



Ofsted
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St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

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FRIDAY 11th APRIL 2025

Dear Parents and carers,

It was lovely to see many of you at the Holy Week assemblies this week and today we finish with the Stations of the Cross - Jesus' final journey on earth before his death. This sacrifice gives us a powerful opportunity for prayer and reflection during Lent, and the children and staff have been praying in school and reflecting on their actions and behaviour.

Dear Heavenly Father, Help us this Lenten Season to pray, fast and give alms. Help us to pray for guidance, strength and courage. Help us to fast and resist temptation just as Jesus did in the desert. Help us to give alms this Lenten season to those who are in need.

Help us to be the best version of ourselves.

Amen

A prayer written by MS in Y4

When we return, we will be in the season of Easter (please have a look at the Easter competition for the Resurrection - we look forward to seeing how creative our children can be on this!)

Thank you for the feedback received this term and especially at last night's parents' evening. Your thoughts and views are very much appreciated - thank you to those that completed the questionnaire and also took time to have a chat with me. I wish you all a very happy and relaxing Easter holiday.

God bless and have a good weekend,
Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's family

DATES FOR DIARY

Monday 28th April 2025 - Holy communion meeting with Y3 parents - 3:30-4:30pm

Friday 9th May 2025 - Reception and Y5 Trip to Black Country Museum

Friday 16th May 2025 - Y5 Anxiety workshop led by Compass - 2:00 - 3:00pm

Monday 19th - Friday 22nd May 2025 - Y6 Bikeability

Monday 19th - Friday 22nd May 2025 - Multi-Cultural Week (more information to follow)

Wednesday 21st May 2025 - Multicultural showcase for parents to attend - 2:00pm

Thursday 22nd May 2025 - Y4 Trip to B'ham Hippodrome - (more information to follow)

Thursday 22nd May 2025 - Confirmation at Holy Name Parish - 7:00pm


Monday 26th - Friday 30th May 2025 - HALF TERM (School closed to pupils)

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Well Done to **Year 6** for their attendance this term and to **Year 2** having the least amount of lates.

Please can **Year 5** ensure they attend school everyday and ensure they arrive to school on time.

Gates open between **8:30am and 8:45am**.
Our target is **97%** we are currently at **95.7%**

	So Far This Term No. Of Lates %	So Far This Term Attendance %
RECEPTION	0.8%	94.4%
YEAR 1	1.5%	96.2%
YEAR 2	0.3%	95.9%
YEAR 3	0.6%	95.4%
YEAR 4	1.2%	97.4%
YEAR 5	1.7%	92.3%
YEAR 6	0.7%	97.9%

Following our end of term attendance assembly today, here is a breakdown of the number of children who received a certificate:

No. of Gold: 67 pupils

No. of Silver: 48 pupils

No. of Bronze: 32 pupils

No. of Improved Attendance: 8 pupils

The number of pupils who have not missed a single day of school this academic year: **19**



THE GREAT BIG DANCE OFF



Firstly, when I got to the Alexander Theatre, I was so nervous because what happens if I mess up? Some Y6 girls were there and Year 5 girls and one Y4 girl. When I saw the other performers, I thought we'd get 10th place, but instead we got 2nd place and we were 2 points away from getting the 1st place and I was so proud of us all!

Once we got backstage, I felt amazed that we had got this far. Shelly was so happy and she screamed and the next Friday, we had cake, sweets and a party!

I'm so fortunate to have this opportunity.

(Written by HD in Y5)

APRIL IS AUTISM

Awareness Month

April is Autism Awareness Month, a special time to promote understanding, acceptance, and inclusion for individuals on the autism spectrum. At St Mark's we believe in celebrating the unique strengths, talents, and perspectives of all our students — and this month, we're shining a spotlight on the importance of embracing neurodiversity.

What is Autism?

Autism, or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is a developmental condition that affects how a person communicates, interacts with others, and experiences the world. Autism is a spectrum, which means every person with autism is different — some may need a lot of support, while others may need very little. What they all deserve is kindness, patience, and understanding.

We encourage families to have these conversations at home and to learn more about autism together. A simple act of kindness or a moment of understanding can go a long way in creating a welcoming environment for everyone.

Let's work together to make our school a place where

every pupil feels seen, valued, and supported.

Where can you find out more?

<https://nipinthebud.org/films-parents-category/autism/>

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/communication-and-autism-team/>



SEND parent meetings

Week Beginning 12th May 2025

We will be holding SEND parent meetings to review progress and set new targets together during the week beginning **Monday 12th May 2025**. Please look out for a message from your child's class teacher on **ClassDojo**, where they will confirm the date and time of your meeting.

We look forward to discussing your child's progress and next steps with you.

