



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Mrs. D. Linley



Friday 23rd October 2020

Dear Parents,

Today you will have received a pupil progress update on your child's wellbeing and learning this half term. Thank you for your support this half term on your child/ren's return to school. It has been a very busy half term and the children have impressed me by adapting well to the changes they have encountered in school. As a school, we are dedicated to giving children as many opportunities as we can to support them to fulfil their potential. This week, children have completed rich and significant learning activities focused around British Black History. Children have enjoyed African drumming sessions and have also experienced a thought-provoking workshop on racism. We aim to continue to provide many more rich and engaging learning experiences for your child/ren next term as currently, we are not safely able to accommodate school trips. These workshops would not be possible without the contributions we receive for school fund. Your contributions are much appreciated and every little helps. If you would like to make a contribution to school fund, please make a payment via ParentPay under School Fund.

Lastly, I hope you all have a very peaceful and restful half term holiday. Please stay safe and we look forward to seeing you on **Tuesday 3rd November.**

Many thanks,

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

Spread The Word with those around you...



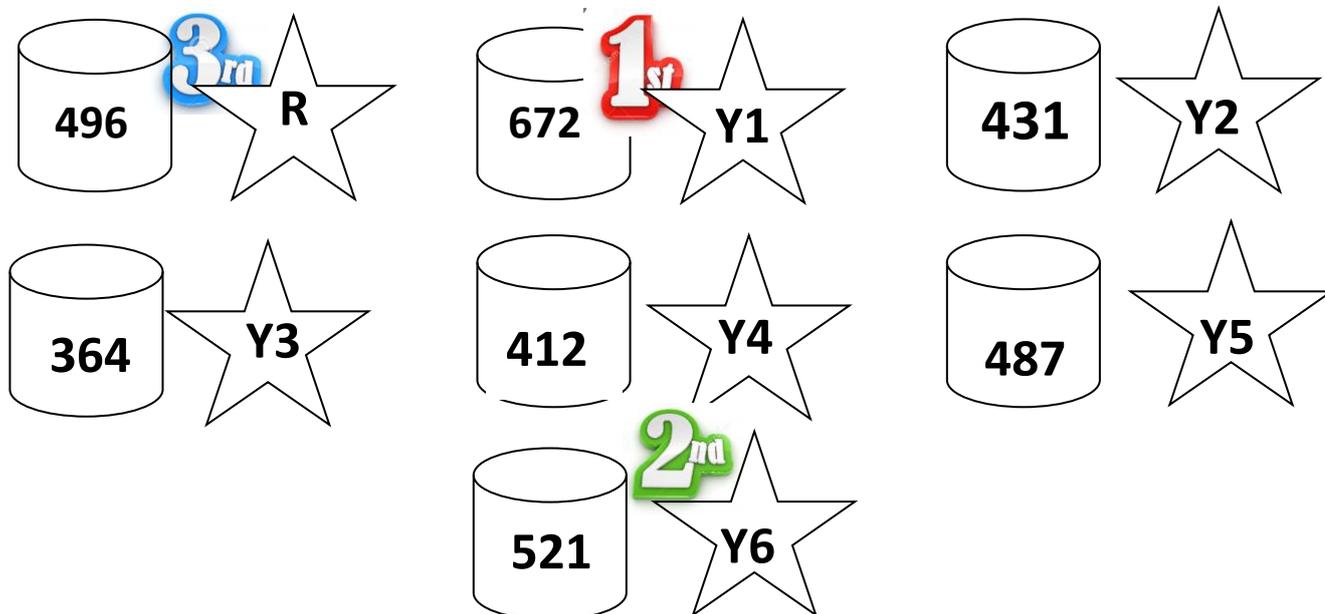
Please click on the following link to access this spiritual resource to share with your family and friends:

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/messenger?pid=MTA101634&v=7.7>

Message for Year 6 Parents Only

Secondary Transfer Letters Please ensure that you have completed your secondary transfer forms online by **31st October 2020.** www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

STAR AWARDS – Well done to **YEAR 1** for earning the most stars this week!!



POP BAND AWARDS – The following children have achieved their **WHITE** pop band award:
 Leo(Rec) Manha(Rec) Anhad(Rec) Julia(Rec) Dottie(Rec) Pearl(Rec) Tida(Rec)
 Sabrina(Rec) Aman(Rec) Aarav(Rec) Isaac(Y1) Julia(Y1) Gabriella Pre(Y1) Rico(Y1)
 Gabriella Prz(Y1) De' Juarne(Y1), Kane(Y1) Nathan(Y1) Isabella(Y1) Brady(Y1) Caitlin(Y1)
 Sophie(Y1) Thomas(Y1) Valeriya(Y1) Josiah(Y1) Mudassir(Y2) Dylan(Y2) Anokh(Y2)
 Kaiden R(Y2) Kaiden B(Y2) Nathan(Y2) Holly(Y4) Blessing(Y4) Zia (Y4)
 Taisia(Y4) Chase(Y4) Freya(Y4) Raiyaana(Y4) Afreya(Y6) Aran(Y6)



PRESENTATION POINTS:

Well done to **YEAR 2** for achieving the most presentation points and being the smartest dressed class this week!!



Please ensure your child is prepared for school and is wearing the correct uniform (earrings, hoodies and trainers on days when your child is not doing P.E. is not allowed).

YEAR:	POINTS
Reception	72
Year 1	76
Year 2	80
Year 3	71
Year 4	75
Year 5	75
Year 6	77

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS BY SPORTING ELITE

Join us in Sporting Elite’s Multi-sports after school club for KS1 and KS2 from the week commencing 2nd November from 3.15pm to 4.15pm. Children will be able to play their favorite sports here such as dodgeball, football, bench ball, basketball and more. Due to limited spaces register as soon as possible for after school clubs using the link below.

This term there will be no after school clubs for Year 5 and Year 6.

Day	Class	Registration link – please click on link to register your child
Monday	Year 1 children only	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejnQWhZb_VVtlmAlteZ99N05D5_5vIn5vYzhvU3mCJXO8fLw/viewform?usp=sf_link
Tuesday	Year 2 children only	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSflax_iRa39oZkpL-9qEBUr9tCC6LcwrUWVvkqDel8wbwT40Dw/viewform?usp=sf_link
Thursday	Year 4 children only	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqj78oZmQD47RjNgwMvpNaGav0o8Nr6FRHeMrGHxtSkCqc9w/viewform?usp=sf_link
Friday	Year 3 children only	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSct1aTfM7qQKCCrEpYz7SsfiSr2PMwNXzi1zb5Hv8zJhByMyw/viewform?usp=sf_link

HARVEST COLLECTION

We would like to thank you all for your generosity with the Harvest collection for Fireside. Thank you for your continued support.



FIREWORKS/ FIRE SAFETY



Every year on Bonfire Night there are hundreds of accidents across the UK, and lots of them happen to children. Fireworks can be very dangerous and that’s why safety is the most important thing when it comes to having a display. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) say adults should deal with fireworks and that children should watch from a safe distance. Pets often get very frightened by fireworks, so watch out for them too. You might want to keep all your pets indoors and close all the curtains.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH:



Reception	Reception have enjoyed learning about a local athlete, Denise Lewis. We have enjoyed learning all about her achievements and accomplishments and some of her difficulties. We have linked this back to ourselves looking at how we are all special and how we are all different. We also held our own Olympics, participating in some of the events Denise Lewis did. We also enjoyed taking part in an African Drumming Workshop.
Y1	During Black History Month, Year 1 have been learning about the Poet Benjamin Zephaniah. They have learnt that he is from Handsworth in Birmingham. That he left school at 13 and then when back to school later in life. They have also listened to and enjoyed some of his poems. In RE, Year 1 have learnt about St. Josephine Bakhita. St. Josephine Bakhita had a very difficult life, but always had hope and faith in God. Bakhita means 'lucky one'. Year 1 also took part in drumming sessions which they really enjoyed.
Y2	For Black History Month, Year 2 began their week by looking at the history of Black History Month. We then focused on black British history, where we created a timeline of important events. As Lewis Hamilton was our significant black person, we learnt all about him and turned all our knowledge into a fact file. We also spent time discussing ways to celebrate Black History Month and looked at the Notting Hill Carnival. Then, we designed costumes for the carnival, making them as bright and vibrant as possible. Year 2 had the opportunity to experience African music by taking part in an African Drumming workshop, this was lots of fun! To end our fantastic week, we created thought provoking artwork showing support for black people all around the world.
Y3	At the beginning of Black History Week, Miss Grant gave each group a colour sticker. For a day and a half, the children had to follow the rules for their colour sticker. Some children were given privileges and others were at a disadvantage depending on what colour sticker they were wearing. The children described these actions as unfair. This experiment highlighted equality and inequality in the world, and the importance of Black History month and why we celebrate it. At the end of the time, the children were asked to throw their stickers away to symbolises getting rid of inequalities in the world.
Y4	In Year 4, we have been learning all about Cyrille Regis. He was one of the first black football players to play for England. We discussed the challenges that he faced and the difficulties that he had to overcome to be a success. We also looked at how he changed English football for the better.
Y5	For Black History Week, Year 5 have been learning all about the famous British Black boxer Nicola Adams. First, we researched about Black History Month and what year it first started. On Wednesday afternoon, we were really lucky to be able to take part in an African drumming workshop. We learnt about call and response and practised playing different rhythms both in unison and as a group. We researched information about Nicola Adams such as where she was born, her achievements and her family. Then, we learnt about the Olympics and when they first started in Ancient Greece. We compared how the Ancient Olympics to the Modern-day Olympics and looked at the similarities and differences. Finally, we had an outside visitor come into school to talk to us about racism. We talked about what makes us all unique and also learnt some new information about various significant people in Black History. We have really enjoyed learning about Black History this week and the themes will definitely stay in our minds in the future.
Y6	This week Year 6 have created a timeline of Black History, learnt about the Windrush and written their own poem about it, discovered the history of the Notting Hill Carnival as well as learning about St Perpetua and St Felicity. Year 6 worked together well to create some beautiful artwork of these Saints. In art, we studied the work of Chris Ofili and created a piece of artwork based on his work, 'No Woman, No Cry'. Year 6 have been extremely mature and worked together well as a team.

FOREST SCHOOL

The purpose of Forest School is so that pupils St. Mark's gain a greater understanding and appreciation of our natural environment. At St. Mark's, we use tools such as bill hooks, bow saws and loppers to develop children's team work, communication and confidence. Here are some comments from Year 4 children who have been taking part in Forest School:



Josh 'The fire was really fun because we got to sing songs around it'

Christina 'I like the fire because it was really warm and it made me think of marshmallows'

Freya 'I loved it because it was cosy, we sang songs and we went around the circle and said nice things about each other.'



School Term Dates

Autumn Term 2020

Term Starts: Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Half Term: Monday 26th October 2020 to Friday 30 October 2020

Term Ends: Friday 18th December 2020

Spring Term 2021

Term Starts: Tuesday 5th January 2021

Half Term: Monday 15th February 2021 to Friday 19th February 2021

Term Ends: Thursday 1st April 2021

Summer Term 2021

Term Starts: Monday 19th April 2021

Half Term: Monday 31st May 2021 to Friday 4th June 2021

Term Ends: Wednesday 21st July 2021

Teacher Training Days:

Monday 19th October 2020

Monday 2nd November 2020

Monday 4th January 2021

