



# 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 5th July 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the Summer term, it fills me with great joy and pride to reflect on the many wonderful achievements your children have gained this year. I, along with the staff, have thoroughly enjoyed seeing your children grow, develop as young responsible citizens and show all of the many wonderful values we promote at St. Mark's. I had the pleasure of accompanying Year 6 this week on their residential to Alton Castle and the excellent manners, behaviour, team work and attitude to trying and overcoming obstacles was inspiring to witness. We still have two weeks left of the school term and we have more opportunities for our children to showcase their talents but I wanted to take this opportunity to also thank you as parents for all of your hard work and support.

On Sunday we will be celebrating our Year 3 children's First Holy Communion, please join us if you can at 10:30am at Holy Name Catholic Church, Great Barr—all are welcome!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team



## Ready Steady Reception



### Transition Workshop

We welcome all parents who have nursery aged children to attend our 'Ready Steady Reception' workshop on

**Thursday 11th July 2024 at 2:45pm.**

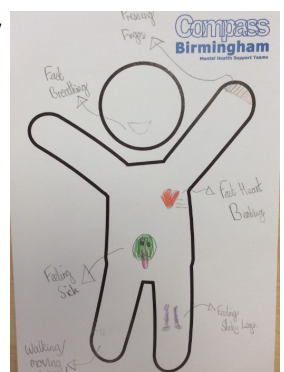
This workshop is to talk about all of the things you can do at home to prepare your child for school. It is also another chance to catch up with new parents.



We look forward to seeing you there!

## Compass

At St. Mark's, we have recently started working with a company called Compass Mental Health Support Team (Birmingham). This company work with children and young people to have a good/positive mental health. They offer low intensity cognitive behaviour therapy whereby they work with children 1:1 and also provide workshops. Our Y6's enjoyed a workshop with them last week, all about managing anxiety whilst preparing to transition to another school. If you would like to find out more about getting 1:1 support for your child, or the work that Compass do, please get in touch with Miss Stewart.





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## Our Transition plan for 2024/25

We are very excited to announce some news for next year and share our transition plans with you. Firstly, consistency for children is our priority, especially as some classes have had a year whereby their class teacher has been ill for a long period or they have experienced a change of teacher. Changing teachers mid-year is never a first choice and whilst I can not always ensure this does not happen, putting plans into place whereby we can reduce the likelihood of this has been our priority. We will be welcoming new staff to St. Mark's and over the next two weeks, they will be in school getting to know children and our school systems.



**Reception** - Mrs. Dykes

**Year 1** - Miss Shankey

**Year 2** - Mrs. Scarrott

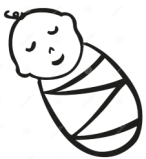
**Year 3** - Mrs. Wedderburn

**Year 4** - Mrs Khan (4 days) and Mr Linford (1 day)

**Year 5** - Miss Stewart

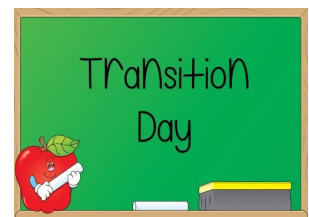
**Year 6** - Mr. Dixon

Due to interviews taking place on Wednesday 17th July, our support staff will be announced at a later date. Our support staff have a wealth of experience and varied skill sets so it is important to us that we wait until we have all members of our team for September before making any decisions.



It brings me great pleasure to announce that Miss Dorsett is expecting a baby and her baby is due in the Autumn term. Mr. Linford, who is already familiar with the school, will be joining the St. Mark's team as temporary Assistant Principal from September. This is so that we can ensure there is a smooth transition when Miss Dorsett takes her maternity leave.

To support our children to get to know their new class teachers, we have planned a transition day for **Tuesday 16th July**. On this day, your child will meet their new class teacher and learn about what they can expect from their new year groups. As Mr. Linford will be joining us in September, our new Year 4 class will be spending their transition day with Mrs. Khan only. They will have time in September to meet Mr Linford and get to know him too.



In September, you will be able to meet your child's new class teacher as there will be a transition meeting with parents whereby the expectations for the year ahead will be explained. Dates will be given out early in September for this.

## 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 **94.7%**.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	<b>3.0%</b>	93.1%
YEAR 1	1.4%	95.2%
YEAR 2	<b>0.7%</b>	92.3%
YEAR 3	0.9%	94.9%
YEAR 4	2.7%	<b>91.0%</b>
YEAR 5	1.6%	<b>95.5%</b>
YEAR 6	1.3%	94.3%

### Dates for the diary:

Thursday 11th July—Book Fair—3:30pm-4:00pm

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

Friday 12th July—School Summer Fayre

Tuesday 16th July—Whole School Transition Day

Wednesday 17th July = Y5 & Y6 Sports Games at Tipton Sports Academy—during school day

Attendance assemblies—Friday 19th July 2024—

KS2—9:00am—9:30am

KS1—11:00am-11:30am

Friday 19th July—End of Summer Term

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

## **Our SMF needs YOU!**

I would like to appeal to parents who are interested and supportive of the enriching activities our school has to offer. We are in great need of getting more like-minded people together to support our St. Mark's Friends. This is a great opportunity to make a positive difference and contribution to our children's lives. SMF is made up mostly of parents and carers and they meet every 8-10 weeks to review activities and plan new and exciting ones!

If you would be able to help and would like to, please message Mrs. Linley on class dojo.

Many thanks!

### Book Fair

Next week, we have the Book Fair arriving in school. 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.

Three £5 book vouchers have been donated to the raffle and if won, these must be used on Friday! Good luck to all who enter.



Well done to two of our librarians: Keeley (Y6) and Jayan (Y3), who have also won £5 book vouchers. Mrs Picart, our librarian volunteer, recognised them for their outstanding work in the library this term and their dedication to promoting reading at St. Mark's. Well done Keeley and Jayan, you'll receive your vouchers next week.

## **RAFFLE TICKETS**



In preparation for our summer fair next Friday, your child will bring home a order form for raffle tickets. Raffle tickets are **£1 per strip!**

Please return the order form, with the cash, to the school office by **Wednesday 10th July!**

Look out for photographs of the prizes to be won this week!

## **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.



## **New Electric Gates**

Last week we saw the completion of our new electric gates. This was a huge part of our work to ensure children's safety when in and around school. If you wish to access the main office, and the pedestrian gate is not open, please press the alarm button. A member of school staff will then open the gate. **It is vital that you do not push or pull the gate as this will break the mechanism.**

The school car park is only to be used by school staff and **MUST NOT** be used by parents. It is important that parents **DO NOT** block the gates at any time, even after the school day has finished. We do have improved security cameras on the gates and car park and this will be monitored closely.

Thank you for your cooperation with prioritising the children's safety.

