



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

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Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



FRIDAY 31st JANUARY 2025

Dear Parents and carers,

Today we celebrated the Feast of St. John Bosco at Holy Name Church in Great Barr. Year 5 represented our school brilliantly alongside all of the other schools in our St. John Bosco Multi Academy Company. It was extra special to come together as a family of schools this time because we also co-celebrated the Jubilee Year of Hope. In our Academy, we have been given the responsibility of supporting refugees and asylum seekers during this year of hope, the symbol to represent this theme of work is a sunset.



This a special year dedicated to acts of charity, community outreach, and social justice initiatives and we would like to involve you as parents in this work with us as much as possible. As we approach Valentines Day on 14th February, (a day whereby society encourages us to share acts of love with one another), we are going to show love to those more vulnerable in society by carrying out the following actions:

Monday 10th February 9am - Parents are invited to attend an assembly led by our Catholic Life Leaders on why this year we will be taking social action to support our refugee and asylum seeker brothers and sisters.

Tuesday 11th February 2-3pm - Parents of children in Years 5 and 6 are invited to attend a Refugee and Asylum Seeker workshop led by our Catholic Life Leaders. There will be a number of activities available for parents to do with their children such as creating valentine's cards, writing letters to MPs and creating friendship bracelets. We would love to see as many parents at this workshop as possible taking social justice action with us.

Thursday 13th February - Catholic life leaders will attend St. Clare's School in Handsworth to share ideas about what further action we can take this year, alongside other schools to support refugees and asylum seekers.



JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025




ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to **Reception** 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 6** ensure that they arrive to school on time.

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

Our target is **97%** we are currently at **95%**.

 ATTENDANCE MATTERS	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	1.1%	97.9%
YEAR 1	1.6%	90.2%
YEAR 2	0.9%	96.5%
YEAR 3	0.3%	94.7%
YEAR 4	0.7%	93.9%
YEAR 5	1.4%	96.6%
YEAR 6	2.3%	93.2%

This week individual families have received a celebration email for improving their child's attendance significantly:

- **Reception: 9 emails**
- **Year 1: 7 emails**
- **Year 2: 6 emails**
- **Year 3: 3 emails**
- **Year 4: 4 emails**
- **Year 5: 2 emails**
- **Year 6 8 emails**

Well done if you were one of the parents that received an email of recognition!

Dates for the diary:

Wednesday 5th February 2025—Y4 Trip to Birmingham Museum

Thursday 6th February 2025—Y6 Trip to National Memorial Arboretum

Monday 10th February 2025—Y2 & KS2 Cyber Critical Workshop (Internet Safety)

Monday 10th February 2025—Refugee/Asylum seeker Assembly (led by Catholic Life Leaders)

Tuesday 11th February 2025—Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 12th February 2025—Year 3 SPaG workshop—2:00pm

Thursday 13th February 2025—Reception SPaG workshop—2:30pm

Friday 14th February 2025—Y2 Trip to Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Monday 20th—Friday 24th February 2025—HALF TERM

Sacramental and Family Mass Dates



Sunday 23rd March, 10:30
Family Mass & Mass of Commitment
for ALL First Holy Communion and
Confirmation candidates

Thursday 22nd May, 7:00 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
(Y6 Confirmandi)



Sunday 8th June, 10:30
Family Mass for Pentecost Sunday

Sunday 22nd June, 10:30
First Holy Communion





MESSAGING ON CLASS DOJO

Class Dojo is a really positive communication tool which we use to let you know all about the great things that are happening in school. It can also be used to convey quick messages to and from school, e.g. reminders about appointments, not to forget P.E. kit or packed lunch for a school trip, etc.

If you have a worry or concern, it is always best to try to speak to your child's teacher in person at the end of the school day. If you aren't able to get to school, please call the school office and we will ask the teacher to call you at a convenient time. If you send a message on Class Dojo, we do not expect teachers to read or respond to any messages outside of the hours 8:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m., because we are mindful of our staff's work-life balance.

ALL messages relating to **ABSENCE** should be relayed through the **school office**, never by Dojo as teachers do not routinely have the chance to look at messages once the working day and lessons have started.

VALENTINE'S RAFFLE



On Monday 3rd February, raffle tickets will be on sale for each year group, for a chance to win a lovely chocolate hamper, made with love by Mrs Beresford.

The cost is £1 per ticket. We request that your child brings in the correct amount of money enclosed in an envelope, as no change can be given. Please encourage children to count the money out themselves, to develop their mathematical skills.

The deadline date for raffle tickets to be purchased is **Thursday 13th February**, and the winners will be drawn on:

Friday 14th February 2025.



EAGLES 
ACADEMY **2 FREE SESSIONS**

LEISURE UNITED FRIAR PARK
Friar Park Rd, Wednesbury WS10 0JX

Join us today!



PROGRAM:
Football training for children 4-9

CONTACT:
Email: eaglesacademyfc@gmail.com
Phone: 07456170663

*Have a lovely weekend
& God Bless You!*



St. Mark's Communication Flowchart



STEP 1

**CLASS TEACHER
OR
OFFICE**



This is the first point of contact between families and school.

The table below clarifies whether the communication requires the attention of your child's class teacher or if the school office is more appropriate.

Teachers are available most days after school and appointments can be made by contacting the school office (by email, phone, Dojo or in person).

STEP 2

**ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL / SENDCO
MR LINFORD &
MRS DYKES**



If further support is required, Mr. Linford and Mrs Dykes is available.

This can be organised through the school office or in collaboration with the teacher currently dealing with the query.

For SEN specific queries, direct Dojo message or email Mr. Linford or Mrs Dykes.

STEP 3

**PRINCIPAL
MRS LINLEY**

Having followed Steps 1-2, if a matter needs further attention, it can be brought to Mrs Linley.

This can be organised through the school office or in collaboration with the member of staff previously involved.

Anything of an urgent safeguarding matter can be brought straight to Mrs. Linley.

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



St. Mark's Communication Flowchart



STEP 1

**CLASS TEACHER
OR OFFICE**

**CLASS
TEACHER**

- School events information (please check diary dates first)
- Home learning queries
- Behaviour issues/concerns
 - Learning concerns
- Home/pastoral/friendship concerns
- Concerns regarding academic progress

**OFFICE
STAFF**

- School events information/ changes to usual school day
- Reporting an absence / Attendance queries
- School Clubs including wrap around care
 - Payment queries
 - Medication/injuries
 - Appointments
 - Dinner queries

STEP 2

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL /
SENCO**

**ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL**

- Escalated behaviour concerns
- Initial complaints re. behaviour
- Ongoing behaviour correspondence

SENCO

- Escalated SEND concerns
- Initial complaints re. SEND concerns/practice
- Ongoing SEND correspondence
- Parent and Family support

STEP 3

PRINCIPAL

PRINCIPAL

In addition to concerns escalated through Steps 1-2, the following queries can be raised directly with Mrs Linley.

- Issues which relate to Safeguarding concerns.
 - Requests for school appeals or reference requests can be made directly to the Mrs Linley via the office.
 - Before requesting an appointment, please ensure that you have followed the steps in this flowchart.
- NB. Anything that would normally be raised with Mrs Linley can be raised with Mr. Linford or Mrs Dykes in her absence.**