



# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

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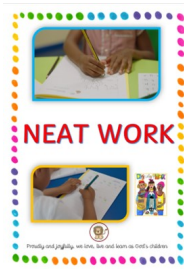
FRIDAY 13th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we started our Monday assembly discussing our 'Anti-bullying' rules. A big thank you to Year 4 for helping to deliver this assembly—they acted out what some of the signs of bullying are and what action we must take should any of us see any bullying. Coach Kieran has appointed our play leaders and buddies for this half term and they will be on duty of a playtime and lunchtime.

## 'Lend a hand, take a stand and STOP BULLYING NOW!'

We have introduced our 'St. Mark's Way' behaviour expectations and it's great to see so many children helping others. Please see below the 6 behaviour expectations we expect to see every child following in and around school. Staff have been awarding lots of dojo points this week to children for showing these behaviours—well done all!



It was very pleasing to hear lots of positive feedback from you following the 'Meet the Teacher' meetings. We have Year 1 and Year 6 meetings taking place next week—please see the dates on class dojo for these if you do not have them in your diary.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

## CYCLE TO SCHOOL WEEK '24

Supported by NatWest Rooster Money



23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

This year we are participating in Cycle to School Week - encouraging as many children as possible to cycle to and from school each day!

If you are able to participate, bikes can be locked to the bike rack (by the prayer garden) in the morning and then ridden home at the end of the day. The area is more secure now with our new gates and also the area is covered by our school CCTV.

## Bike Ability 2024!

In October, we'll be working with BikeAbility to provide cycle training for Y3 - Y6.



Bikeability cycle training equips children with vital life skills. Pupils not only learn to cycle, they gain independence, social skills and a sense of wellbeing.

After Bikeability, children are better at responding to risk and report increased confidence. As a result, more children cycle to school which in turn improves mental health and wellbeing. This allows children to get more out of the classroom, improving their attention span and engagement. Healthier habits lead to increased attendance and improved academic results. **Bikeability goes beyond a training course; it impacts children's lives.**

More information to follow!

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Mrs. Hussain and Mrs. Linley are the attendance champions for St. Mark's. This week, you will have received a whole school letter explaining the importance of good attendance. In particular the new national penalty notice framework which came into force on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Penalty notice amounts have increased and there is now an escalation process for repeated offences.



We want EVERY child to have good attendance in school because poor attendance can impact significantly on a child's life and development. For this reason, we do not just look at absence rates, we also review attendance and punctuality to identify patterns. Punctuality is just as important as attendance and the following process of support to help your child to thrive in school will be applied:

1. Monitor and review attendance and punctuality.
2. Meeting with parents to identify how we can improve attendance / punctuality.
3. Facilitate support (further support in school may be needed or support from other agencies may be required also).
4. Formalise support (only if no or little improvement is made).
5. Where all other avenues have been exhausted and support is not working or not being engaged with, attendance will be enforced through statutory intervention or prosecution to protect the pupil's right to an education.

### ATTENDANCE UPDATE


Well done to **Year 2 & 6** for their attendance this term and to **Year 3** for having the least amount of lates.

Please can **Year 1** ensure they attend school everyday and **Year 1 and 6** ensure they arrive to school on time.

Gates open between **8.30 and 8.45am**.

Registers closes at **8.55am**.

Our target is **97%** we are currently at **96.4%**.

	So Far This Term No. Of Lates %	So Far This Term Attendance %
RECEPTION	1.1%	94.4%
YEAR 1	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>93.9%</b>
YEAR 2	0.6%	<b>98.2%</b>
YEAR 3	<b>0.2%</b>	97.7%
YEAR 4	0.6%	95.8%
YEAR 5	0.6%	96.1%
YEAR 6	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>98.2%</b>



## 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 have started adding payment items on Arbor, and therefore require all parents to create an account as soon as possible, to ensure they are able to make payments for meals, clubs, trips and toast.

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.



### Dates for the diary:

Monday 16th September 2024—Y6 Parent meeting—3.30pm

Thursday 19th September 2024—Y1 Parent meeting—3.30pm

Thursday 26th September 2024—Group Photographs

Friday 27th September 2024—MacMillan Coffee and Cake Morning - 9.30-10.30am

23rd - 27th September 2024 - Cycle to School Week

14th - 18th October 2024 - BikeAbility for KS2—more information to follow.

Wednesday 23rd October 2024 - Vocations Day

Wednesday 23rd October 2024 - Parents Evening

Friday 25th October—Teacher Training Day—School closed for pupils

Monday 4th November 2024—Teacher Training Day—school closed for pupils

### Times Tables Rock Star and Numbots



As a school, we are very lucky to have access to Numbots (KS1) and TTRS (KS2).

It is important that all children develop good number skills and mental recall of number/multiplication facts. Please make use of this resource to help your child to develop his/her skills.

Certificates for improvements will be given out in Friday's Congratulation Assemblies.

If you need help accessing Numbots or TTRS, please speak to your child's class teacher.

By 31st October 2024, Year 6 parents will have to apply for their child's secondary schools. A parent meeting will be held on **Thursday 26th September 2024** to go through the process. In the meantime, we strongly recommend that you visit as many of the local primary schools that you can. Below are some dates and times of the open evenings, please visit the individual school's websites for more details.

**Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School** - 16th September 5-7:30pm, 17th and 18th September (day time appointments, to be prebooked)

**St Francis of Assisi Catholic College** - 19th September 6:30-9pm and 23rd to 27th September 9-12pm

**Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School** - 24th September 5:30-7:30pm

**St. Paul's School for Girls** - 19th September 5-8pm

**Arena Academy** - 19th September 6pm (additional tours bookable via school website)

**Barr Beacon School** - 4th October 9am

**Fortis Academy** - 26th September 4-6pm

**Hamstead Hall** - 10th October 6-8pm

**Prince Albert High School** - 25th September 6-7:30pm and 3rd October 9-10:30am

**Q3 Academy** - 3rd October 5-7:30pm



**Proudly and joyfully, we love, live and learn as God's children.**



**You are invited to our school mass!**

- Dear Holy Name Parish, you have been invited to St. Mark's Catholic Primary School for mass every Thursday.

- Our mass starts at 9am and Father walks in while we sing our first hymn.

-It's just like a mass at Holy Name Church but in school.

**YOU ARE INVITED**

**St. Mark's Catholic Primary School**