



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

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Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



Friday 7th October 2022

Dear Parents,

This is the first newsletter of the Autumn term. As regular updates and snippets of news are shared with you on the school and Class Dojo pages, we will be sending a newsletter to you at the mid and end points of every half term.

I have greatly enjoyed seeing all the wonderful reading activities that have taken place in and around school these last couple of weeks. Thank you for supporting children with their reading at home, it really does make a huge difference! Thank you also to those parents who have been in touch to support reading in school by volunteering some hours per week. We are very grateful to you.

It was wonderful to see parents and parishioners in our school mass this week. Welcome back and we hope to see more of you over the coming weeks.

We have a family Mass at Holy Name Church on **Sunday 16th October 10.30am**. We would like to see as many children and families from St. Mark's there as possible. All are welcome, please do your best to be there!

Have a good weekend,
Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

TT Rockstars / Numbots

These online maths resources are great for making maths fun and improving speed in learning and remembering number bonds and times tables. Each child has their own login. Please ensure you select the correct school first—St Mark's Catholic Primary School, Birmingham.

There are regular rewards offered in each class for effort and improvements made by the children. The sites are:

<https://play.numbots.com/#/account/school-login/72699>

<https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student/72699>

POLITE REMINDER



Parent code of conduct

St. Mark's is an effective school that has built up a solid and impressive culture of respect and positive values over many years. Staff take great care to provide an exemplary education for each pupil, based on their needs; and the pupils overwhelmingly treat each other with kindness and courtesy. They are a full credit to their parents/carers.

There has been a number of occasions this term where the conduct of some parents has not reflected the caring and respectful environment we are committed to fostering. Whilst we recognise that emotions can sometimes get the better of us, we expect parents to set a good example in their own speech and behaviour at all times. We will not tolerate any form of aggression or abuse.

Morning School Gate Changes


8.30am School gates **open**

8.45am School gates **close**

Thank you for adjusting to the new start of day school times. Punctuality is an important life skill and when your child is regularly late, it impacts on your child's well-being.

Please can parents in Years 2, 3 and 6 get children into school on time.

Well done Year 4 and Year 2!

	So far this term Number of lates %	So far this term Attendance %
Reception	0.5%	93.9%
Year 1	0.5%	94.0%
Year 2	1.8%	98.0%
Year 3	2.3%	94.6%
Year 4	0.1%	98.1%
Year 5	0.9%	97.2%
Year 6	1.7%	93.8%

A Weekly Gift to you and your family from your Catholic School



SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL
WITH PARENTS & FAMILIES

Wednesday Word – Sharing the Gospel

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/thankfulness?pid=MTA101634&v=71.3>

Dates for the diary:

Wednesday 19th October: -

Parents Evening 3:40pm-7:30pm

Email will be sent by the end of the day today, with information on how to book a slot. Website will be available to book appointments on Friday at 4pm.

Friday 21st October:

School closed for STAFF Training DAYS

Half-term Holiday:

Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October

Christmas & New Year Holiday:

Monday 19th December to Monday 2nd January

READING

A huge thank you for your continued support with home reading. Please continue to share a book with your child for 20 minutes each night, and record this in their planners.



It has been noticed that some children are swapping their dinner preference regularly without notifying the school.

Your child should be having either a school dinner or home sandwiches, with the choice of Pizza Fridays. If this is not the case, you should be notifying the school so that we have **at least 2 weeks notice** to let the cook know for catering purposes. If on the odd occasion, your child requires a school dinner, please let the school office know that morning.

Holy Rosary month

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. In school, the children have been learning to say the Rosary and the prayers that it contains.

They have also arranged our prayer tables to reflect this special month.

Each week, two children from each class will bring home the class prayer bag. Currently, the prayer bags reflect the month of the Holy Rosary and there are a number of activities for the children to complete and share with you about the Rosary.



It has been great to see some parents sharing how their families have used the prayer bags. Please continue to do this by sending any picture/videos to Miss Dorsett via Class Dojo.

Many Thanks

School Uniform



LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure that all school uniform is labelled clearly with your child's name.

We have gathered a number of uniform items since being back at school—these will be available for parents to check through and take away on the morning of **Friday 7th October**.

These can be found nearby the Reception classroom, under the canopy. Thanks.

It has been a pleasure to catch up with parents and carers of our pupils with SEND over the last few weeks. I look forward to speaking with some more of you over the coming days.

This week is **Dyslexia awareness week**. I have put together a small table with some characteristic traits and where to find additional support. If you have any concerns about your child, or think they may have dyslexia do not hesitate to contact me via telephone, Class Dojo or email.

Mrs Dykes SENDCo



Birmingham's SEND Local

Offer

www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk

The Local Offer is the central information point for families with children and young people aged up to 25 years with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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You can contact the team by phone

0121 303 5004

or email

sendiass@birmingham.gov.uk



Birmingham SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIAS) can also give you advice about SEN.



NEURODIVERGENCE

FOCUS



Some Characteristic Traits	Difficulty with accurate and fluent word reading and spelling Difficulties recognising sounds and how they make up words Difficulties with verbal memory i.e the types of sounds that constitute speech
Where to find support	British Dyslexia Association www.bdadyslexia.org.uk The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk
Famous people with this need	Orlando Bloom - Actor. Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock - Astronomer. Albert Einstein – Scientist. Jennifer Aniston – Actress.

'We can simplify things. We see the big picture...dyslexic minds have exactly the skills

SEND Coffee morning COMING SOON.

We work with a range of different external agencies to support our children and families. We are in the process of arranging a coffee morning where you can find out about how these agencies can support you and your child.

This is also an opportunity to speak with other parents and carers about their experiences.

DATE COMING SOON!

