



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

Tel: 0121 357 9892 Email: enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



FRIDAY 27th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have been thinking about our Gospel message in which Jesus tells people that in order to be truly great, we must put others first. In Monday's assembly we called this 'servant leadership'. We have been thinking about the needs of others and how we can live out our faith by being considerate towards others. This is part of our catholic social teaching principles at St. Mark's and we work together to ensure we can fulfil our God-given potential.

Earlier this week we welcomed children from St. Chad's and St. John Bosco in our MAC to play football with some of our Year 5 and 6 girls and boys. Well done to all the children for participating and representing our school very well. We look forward to more competitions and games in the future! I have also been very impressed with the number of children that have cycled to school this week - what a great effort! Building good healthy habits for the future is really important so please keep this up!

A big thank you to Mrs. Beresford for arranging this morning's coffee morning, it was lovely to welcome parishioners, PC David Manns, residents from Grove Court and COMPASS staff. Family and community is at the heart of our school and we look forward to more events whereby we can bring people together. Today, we also welcomed members of staff from the West Midlands Police Museum. They visited classes and reinforced the importance of the rule of law—part of our British Values.

Have a good weekend everyone!

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

Cycle to School Week - 2024!

There was a real buzz in the air this week as it was our first year participating in Cycle to School Week! Our Laudato Si Leaders are on a mission to make our school more sustainable and are promoting ways we, as a school and a local community, can make changes for the better. Our recently installed secure gates mean that our bike racks are safe and secure for children to leave at school. As well as promoting cycling to school as a lifelong skill, this week improved our communities health and wellbeing while teaching them that we are all responsible for making small changes to care for our common home.

Well done Laudato Si Leaders for promoting such a great week and well done to all those who cycled to school—even when it was raining!



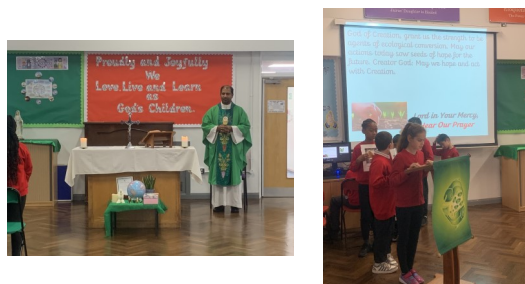
Author Workshop - Hamza Yassin

On Tuesday 24th September, KS2 enjoyed a very special virtual event with CBeebies presenter and author Hamza Yassin as he presented his fascinating new book, Hamza's Wild World. We listened to information all about his new book as well as participated in an interview with Hamza, who shared lots of tips about how every one of us can help protect and encourage wildlife in the habitats around us. It was a very inspiring event - ask us what we learnt about different animals?



Creation Mass - Lead by Year 5

On Thursday 17th September, we enjoyed a special Mass celebrating the season of Creation. It was planned and lead by Y5, who included their prayers from earlier prayer and liturgy. They included prayers from all faiths, focussing on bringing us all together to care for our common home—the Earth.



Mass takes place every Thursday in the school hall - all are welcome.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE


Well done to **Year 2** 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 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 **95.9%**.

	So Far This Term No. Of Lates %	So Far This Term Attendance %
RECEPTION	0.9%	93.8%
YEAR 1	1.8%	92.7%
YEAR 2	0.5%	98.0%
YEAR 3	0.1%	97.5%
YEAR 4	0.7%	96.7%
YEAR 5	1.1%	95.2%
YEAR 6	1.6%	97.5%



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.



Dates for the diary:

Monday 30th September 2024—Reception Early Reading and Phonics Workshop 3.30pm

Thursday 3rd October 2024—Perry Barr Fire Fighters in to see Year 2—linked to 'Great Fire of London' topic

Thursday 10th October 2024—World Mental Health Day

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

Monday 21st to Thursday 24th October 2024—Book Fair after school

Wednesday 23rd October 2024 - Vocations Day

Wednesday 23rd October 2024 - Parents Evening (more information to follow)

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

ASDA Cashpots for Schools

If you shop at ASDA, please download the ASDA APP and opt-in to the Cashpot for Schools scheme.

If you select St. Mark's Catholic Primary School, ASDA will Donate 0.5% of your total shop, plus £1.00 for each customer who signs up, to our school!

This will help tremendously with raising money to buy new equipment for our pupils to use in school.



Please ask your friends and family, too.