



Saint John Wall Catholic School

A Catholic School For All

Monthly Newsletter



Headteacher: Miss K Marston BSc (Hons) LLE
Chair of Governors: Mr M Jones

Issue: 4

Thursday 19 December 2019

Mission Statement: 'To educate each and every unique child in our care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be'

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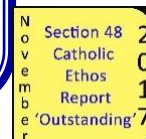
Prayer

Dear Lord,

Keep me safe as I go to spend time with my family over Christmas. Help me to spread joy amongst them by being kind and helpful. Amen.

Catholic Life Theme:
Journey in the Kingdom Of God

Autumn Jesuit Values:
Faith-filled and Hopeful



Message from Mr Jones

Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Having recently attended my grandchildren's schools' Nativity Plays, I was reminded of how important our Catholic schools are at this time of year. It is all too easy to overlook Advent's message of hope and peace and become distracted by all the frenetic activity surrounding us.

This has been a long and demanding term for our pupils and staff. You only have to look at our superb website (sjw.bham.sch.uk) to see the many and varied activities that have taken place since September. Despite the inevitable pressure they have worked under, Miss Marston and her team of staff have maintained the highest standards of behaviour and learning.

As governors we have been busy reviewing the performance of staff to ensure they continue to develop and improve. It ensures the quality of teaching remains high so that the progress your children make continues to be outstanding. Our remarkable GCSE results over the past two years haven't been achieved by chance. You only have to look at how Manchester City have slipped to understand that success can never be taken for granted.

During the recent General Election Campaign, you will have heard all political parties announcing increased funding for education. This is to be welcomed as school budgets have been badly cut over the past ten years. I can assure you the funds we do have are being used prudently. Our priorities have always been the safety of all pupils and staff whilst maintaining a high quality of teaching.

2019 has again been a highly successful year for all at Saint John Wall. Our best ever GCSE results have been achieved at a time when many schools throughout the West Midlands are struggling. You can be certain that Miss Marston and all staff are determined that 2020 will be no different and that they will continue to educate your children to be equipped to create a fairer and more just world than that which currently exists.

On that note and on behalf of all Saint John Wall governors, I wish yourselves and your families a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2020! I'll finish with this prayer:

Lord, I get into a rush as Christmas approaches. The frantic unease of feeling there's so much to do, caught between the joy of giving and the worry of choosing presents or of not forgetting family and friends, or leaving them off the Christmas card list. So today, Lord, may I remember the real meaning of Christmas. Help me to stop all the rushing just for a moment, to slow down and remember that it is you who are really at the heart of it all. Amen. Saint John Wall, pray for us.



Message from Miss Marston

Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Here is our end of term photo special newsletter. You can see how we have been celebrating the season of Advent and sharing our Christmas Wishes with the local community.

Highlights include: a fantastic 700 items of food were delivered to food banks yesterday, pupils delivered Christmas cards to our neighbours this morning, and the term ended with a beautiful Nativity service.

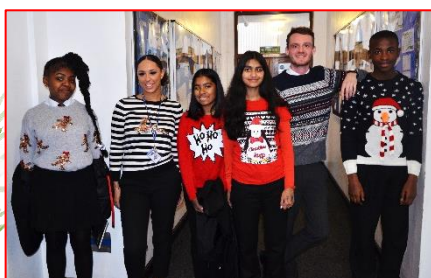
Have a Very Happy Christmas, school begins again for pupils on Wednesday 8 January 2020.

Miss Marston





Christmas Jumper Day

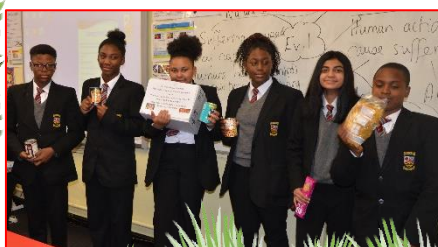




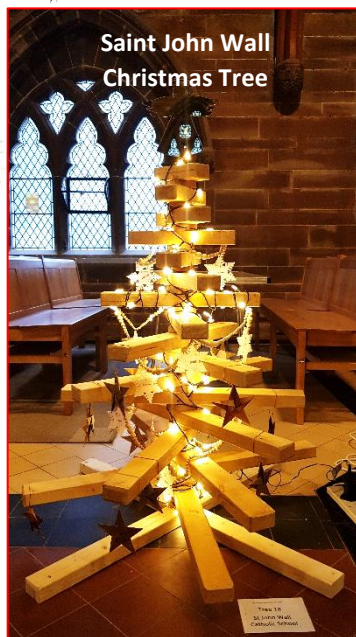
Christmas Card Community Delivery



Reverse Advent Calendar



Christmas Tree Festival





Christmas Service





Reconciliation Services





Sport Update

By Mr Janes



Year 8 Girls Football - Finished second at the Holyhead tournament, narrowly missing out on first place.

Year 10 Boys Basketball - Lost to Aston Manor in a league fixture, the boys did really well to compete against a Year 11 side.

Chris Bright - Chris came in as our guest speaker to speak with students around barriers to sport. Chris shared some powerful messages and shared his sporting journey.

Year 9 Girls Football - The girls lost 3-1 to St Paul's in a league fixture, they produced an excellent performance in tough weather conditions.

Year 10 Boys Handball - The boys finished second in the King Edward Handsworth Tournament, a great experience in terms of developing skills in a new sport.

Year 11 Boys Basketball - The boys beat King Edward Handsworth 42-21 in a very competitive game. The game is likely to be their last competitive fixture for the school, a great way to finish the season.





Lifestyle Lessons

By Mrs Kaur

Engineering

By Mr Hulme



Pupils in Year 7 & 8 have been having Lifestyle lessons once a week this year. The tree main themes covered are Life Skills, Healthy Mind and Healthy Body.

In the Healthy Mind lessons, we have focused on a variety of different activities children can take up instead of playing video games, spending time on social media, sat in front of the TV or continuously messaging or playing games on their mobile phones. Two of my activities were sewing and creating bird houses. The children all had lots of fun but also had lots of quiet time and time to reflect whilst doing the activity.

Most of the pupils said that they would love to these activities at home.

This is what some of the pupils had to say.

"I will miss this lesson because it relaxes me and it's something to do instead of watching the TV".

By Varlin Kaur 8HAB

"In Lifestyle lessons I have learned to sew and I have learned different stitches. This lesson was really enjoyable."

By Timothy Renju 8COL

"Lifestyle lessons helped me because I was really tired and I didn't want to come to school. Then Lifestyle lessons made me feel really calm and relaxed so I am very happy now."

By Jasmeet Kaur 7HUS

All of the pupils have been curious and active and we are all very proud of them.



Year 9 Resistant Materials pupils have over the past few weeks been creating a festive LED stand!

To start with each pupil created a festive design on the computer, we put this through our laser cutter on to cut and engrave on to clear acrylic plastic. Then using various coloured LED, wires and resistors the pupils soldered these together powered them up using a 9-volt battery. Finally, they then created a wooden stand to place their completed LED Circuits. These are some really nice pieces work here and we hope that the pupils are proud of their work! Enjoy the festive season and Merry Christmas!



House Leaderboard

Mandela 6218

Luther King 6146

John Paul 6133

Pankhurst 5810

Gandhi 5608



Our official Saint John Wall Christmas Card designed by Sakshi Mahey 7JON

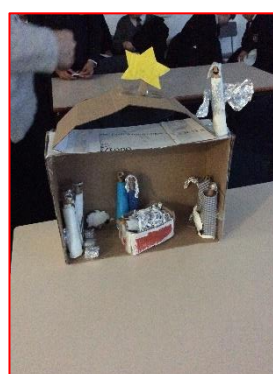


Shining star over Bethlehem, inspired by the work of Vincent Van Gogh.
Created by Rahma Miah 7HUS and Tanvir Ridwan 7JON

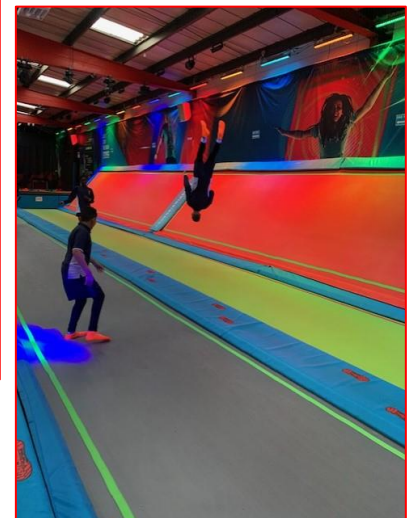
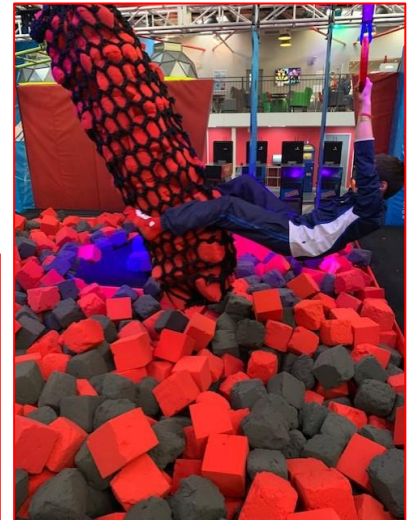
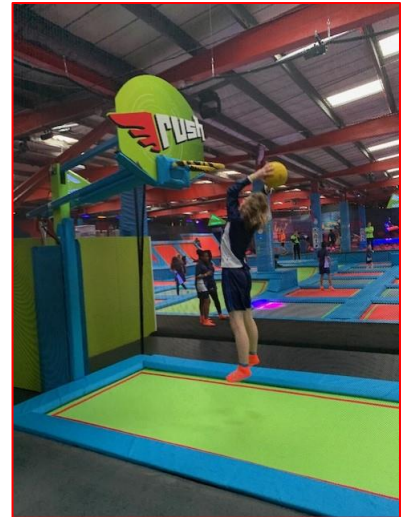


Shining star over Bethlehem, inspired by the work of Vincent Van Gogh.
Created by Emmanuel Ifeosame 7OWE

Create a Nativity Scene



Pankhurst House Trip Rush Trampoline Park





Autumn Jesuit Values: Faith-filled and Hopeful



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

HAPPY CHRISTMAS – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

With Christmas fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour during the festive break from school. Whilst we hope they will enjoy socialising with friends and family, we also want to ensure they feel confident to keep themselves safe and away from danger, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Parents/carers and students should already be aware that as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students; and provide support and up-to-date safety messages.

In partnership with the police, we would like to remind our students about the following:-

- **Anti-social behaviour:** Think about how your actions and behaviour affects others.
- **Remember the company you keep:** if your friend breaks the law, you may also be held responsible for that crime, even if you weren't the one directly responsible.
- **Personal Safety:**
 - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep Christmas gifts and other valuables such as smartphones out of public view whenever possible, especially during your journey to and from school, when you return in the New Year. Register your valuables at www.immobilise.com to improve the chances of getting them back if they are lost or stolen.
 - Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects, including sudden death! Information is available at www.talktofrank.com
- **Weapons in public places:** carrying knives or other weapons will get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them.
- **Off-road bikes:** these can only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.

Yours faithfully

K Marston

Miss K Marston
Headteacher
Saint John Wall Catholic
School

Kenny Bell
Chief Superintendent
East Neighbourhood Policing Unit
West Midlands Police

Steve Graham
Chief Superintendent
West Neighbourhood
Policing Unit
West Midlands Police

