



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 14th FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was great to see so many of you attending the SPaG workshops this half term, we appreciate the feedback given and we look forward to inviting you into school next half term for some further workshops. Thank you also to the parents and carers that attended the workshop on 'Hope for refugees and asylum seekers', this week. It was heartwarming to hear the children's responses this week in Gospel assembly when I asked, 'Why is hope important?' Their responses included:

"..because hope encourages us to keep going even which at times it is difficult."

"Hope is all some people have."

"Hope gives us strength and Jesus tells us to have hope because it can change the outcome."

I was impressed with the deep thought and reflection made by the children in response to this question. They never cease to amaze me with their knowledge and faith—well done!

Thank you to all the parents that completed the Ofsted questionnaire last week. We will share with you the report once we are able to do so. We are pleased with how the inspection went and as always, we continue to work hard for all of our children.

I wish you all a very relaxing half term holiday and I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 24th February.

God bless,

Staffing update:

After half term, we will be encountering some changes in the leadership team. Mr. Linford will be stepping back from his role as Assistant Principal and in replacement of his role, Mrs. Dykes will be working much more closely with Mrs. Linley. Whilst we recruit a new Reception teacher to join our team, Mrs. Dykes and Mrs. Davies (who the children are already very familiar with) will share the teaching of the Reception class.

Currently, Mrs. Wedderburn is off ill at the moment and we wish her a speedy recovery. In her absence, Mrs. Fabb is teaching Year 3.

Mrs. Ivanova (teaching assistant in Years 1 and 2) is also off ill at the moment and we wish her a speedy recovery, Ms. Kaur continues to support children in Years 1 and 2 in her absence.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Linford for his time and support given to the school and to our St. Mark's family, particularly following a difficult period following Mrs. Nellist's death.


ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to **Reception** for their attendance this term and to **Year ? 3 & 4** for having the least amount of lates.

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

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

Our target is **97%** we are currently at **95.3%**.

	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	1.0%	98.3%
YEAR 1	1.7%	92.3%
YEAR 2	1.3%	96.6%
YEAR 3	0.6%	95.6%
YEAR 4	0.6%	94.6%
YEAR 5	1.7%	96.2%
YEAR 6	2.3%	93.9%

Dates for the diary:

Monday 17th—Friday 21st February 2025—HALF TERM

Monday 24th February 2025—Back to school

Wednesday 26th February 2025—Y5 Healthcare Workshop with Birmingham University in school—1:30pm

Thursday 27th February 2025—Marie Naughton Mass of Thanks at 9:00am

Wednesday 5th March 2025—Ash Wednesday

Thursday 6th March 2025—World Book Day

Wednesday 12th March 2025—Science Fair

Thursday 14th March 2025—Reception Maths Workshop

Monday 17th March 2025—Reception visit to West Midlands Safari Park (more information to follow)

Friday 21st March 2025—World Poetry Day



Workshops

Thank you to all of the parents who attended the SPaG Workshops. The feedback from parents was very positive and the children really enjoy working with an adult in school.

Parents said "It was lovely to work alongside my child and complete activities."

"I now know what my child needs to do and the glossary will really help with homework."

Children said "I loved working with my Dad to look at a grammar test."

"I liked it when my Mum came into school and we sat together."

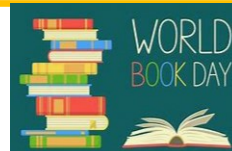


Due to the huge success of last year's Science Fair, we will be holding this year's on **Wednesday 12th March**.

The theme for this year will be change and adapt. Please use the link below for suggestions and more information will be shared in the coming weeks.

[The theme for 2025 is...'Change and adapt!' - British Science Week](#)

We are really looking forward to seeing all of the children's wonderful work.



On Thursday 6th March, we will celebrate World Book Day. Children will be invited to come into school dressed as a book character or an author. All children are being asked to take part in the St. Mark's Book Swap! We would like all children to bring a book into school that they would like to swap. All children who bring a book into school, will come home with a new book.

Please can all books be in good condition.

Thank you for your support.



NSPCC Number Day 2025

Our NSPCC Number Day on 7th February 2025, was a huge success. The children enjoyed dressing up as their favourite number and taking part in some fun Maths activities.

Thank you for your generous donations.

As a school we raised £52

Congratulations to the following children for winning the class prize for their costumes:

Reception: Athelia

Year 4: Kaiyanah

Year 1: Romane

Year 5: Imaan

Year 2: Cabhan

Year 6: Kezzia

Year 3: Eseye



Safer Internet Day 2025



Tuesday 11th February 2025 was Safer Internet Day. The theme this Year was "Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online."

During the day, the children learnt about how to stay safe online and learnt about 'scams' and 'phishing'.

Year 2—Y6 also had a Cyber Critical Workshop with One Day Creative, where they learnt more about online scams and how to stay safe online.

SEND @ ST MARK'S



If you are concerned about your child, your child's class teacher should be your first point of contact. After that you may choose to meet with the SENDCo - Mrs Dykes.

SENDCO



Mrs Dykes is the SENDCo. She leads and manages the SEND provision across school. You can contact her via ClassDojo or via the school office (0121 357 9892) or via emailenquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk

HOW IS SEND IDENTIFIED?

- Parent, pupil and class teacher conversations
- In class observations
- Work scrutiny
- Assessment information
- Progress data
- External agency reports and assessments
- Transition information.



SEND NEEDS SUPPORTED



- Communication and Language e.g. Autism Spectrum Disorder, ASD.
- Cognition and Learning e.g. dyslexia/dyscalculia
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health e.g. ADHD
- Sensory/Physical Needs i.e. visual Impairment.
- Speech, Language and Communication needs

HOW WE SUPPORT SEND

- Quality first teaching
- Adaptive teaching strategies
- Reasonable adjustments (changes we make in class to support the day)
- Small group support
- One-to-one support
- Sensory Room
- External Agency Support
- Specific Interventions



WHERE CAN YOU FIND MORE INFORMATION

Look on our school website
<https://www.stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk/send/>
 Look on the Birmingham Local Offer website
<https://www.localoffer-birmingham.co.uk>



UPDATE on ALLERGENS



Nuts can cause severe allergic reactions in a wide range of ways. A child with an allergy does not have to eat nuts to have a severe reaction; **this can be caused by surface contact and airborne particles.**

As a school, we have a responsibility to keep our pupils, staff and visitors safe and to reduce risk of harm. Therefore, we do not accept any gifts for staff or children may contain nuts. These include the following:



We understand that some parents may want to bring in treats for their child's class. Please DO NOT bring in home made cakes or products that contain nuts.



Please **ONLY** bring in treats that do not contain nuts or other allergens such as gelatine.



Be Allergy Aware & Save a Life

Anaphylaxis is a serious reaction to allergens such as food, insect stings, medication & latex. The body thinks it's fighting something which shouldn't be there and sends out special chemicals to fight back.



People may experience mild or moderate symptoms including:

- 1. Itchy skin rash
- 2. Itchy/moist mouth
- 3. Swelling of lips, face or eyes
- 4. Stomach pain or vomiting

What are the signs of a severe allergic reaction?

- 1. Head to wobble / coughing
- 2. Difficulty to breathe, noisy breathing
- 3. Feeling dizzy, floppy or weak

1. An allergic reaction can become serious quickly, so a special adrenaline pen must be used immediately

2. Then call 999 and tell them the person is suffering from anaphylaxis (ana-fi-axi)



For more information please see:

- <https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/>
- <https://www.food.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/allergies/>
- <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/immune-system/allergies/>

SEND PARENTAL CONCERN FLOWCHART



If you have concerns about your child please speak to the class teacher in the first instance. They will offer advice and give next steps.

Mrs Dykes is our school SENDCo. You can contact her via ClassDojo or by emailing the school office

A meeting will be scheduled to gain your views, further information and discuss next steps.

A plan will be drawn up to include your child's strengths, areas for development and SMART targets. These SMART targets will be linked to interventions and how we can support your child in school to achieve these targets.

The SMART targets will be reviewed with you and we will discuss the next steps for your child. This may include the support of external agencies to assist assessments. New targets will be set.





HOLY NAME
YOUTH
GROUP

YOUTH
YOUTH
YOUTH



12PM



Y4 - Y8



SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2025

**COME ALONG TO OUR FIRST
MEETING AND HAVE YOUR SAY IN
WHAT YOU WANT FROM YOUR
YOUTH GROUP**



**JOIN US IN THE PARISH CENTRE
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED!**

