



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Mrs. D. Linley



Friday 18th December 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

I would like to thank you all for your continued commitment and support for all our staff, especially as this term has been extremely challenging for our whole school community.

Teachers have secured seamless transitions to home learning, ensured that children are regularly keeping themselves and others safe by adhering to the rules. To have only had to isolate 2 bubbles over the whole term, I feel is credit to you and the whole school community - we have been very fortunate! I appreciate that many children will have had to self-isolate due to the pandemic and we recognise that this is not ideal for their learning, but we are doing everything possible in school to get children back on track to where they need to be after missing time in school.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our amazing staff who have gone above and beyond to ensure that the school stays open for the pupils, despite having a significantly reduced staff capacity at times and for their extraordinary hard work in the face of unprecedented circumstances. Staff will be working on Christmas Eve supporting Mrs. Beresford in the school kitchen to prepare and deliver 80 Christmas dinners to our families. St. Mark's is a family school and whatever the new year holds, together, supporting one another - we will overcome any challenges!

St. Mark's Friends - Parent Group

The parents in our St. Mark's Friends group have been meeting virtually over the last few months to arrange and prepare events to help make this Christmas a fun and exciting one for our children. They have given their time, resources and energy to ensuring that this Christmas will be a special one. Thank you to the SMF group for setting up the GoFundMe page and to all the parents who donated - the magic of Christmas has felt very real this year in the acts of kindness that parents have shown to us and to others. All of your contributions - no matter how big or small make a difference, please know that we appreciate all that you do!

Parishioners at Holy Name Church

Thank you to the parishioners at Holy Name Church for donating Christmas presents for our children.



We look forward to working with you in 2021 and pray for good things to come in the New Year!

On behalf of the staff and governors, I wish you all a happy, blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Mrs. Linley



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/christmas-holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&v=13.4>

STAFF LEAVING

Sadly today, we say goodbye to Miss Asson who is leaving St. Mark's to take on a new role at another school after Christmas. We thank her for all her hard work over the years and wish her the very best for the future. We will miss you Miss Asson!



RECEPTION CLASS UPDATE

Mrs. Dukes joined the Reception team this week and will be Reception's main class teacher after Christmas. I hope you will join me in making her feel very welcomed to St. Mark's.

Mrs. Dykes is not leaving us just yet to have her baby, she will still be around in school supporting myself and the senior leadership team before she commences her maternity leave after February half term.

New member of the School Office Team

After Christmas, you will see a new face in the School Office. We look forward to welcoming Miss Ison to the St. Mark's Team. Miss Ison will be job sharing with Mrs. Hussain. Mrs. Hussain will be in the office Monday to Wednesday and Miss Ison will be working Thursdays and Fridays.



PE AT ST. MARK'S IN SPRING TERM 1

Year 1 will be starting their week by improving their athletics skills on a Monday morning, while year 2 and year 4 will be dancing on a Monday afternoon with a specialist dance teacher. Tuesday sees year 3 learning invasion games skills and year 2 will be focusing on athletics on a Wednesday. On Thursday Year 1 will be improving their invasion games skills, while Friday sees Year 5 and 6 ending the week with gymnastics with Mr. McLoughlin.

<u>YEAR GROUP</u>	<u>P.E DAY</u>	<u>AFTER SCHOOL CLUB</u>
Year 1	Monday	Thursday
Year 2	Monday & Wednesday	Monday
Year 3	Tuesday	Tuesday
Year 4	Monday	No Club
Year 5	Friday	Friday
Year 6	Friday	No Club

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately on the following days for P.E.



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 11th January from 3.15pm - 4.15pm. Children will be able to play all their favorite sports here and test their skills against others.

To sign up click on the link of your child's year group from the table. Once the online form is completed you will receive an email from the school office confirming your child's place before the start date of your child's after school club. Please pay any money into the coach on the first session with the money enclosed in an envelope with your child's name, year group and amount.

This term there will be no after school clubs for Year 4 and Year 6.

Mondays Year 2	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKDCle_YZHtaAIW2ULmMS9THW-37UT4CfczmS2T6zJ5KgCBg/viewform?usp=sf_link
Tuesdays Year 3	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeaEGEL-Zank0Lc8ddvEdJSmXQ1fvAO6x3zh6WqefrmWROfFA/viewform?usp=sf_link
Thursdays Year 1	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwo1woBQyqzTSArxr-EJYm-K_eefhPpc7G5g2wdoPC1hFJCw/viewform?usp=sf_link
Fridays Year 5	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzhDqHbr7ZU4ZWix8h3O1wEvFVCYirWReBKlapf7lLbjiKcA/viewform?usp=sf_link

WORKSHOPS IN SPRING 1

As we are unable to arrange any trips at the moment, we have arranged for various educational experiences to take place in school to further enrich our curriculum. Some of these experiences will be virtual and some in person (at a safe distance). The following table shows the workshops that have been booked for next term. Letters will be emailed out to you with further details of each experience and the cost involved. (Please note: we have sought best value for money to try and keep costs down for our families.) You can log in to your ParentPay account to consent and make payment for your child.

<u>YEAR GROUP</u>	<u>WORKSHOP</u>
Year 1	Florence Nightingale & Mary Seacole Workshop
Year 2	Black Country Living Museum
Year 3	Egyptian Themed Workshop
Year 4	Anglo Saxons/Viking Invasion Workshop
Year 6	Blitz School WW2 History Workshop

School Term Dates

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 4th January 2021

Reminder - first day back is an INSET so Tuesday 5th January 2021 is when children will return

'Let us pray for peace, and let us bring it about, starting in our own homes!'
Pope Francis