



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

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FRIDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday is the feast of Christ the King. It reminds us that Jesus Christ is our King and we should look to him for guidance and leadership. Money, wealth and the number of followers we have does not determine our worth, yet we so often see this in society. Children at St. Mark's learn about how we should love one another and treat each other with dignity because we are part of one big family. As Christmas approaches, let us not forget the real message of Christmas and how a king was born on the 25th December... a King that changed the world and showed us all how to **love, live and learn as God's children.**

Thank you to those parents who attended Mass in school yesterday in memory of our beloved Mrs. Nellist. We are grateful for the memories we have to cherish and we will forever keep her in our hearts.



Lastly, thank you for getting your children to school safely this week in the very cold and icy weather conditions. By 10am, most of the snow has usually melted away, so whilst the morning commute to school may be a little difficult, please always ensure your children are in school as normal.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Linley and the St. Mark's Team

Attendance and punctuality matters!

We will be reviewing attendance and punctuality data over the coming weeks, please expect to receive a letter from us requesting to meet with you in relation to either your child's punctuality and/or attendance should we find that it is a cause for concern.

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 6** ensure they attend school everyday and that 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 **94.5%**.

Number of lates since returning to school = **34**

	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	1.6%	95.5%
YEAR 1	1.1%	94.0%
YEAR 2	0.9%	96.3%
YEAR 3	0.4%	94.3%
YEAR 4	0.9%	95.9%
YEAR 5	1.4%	93.2%
YEAR 6	2.0%	91.7%

Dates for the diary:

Monday 25th November 2024—Teacher Training Day— (School closed for pupils)

Wednesday 27th November 2024—Y4 Trip to ThinkTank

Monday 2nd December 2024—Phonics Screening Workshop for Year1 parents

Wednesday 4th December 2024—Whole School Flu Vaccination— (rescheduled date)

Friday 6th December 2024— Year 3 trip to Cadbury's World—(more information to follow)

Friday 6th December 2024—Christmas Fayre 3.00-5.30pm

Tuesday 10th December 2024 –9:15am and 2:15pm—EYFS and KS1 Christmas around the World production (more information to follow)

Thursday 12th December 2024—Reception trip to Warwick Castle— (more information to follow)

Friday 13th December 2024—Christmas Disco during school hours (Children to come to school in party clothes)

Cricket Festival at Hamstead Hall



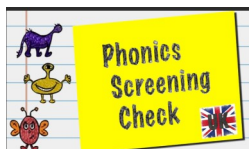
A big well done to the children in Years 4 and 5 who participated in the cricket festival at Hamstead Hall Academy on Monday 18th November. The children had a great amount of fun and enjoyed practising their cricket skills alongside children from other schools locally.

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Workshop

Monday 2nd December 2024 at 3:30pm

Calling all Year 1 parents.

There will be a phonics workshop for parents to explain all about the phonics screening check and show how you can support your child at home. We look forward to seeing you there.



St. Mark's Friends Needs YOU!



We have a few more volunteers to help with our Christmas fayre in a few weeks time but we would greatly appreciate the following help and support:

- Donations of prizes for the Grand Raffle
- Help on the day (afternoon of 6th Dec)

Please contact Mrs. Linley if you can help.

Guardian Angel Buddy Bench

Thank you to everyone who supported our Guardian Angels for Anti Bullying Week and wore odd socks. A huge well done to our Guardian Angels for sharing the



Message:

LEND A HAND, TAKE A STAND, STOP BULLYING NOW



Thank you for the donations so far to the Buddy Bench. This payment is still live on Arbor for you to donate to make the Guardian Angel Team dream a reality!



We are always looking at what lessons our children are learning and how our curriculum is supporting them to be changemakers for the future. Here is a snap shot of some of the answers Year 6 gave us:

What would you do if you saw someone being bullied?

I would tell the teacher and go up to them and tell them to stop because at St. Mark's we don't bully, we have kind hands.

By Mudassir

What did you learn about your changemaker in Black History Month?

That Doreen Lawrence's son was killed in a racist attack while walking home and he wanted to be an architecture. Doreen Lawrence became a Baroness and she wouldn't stop to fight for the investigation around her son.

What did you learn from this?

That if you want something, you should keep going at it until you get it.

By Kaid

Why is the St. Mark's Way important?

Because I feel like it keeps us safe and it shows that we should take pride in our presentation; we should get along and work together. We learn good habits and it prepares us for secondary school.

By Evie