



Saint John Wall Catholic School

A Catholic School For All



Issue: 16

Friday 14 February 2020

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Weekly Information Bulletin

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Mission Statement

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

Catholic Life

"Journey in the Kingdom Of God"



WISDOM

"Do to others as you would have them do unto you"

Luke 6:31

Spring Term Theme: How is this school a family? Love your neighbour as yourself.

Lord, before we log in today we would like to pause a moment and ask for Your blessing. We humbly pray that You will protect us as we use the internet this day. Protect our work and personal information from guard us from those who are dangerous, keep us safe at all times. Help us to maintain a charitable attitude with all the people we come in contact with in the cyber world. Grant us patience and generosity to those who try us with their varying viewpoints, opinions and advice. Amen.

"We pray that our pupils become learned and wise"

The period since starting back after Christmas may only have been short but nevertheless a great deal of progress has been made here at Saint John Wall. Although we've had a wet winter there has been an almost complete absence of snow much, I'm sure, to the dismay of pupils who've missed out on any snow-days (and for teachers - if my own children are anything to go by!). This has meant, however, that studying has gone on uninterrupted something that will pay off later in the year - especially for our Year 11 pupils.

As governors we have been busy over the past few weeks. Finance, despite what the government has announced, continues to be a concern not only for us but in schools across the city. We are doing all we can to be prudent while at the same time supporting Miss Marston so that she and the staff maintain the standard of education you rightly expect for your children.

As we approach the mid-point of the school year governors were given a presentation by Mr John explaining how a great deal of attention is being paid to our Year 11 pupils. Each pupil has received detailed individual information about the areas they need to improve upon. Nothing is ever guaranteed in life but based on what governors were shown everything is being done to enable pupils to continue to make the progress we know them to be capable of.

This is also the time of year when Year 8 pupils start to consider the pathways they wish to follow though to Year 11. A well thought out programme of guidance and advice is planned by Ms Hanson and staff to ensure these pupils,

supported by their parents, make wise choices about the selection of subjects they wish to study at GCSE and BTEC levels. As we move through the 21st Century the jobs that are going to become available will require highly skilled people to fill them. The recent announcement regarding HS2 is just one example of the high tech industries that will exist in Birmingham and beyond. It is crucial that our pupils are not only made aware of this but educate themselves appropriately.

High standards of behaviour are expected of all our pupils. Recently Mrs Crooks described to governors the various methods used to encourage pupils to conduct themselves responsibly at all times. It is rare that we as governors have to meet to discuss pupils who are either unable or unwilling to cooperate. For some of them a fresh start in another school is the answer. Very occasionally even this fails and so a pupil ends up permanently losing their place here. Such meetings are difficult especially for that pupil's parents. As governors it is an unavoidable responsibility. We always ensure it is discharged lawfully, reasonably and fairly.

Mr Price reported to governors on the Catholic life of the school. Many of the events and celebrations may be seen on our excellent website (www.sjw.bham.sch.uk). As you may be aware being a Catholic school the programmes of study followed in Religious Education are determined by the Education Department of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. From this coming September the government has stated that all schools in England are required to teach Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). As you will have seen from the news this has created concern on the part of parents in some Birmingham schools. I can assure you that Miss Marston will be consulting and informing you of how your children will be taught about this sensitive topic. I'm sure you agree it is important that we fully prepare our pupils to become responsible citizens of the future.

This Friday marks the start of the half-term break. On Monday 24 February pupils will return which for Year 11 will see the start of the final build up to the summer exams beginning in May. I hope therefore they and indeed all our pupils, and of course, staff have a well-earned rest next week.

Until the next time I'll end with this prayer:

Loving Father, as we come to the end of another half term, we turn to you in confidence and place any difficult relationships into the healing hands of Jesus, your Son. Enable us to leave behind any regrets and bitterness. May the holiday be for us a time of rest and relaxation, to help restore us and re-create us in your image and likeness, as we enjoy more of the love and presence of our families on whom we ask your blessing. Amen

Saint John Wall, pray for us
Martin Jones, Chair of Governors

Full newsletters will be published on:

Friday 28 February 2020

Friday 27 March 2020

Friday 1 April 2020

Safer Internet Day

5 tips for parents to keep your child(ren) safe

- Make sure your children feel confident they can come to you if they need help or are unsure about anything that happens online.
- Have open and open regular conversations with your children about technology and their use of it. Agree a set of family rules, including around screen time.
- Check the capabilities of the devices your child uses including toys. Does it have internet access? Can it be used to communicate with others?
- Be aware of and follow the age requirements of many social media apps and services, as well as games.
- Help your child get started. Find out what safety tools or parental controls are available, and how they work and set them up as appropriate. For younger children, supervise their use.



Free cycling activities taking place during the half term break

Free British Cycling Go Ride sessions are taking place during the half term break. These are open to children of all cycling abilities up to the age of 16. These sessions will support those new to pedaling to those who think they're going to be the next cycling superstar!

Venue	Dates/Times	Contact for Bookings
Sara Park 160 Herbert Rd B10 0BR	Monday 17 February Tuesday 18 February From 1.00pm until 3.00pm	Matt Blythe 07786932887 or mattblythe@britishcycling.org.uk
Calthorpe Park Wellbeing Hub Calthorpe Park Edward Rd B12 9LF	Tuesday 18 February Thursday 20 February From 1.00pm until 3.00pm	James Anderson 07342037662 or jamesanderson@britishcycling.org.uk