



# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

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**FRIDAY 11th October 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you to so many of you who have paid tribute to our much loved Mrs. Nellist. Our dedicated prayer area in the school entrance will remain there until November. We have a memory book for Mrs. Nellist's family, you are most welcome to come to the office, request the book and write in a joyful memory of her. Please just ask at the office for the book.

It was a pleasure to watch so many children enjoy taking part in World Mental Health Day yesterday. It is our responsibility as a school to ensure that we provide a safe, calm and supportive learning environment for all children and any child requiring support for their mental health will receive this swiftly. We work with a number of agencies in school to further support mental health and COMPASS is the organisation of our choice. If you would like further information about supporting your child's mental health, please see one of the DSLs in school or in the meantime, access the following website:

[www.compass-uk.org/compass-birmingham/](http://www.compass-uk.org/compass-birmingham/)

Thank you to all the parents in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 for lining up in a calm and orderly fashion. Feedback from teachers was very positive and your cooperation was much appreciated.

Have a wonderful weekend all!

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

## Safeguarding Update - Traffic around school

A number of concerns have been raised recently by local residents and parents regarding parking/driving outside the school gates, particularly in the mornings. A reminder please that **there should be no stopping on any of the yellow lines or directly opposite the school gates.** Please show the children good examples of obeying road safety and parking. Our Junior PCSOs are eager to get back out on patrol but in order for us to keep them safe, we need parents to work with us to keep our roads safe. Driving and parking in an unsafe manner is putting your children at risk. Please allow extra time to park away from school and walk around with your child. Our school gates have staggered opening times (8:30—8:45am and 3:10—3:25pm) to allow for this to happen.

Walking to school also benefits the children as it is an opportunity to develop road safety skills with their parents, increasing their confidence and overall levels of fitness. It is a cheap, low impact way to exercise, which impacts our health and mental well-being positively—even by parking slightly further away. Let's all work together to ensure our school area is a safe place.



## Dates for the diary:

Week beginning 14th October—Recycle week

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

Wednesday 23rd October 2024 - Vocations Day

Wednesday 23rd October 2024 - Parents Evening  
(appointment slots will be available next week)

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

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

Friday 8th November 2024—Whole school flu  
vaccination at school

## 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.

**INTRODUCING CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS**

Download and opt-in with Asda Rewards and we will donate £1s to schools.

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- 2 Opt-in to Cashpot for Schools and follow the steps in your app
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*Please ask your friends and family, too.*


## ATTENDANCE UPDATE

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

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

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

Registers closes at **8.55am.**

	So Far This Term No. Of Lates %	So Far This Term Attendance %
<b>RECEPTION</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>92.4%</b>
<b>YEAR 1</b>	1.4%	93.8%
<b>YEAR 2</b>	0.7%	96.5%
<b>YEAR 3</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	95.0%
<b>YEAR 4</b>	0.9%	96.0%
<b>YEAR 5</b>	1.2%	93.8%
<b>YEAR 6</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>96.7%</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.



## Year 2 West Midlands Fire Service Workshop

On Thursday 3rd October 2024, Perry Barr Fire service came into Year 2 to discuss fire safety in the home and outdoors. The children had an opportunity to practice the stop, drop and roll procedure. It was great to see the children asking questions about their own homes as well as what to do if they spot dangers in school or the community.

"We were asked to check our homes to see if we have a smoke detector in their homes." M

"I have one in my house but now I know how to look for dangers in the car too." A

"If you need a smoke detector in your home, you can contact the fire service and they will install one for you. It keeps everyone safe." K



## Open for Creation—Prayer and Liturgy Live Stream

To conclude the season of Creation, on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024, St. Mark's joined a live stream on One Life Worship with Dan and Emily. The children participated through song and prayers with many other schools around Birmingham to celebrate the end of the Season of Creation. Dan and Emily brought worship alive with their animated chat, their "shout-outs", song and creative prayer. Worship through music is simply the most powerful way of giving praise to God! We look forward to celebrating their next One Life live stream and 'Open for Advent.'



## Harvest Festival 2024

Our Mini Vinnies are busy making preparations for this year's Harvest Festival Mass. Harvest Festival Mass will take place on Thursday 17th October 2024 and will be a whole school event.

Parents and family members are welcome to join us.

The Mini Vinnies ask that all families make a donation of tinned food, pasta, rice, food with long shelf-life, etc to donate to their project. The Mini Vinnies have voted this year to support SIFA Fireside, a local charity who support homeless people in Birmingham.

**Please bring in your donations before Thursday 17th October and give to Miss Stewart or one of the Mini Vinnies. There will be prizes for the class who bring in the most items!**



### Y3 and Y4 Dodgeball Competition

Well done to our Year 3 and 4 children who represented St. Mark's in a dodgeball competition on Tuesday. They played against St. John Bosco Primary School. Coach Kieran and Miss Morgan complimented how they played as a team, complimented the opposition and cheered each other on. Thank you to St. John Bosco for hosting such a wonderful sporting event.

We look forward to our next fixture!



### October—Month of the Rosary



October marks the month of the Rosary. Each class will be praying the Rosary daily, focussing on one of the mysteries. You can help your child by learning key prayers and joining in prayer with them at home. To join in with our 'Rosary Challenge' at home, supported by Mark 10 Mission, scan the QR code below. Look out for our Rosary team, who will be



inviting families to come and pray the Rosary with us soon!

### Black History Month 2024

We have had a busy week kick-starting our Black History Month celebrations. On Monday each class studied a different person, who has made significant changes to Black history. On Tuesday, we enjoyed a Caribbean themed lunch from Mrs Beresford and on Wednesday each class worked with Mr Lloyd and had the chance to experience playing steel pans. Look out on Class Dojo and Twitter for what else we are up to this Black History Month!



## SWEETPAN PROMOTIONS

Steelpan lessons for children, adults, and SEN



After School & Holiday Sessions  
DAYS AVAILABLE

Monday to Friday  
at 4pm to 7pm

Call: 07951823585 Insta: Billy\_deej  
Email: billydeej@hotmail.co.uk

4 Week Sessions  
£28 per child / £40 per adult  
Places must be booked in advance

