:00pm – Sacrament of Reconciliation at Holy Name Church
Thursday 26 th April 2018	3:30pm – Journey of Faith at St. Mark's school
Sunday 13 th May 2018	10:30am - Sacramental Enrolment Mass at Holy Name Church
Sunday 20 th May 2018	10.30am – Sacramental preparation Mass at Holy Name Church
Sunday 10 th June 2018	10.30am – Sacramental preparation Mass at Holy Name Church
Sunday 24 th June 2018	10:30am – Sacrament of Eucharist at Holy Name Church

INSPIRATION DAYS!

To get our Inspirational day topic off with a bang, children will be involved in a fun action packed day linked to their new curriculum topic. To help the children get into character, both children and staff will be coming in dressed as their respective topic. We look forward to having some very inspirational days!

Friday 19 th January 2018		Friday 20 th April 2018	
Reception	Fairy tales 	Reception	Under the Sea 
Year 1	The Monarchy 	Year 1	London 
Year 2	The Explorers – Neil Armstrong 	Year 2	Africa 
Year 3	Romans 	Year 3	UK Land Use 
Year 4	Rivers, Coast & Water Cycles  River Animals	Year 4	The Vikings  VIKINGS
Year 5	World War 2 	Year 5	Amazon Rainforest + Brazil 
Year 6	Shakespeare 	Year 6	Mayans 



Forest School Programme – Spring Term 2018

Forest Schools is a fun, exciting way to learn in an outdoor setting such as a woodland. It is proven to improve children’s confidence, self-esteem and communication skills, as well as giving them an opportunity to have lots of fun! The children also develop skills in team work, using tools safely and learning about looking after our woodlands.

During the Spring Term Year 3 will be taking part in a Forest School programme.

The class will be alternated – half the class will take part this half term and half the class will take part next half term.



PARKING CONGESTION

Since we have returned this academic year, we have had numerous complaints from local residents and our school community about some of the self-centred and selfish actions of some of our parents in relation to where they park their vehicles. This is a poor reflection on a wonderful school community. Please can you be mindful and considerate to other drivers and the flow of traffic around school.



HAIRSTYLES

We would just like to remind you that **no extreme haircuts**, including shaved patterns or dyed hair are allowed at school. For further details see the school planner. Also if you are unsure about any aspect of uniform/PE kit/ hairstyles etc. please check our school website for more information.

UNIFORM

Thank you for presenting your children so beautifully in their school uniform and wearing it with pride. We are always very proud of the standards set and maintained at St Mark’s. The children are a credit to you and we appreciate your support with school uniform. We are continuing with our presentation award to reward a class each week for their high standards. Please ensure that all items are clearly marked with your child’s name. Parents should write a note in their child’s planner if for any reason they are unable to wear the correct uniform.



NEWS FROM THE HOLY NAME PARISH CENTRE

It is the Pantomime Season, so please do come and enjoy a Pantomime performed by the Great Barr Musical and Theatre Company this coming Saturday (13 January), 2.30 and 7.30 in the Parish Centre. The Parish Centre Management Committee will be appointing additional staff in early January, if you are interested in working within our Parish Centre, please contact Br Andrew at the Presbytery for more details.



Spring Term 2018	Summer Term 2018
Monday 8 th January To Friday 16 th February - half term - Monday 26 th February To Wednesday 28 th March	Monday 16 th April To Friday 25 th May - half term - Tuesday 5 th June To Friday 20 th July



Teachers' Training Days

Thursday 29th March 2018
Monday 4th June 2018
Tuesday 24th July 2018

God Bless

Mr. S. Murphy
Headteacher