



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Acting Headteacher
Mrs. D. Linley



Week Ending 1st March 2019

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a good half term break. Over the half term holiday, we had some work completed on the school grounds, here is a list of some of the improvements that were made:

Action taken	Rationale
Trees on the school grounds were pruned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve sunlight access • Prevent squirrels/cats gaining easy access to school roof
Additional lights fitted to the school building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve visibility for children, parents and staff when arriving and exiting the school grounds in dark conditions
New office doors with glass panels fitted inside school building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve visibility
New windows fitted in selected classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve visibility • Reduce heat loss
New gates fitted on KS2 slope on playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce risk of accidents

The following improvements were decided upon by our school council children:

Action taken	Rationale
New gym equipment fitted on KS2 playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have fun engaging in physical activity • Raise profile of fitness and exercise in school
Plastic ivy screening fitted around school grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce risk of foreign objects entering school grounds • Reduce risk of strangers communicating with children at break and lunch times

Thank you to all of you who joined us for our first ever Parent Mass this week and thank you to those of you who took part. This was a great idea presented by the Spiritual Council children and on the back of its success, we will be organising another Parent Mass for the summer term.

Inspiration Day was a great success today – it was wonderful to see so many children dressed up and taking part in a range of creative activities. Thank you for your support with this.

Next week is Consultation Week, teachers will be updating you on the progress your child has made so far this year and what steps need to be taken to ensure your child fulfils their potential and achieves their end of year target. It is very important that you attend these meetings, if you require another date or time, please discuss this with your child's class teacher. Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

Thursday Mass Dates

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



Mass
Schedule

6th March
 14th March
 21st March
 28th March
 4th April
 11th April

Ash Wednesday Service at 2:30pm
 Year 5
 Year 3
 Year 4
 Year 6
 Year 5

On Thursday we had our very first Mass led by parents, we thought this was a nice opportunity to include in our school Mass. A big thank you to all of you who came and thank you to Mrs Linley and Mrs O'Shes for making it happen. We hope that more parents will volunteer to take part in our next Mass.

By Victoria & Judyta.

Congratulations and Well Done!

We would like to say a big well done to the following pupils who will be receiving an award in our Congratulations assembly next week. Keep up the great work!

Reception: Alex, Skye & Dylan

Year 1: Dylan, Chyna-Rose & Zara

Year 2: Zia, Savaun & Destiny

Year 6: Keeley, Tianna & Archie

Year 3: Teigan, Rayan & Elena

Year 4: Angela, Flynn & Desmond

Year 5: Gideon, Natassia & Charlie



Class Assemblies

Please note: All assemblies start at 2.30pm

*please
join us*

Friday 15th March Y4

Friday 24th May Y1

Friday 28th June Y2

Thursday 11th July Y6

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Recently, the school council have been discussing about improvement towards the school playground. This includes new equipment such as skipping ropes, a play gym and plastic ivy screening around the school gates to deter strangers from giving things to the children. We now have CCTV and security doors fitted in school to make our school a safer place. We are really proud of the things we have done because it helps the children at St. Mark's stay safe.

Kieran & Alannie (School Council)

SCHOOL FUND

This charitable fund enables us to provide extra-curricular opportunities for all our children, in addition to those financed from the Local Authority budget. It enables us to enrich the curriculum by subsidising visits from theatre groups and workshops, off-site educational visits and the provision of additional resources. We request £25 per child for each academic year, but all donations are gratefully received. You can make a payment via your ParentPay account under school fund. Many thanks to those parents who have already donated.

DATES FOR DIARIES

Trip Dates

Fri 8th March –Y1 – Black Country Museum

Tue 12th March- Y2 – Blakesley Hall

Wed 13th March – Y6- Shakespeare's Birthplace

Weds 13th March – Y5 – Newman University (Science Week)

Thurs 14th March –Rec – Ash End Farm

Friday 15th March – Y3 – Chester Grosvenor Museum

Thurs 21st March – Y4 – RSPB Sandwell Valley

Tues 26th March – Y5 – Haden Hill House



Upcoming events

Parent Consultation Week – Monday 4th to Friday 8th March

Tuesday 5th March – Father Hudson Assembly – Good Shepherd Appeal

Friday 8th March – World Book Day

Monday 11th March – Science Assembly & Sublime Science Workshops

Internet Safety

There have been recent reports that some seemingly innocent videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids (such as 'surprise eggs', Peppa Pig and Minecraft videos) have been edited by unknown sources to include violence provoking and/or other inappropriate content. Even though YouTube monitor and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they get reported and removed. As a parent, it's difficult to spot these videos as the harmful content doesn't appear until partway through the video.

PCSO Steph and PCSO Phillip visited all Key Stage 2 classes this morning to speak to the children about their role in the community and they spoke about internet safety. Following on from the advice given by the officers today, I have also spoken to every Key Stage 2 class about the importance of staying safe on the internet and reporting anything they see that distresses them to an adult immediately. Please follow the useful tips below about keeping your child safe!

Top Tips for Parents

Tell them it's NOT REAL	BE PRESENT	TALK REGULARLY WITH YOUR CHILD
Just like any urban legend or horror story, the concept can be quite frightening and distressing for young people. Whilst this may seem obvious, it's important for you to reiterate to your child that what they are seeing is NOT REAL and cannot directly harm them.	It's important for you, as a parent or carer, to be present while your children are online. This will give you a greater understanding of what they are doing on their devices, as well as providing you with the opportunity to discuss, support and stop certain activities that your child may be involved in.	As well as monitoring your child's activity, it's important for you discuss it with them too. Not only will this give you an understanding of their online actions, but those honest and frequent conversations will encourage your child to feel confident to discuss issues and concerns they may have related to the online world.
DEVICE SETTINGS AND PARENTAL CONTROLS	REPORT AND BLOCK	PEER PRESSURE
Ensure that you set up parental controls for your devices at home. This will help to restrict the types of content that your child can view, as well as help you to monitor their activity. In addition to this, it's vital that you are aware of your device and account settings to ensure your child's utmost safety.	You can't always rely on parental controls to block distressing or harmful material. People find ways around a platform's algorithm in order to share and promote this type of material. Due to this, we advise that you flag and report any material you deem to be inappropriate or harmful as soon as you come across it. You should also block the account/content to prevent your child from viewing it.	Trends and viral challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they seem. Make sure you talk to your child about how they shouldn't succumb to peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline. If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult.

School Term Dates

Spring 2019	Summer 2019
Tuesday 8 th January To Friday 15 th February -Half Term- Monday 25 th February To Friday 12 th April	Monday 29 th April To Friday 24 th May -Half Term- Monday 03 rd June To Friday 19 th July



Teacher Training

Days:

Fri 12th April 2019