



# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Mrs. D. Linley



Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are well. As many of you will now be aware, Gavin Williamson (Education Secretary) announced this week that children can return to school from September. I am looking forward to seeing all the children and families again in person and not through a computer screen and I know the staff are too! We are currently making plans in school in line with guidance as to how school will look in September when your child/ren returns. As soon as we have plans finalised, we will of course share these with you. These plans will also include transition for the classes next year and how we will manage this in school. For now, I can tell you what class teachers your child/ren will have next year...

Reception – Mrs. Dykes and Mrs. Smith

Year 1 – Miss Stewart and Mrs. Doody

Year 2 – Miss Cooney and Miss Asson

Year 3 – Miss Grant and Mrs. O'Shea

Year 4 – Mrs. Khan and Mrs. Smith

Year 5 – Miss Francis and Mrs. Smalling

Year 6 – Miss Dorsett and Mrs. Nellist

## Well-being

Following on from the results I shared last week from the parent questionnaire on wellbeing, we have organised a ZOOM session for PARENTS ONLY to take place on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July (5pm - 5.45pm)**. We recognise that for many children, it will have been about 6 months since they were last in school, and a range of emotions and concerns may have built in that time. The aim of the session is to share some advice and guidance on how you can support your child/ren on their return to school.

Natalie Bowen from **Malachi** will be the main speaker giving advice about managing and supporting children's wellbeing. Natalie currently provides practical support and one-to-one therapy for many children and families at St. Mark's. She tailors support to meet the needs of each individual family, and provide a safe, non-judgemental space for parents to explore and understand their situation and make the right choices for the well-being of their family.

This session is aimed at all families, so I hope many of you will be able to join us for this. If you would like to join us, please email the school on: [enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk) with your full name and your child/ren's full name/s and year group/s and we will email you back the zoom meeting details.

## Black Lives Matter

At St. Mark's we are incredibly proud of the part that our school plays in a community that is rich with diversity. This is a subject that we have been exploring and engaging with for many weeks, and on many levels in school. From staff observing the 8 minute and 46 second silence in memory of George Floyd and participating in a powerful reflection on how our school has a huge role to play on educating our children for the future, we recognise that this is a subject that must stay prominent in our curriculum. This is not a subject we can tackle on our own though, we need to work together

with you as parents. If you need any support in how to approach this subject with your children, or how to discuss racism, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Linley.



My dream would be a multicultural society, one that is diverse and where every man, woman and child are treated equally. I dream of a world where all people of all races work together in harmony.

— Nelson Mandela —

AZ QUOTES



Above: A display created by some Y5/6 key worker children

### What some of our children had to say...

"When we heard about George Floyd on Newsround, we decided in our bubble that we wanted to do something. We decided to research people who have impacted black history and create a display to educate the younger children in school."

Ammani Y6

"We created Black Lives Matter Placards to show others that black lives matter at St. Mark's as much as everyone else. We wanted to do something as a bubble to show others what we think."

Olivia Y6

"I think it is important to display black history in school and make others aware of racism today and how it effects people around us. Some people don't see the impact that racism has on others, people aren't always treated equally. Equality is a word that we use here, and we all get treated equally in school."

Charlie Y6

### **Please note: End of term finish time (1.30-2.00pm)**

**St. Mark's will be closing on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July at an earlier time. To allow for social distancing, please collect your child between 1.30pm and 2.00pm on this day.**

**Wellbeing Garden** – thank you to those parents who have been in touch to offer help and time to create this valuable project for our children. Please encourage your child to complete a design for the school's wellbeing garden as we want this to be a garden created **by** the children and **for** the children.



**Have a good weekend, God bless.**

**Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team**

