



# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

Tel: 0121 357 9892

Email: [enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk)

Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



**FRIDAY 21st JUNE 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday, our Catholic life leaders led our Gospel assembly about the parable of the Mustard Seed and told us how small things can lead to big things, so we should never underestimate the smallest of actions. Sometimes we have to start small to go big and at St. Mark's we love to go big on our Catholic Social Teaching Principles. We have a moral duty to do the right thing at the right time and this was emphasised at the SJBCA Sustainability Summit that our Year 5 and 6 children attended yesterday.

This was the first Sustainability Summit that we have attended, and it was a real honour to be there yesterday as part of the SJBCA family, learning more about the UN goals. We must respond to the call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. This is an ambitious target, but our family of schools showed us yesterday how small changes can make a big difference.

Our children stood up on stage and presented their learning and how they have put their faith into action in front of hundreds of other pupils. They presented to a panel of people, including the Mayor of Dudley and the Lord Mayor of Birmingham! Their confidence to articulate the importance of climate action was impressive and they answered a number of questions from the audience on how they will further develop our school's work on climate action over the next twelve months and beyond. Well done to everyone involved with yesterday's summit!

I have enjoyed watching the children practise for Sports Day on Tuesday, not least for their sporting talent and hard work but for their encouragement and support for each other. There was a real sense and show of solidarity. Well done too to the children who visited Edgbaston Cricket Ground on Wednesday, you represented our school brilliantly and also to the children that took part in the Gymnastics festival today at Earls Gymnastics Centre in Oldbury.

Have a great weekend all!

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team



## ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to **Year 5** for their attendance this term and to **Year 2** for having the least amount of lates.


Please can **Year 4** ensure they attend school everyday and **Reception** ensure they arrive to school on time.

We have noticed the number of late children rising and whilst we are aware of the road closures/works taking place, can you please ensure that you give yourself plenty of time to travel to school so that your child is here on time. Thank you.

Gates open between **8.30 and 8.45am**. Registers close at **8.55am**.

Our target is **97%** we are currently at **95.1%**.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

 ATTENDANCE MATTERS	So Far This Term No. Of Lates %	So Far This Term Attendance %
RECEPTION	<b>3.2%</b>	93.4%
YEAR 1	1.4%	94.5%
YEAR 2	<b>0.8%</b>	93.0%
YEAR 3	1.0%	94.2%
YEAR 4	2.9%	<b>90.6%</b>
YEAR 5	1.8%	<b>95.2%</b>
YEAR 6	1.3%	93.9%

### Dates for the diary:

Monday 24th June—Y5 Trip to Thinktank

Tuesday 25th June—Sports Day—KS2 9:00-11:30am—  
KS1 1.30-3:00pm

Friday 28th June—Non-Uniform day—children to bring in unopened bottles for Summer Fayre

Wednesday 3rd-5th July—Y6 Alton Castle Residential

Friday 5th July—Non-Uniform day—children to bring in sweets for Summer Fayre

Friday 12th July—Non-Uniform day—children to bring fancy goods for the Summer Fayre

Friday 12th July—School Summer Fayre

Friday 19th July—End of Summer Term

Monday 22nd July 2024 - Teacher training Day (school closed for all pupils)

## Drop off and collection

Children's safety is a high priority during the busy drop off and collection periods.

- Children in Key Stage 1 **MUST** be escorted into school and not just dropped off and expected to walk in by themselves.
- We are closely monitoring the number of times your child is collected late.
- All children **MUST** be strapped into a car/vehicle safely and drivers **MUST** adhere to road safety rules.



### ARBOR PARENT APP



Can all parents please ensure they have downloaded the Arbor app to gain access to the Parent Portal.

The Parent app can be downloaded from either the Playstore on android phones or App store on i-phones.

We are hoping to start adding payment items on Arbor, and therefore require all parents to create an account as soon as possible.

If you experience any difficulties in creating an account, or require any assistance, please contact Mrs Hussain in the school office, who would be more than happy to help.



SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

COME To the

SUPER AMAZING

BOOK FAIR!

3 books for the price of 2

### Book Fair!

Next month, the Book Fair is coming to St. Mark's. On Thursday 11th July (after school, in the hall) and on Friday 12th July (at the summer fair), children will have the chance to purchase some new books.

The librarians will be running a competition for 5 children to win £5 off their books at the Book Fair—keep an eye out on Dojo for what they have in store!

**£5.00**  
£5 PRIZE VOUCHER

3 books for the price of 2  
AND EARN FREE BOOKS FOR OUR SCHOOL!

### Year 3—First Holy Communion Preparations

#### Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation

On Thursday 13th June, our Year 3 children continued their journey towards their Holy Communion by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. This followed a very enjoyable parent workshop where by the children learned all about the Sacrament and thought about what it meant to 'examine their conscience'.

It was a very reverent morning and Father Jibu was very impressed with how well-prepared the children were and how well they did. Thank you to Mrs Scarrott, Mrs O'Shea and Mrs Khan for preparing the children so well and for the ongoing support from parents.



Mental health support within schools for children, young people and their families.



We are pleased to announce that we are working alongside Compass Birmingham to support our children's Mental Health.

Compass are a non-profit charity who will work with children from the age of 5 years old to provide early support with mental health and emotional well-being through 1:1 support or small group work.

For more information about the service provided please see the website [www.compass-uk.org](http://www.compass-uk.org) or speak to Miss Stewart.

### Albert Goes to Space - World Book Day Project

## Albert Goes to Space!

Albert Mouse - Dartmouth's most famous mouse resident



Created by the pupils of St. Mark's Catholic Primary School &

**JAMES HYWEL**  
Book Fourteen

Great news! Our school book (written and illustrated by all the children at St. Mark's School) has been published!

The cost of the book is **£5** - which saves 45p off sale price! The author has also agreed to make a 50% donation of our school sales to allow us to make links with the local library and buy new books for our school.

There is no limit on the amount of books you can buy and you can order and pay via School Gateway. The deadline for you to buy the books is today, **Friday 21st June** as this will allow us to have the books to you by the summer holidays.