



# 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: 1

Thursday 22 October 2020

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

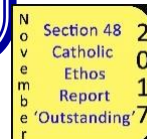
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#### Prayer

Dear Lord,

Help us to be the change we want to see in the world. When we want and wish things to change, encourage us to actually make them change. Let us not be bystanders in this fight against racism. Enable us to stand up & be counted.

Amen



## Message from Miss Marston

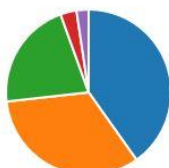
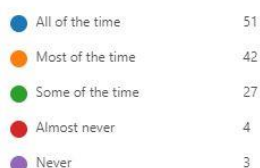
### Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

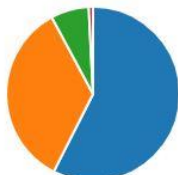
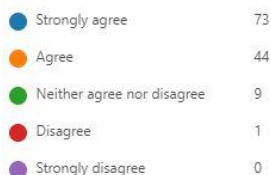
As we come to the end of our first half term following the lockdown, it is useful to reflect on the experiences of staff and pupils. I am pleased to let you know that pupil and staff attendance has been very high; with pupil attendance being over 94%. I am also pleased to report that the majority of pupils and staff have felt safe during this half term, and are very satisfied with the hygiene and safety procedures put in place. This information has been gathered via staff and pupil evaluation surveys. Here are a few of the results:

#### Pupil Survey Results

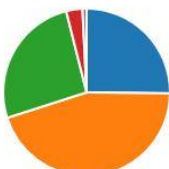
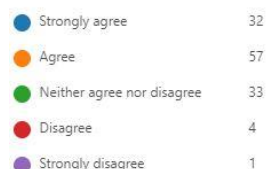
##### I feel safe when I am at school



##### School encourages me to respect people from other backgrounds and to treat everyone equally

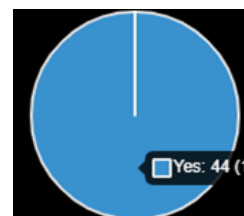


##### Teachers listen to what I have to say in lessons

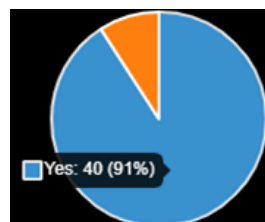


#### Staff Survey Results (44 responded)

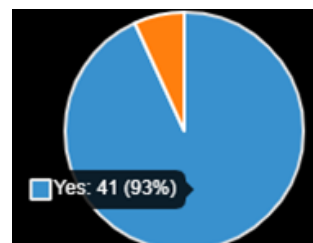
100% staff were happy with the risk assessment consultation and felt they had been given an opportunity to contribute. 100% staff felt supported during lockdown and had other staff members supporting/ checking in on them.



91% staff feel that the safety measures and adaptations put in place for a full re-opening are appropriate.



93% staff felt there had been adequate wellbeing information, training and support.





There have also been some really positive impacts of the lockdown; one of the main ones is the on-set of remote learning. Staff have embraced this method of teaching and quickly skilled themselves up in the art of Teams teaching. This has meant that staff and pupils who have had to isolate have been able to continue teaching and learning. We also had our first virtual parents' evening with Year 11 parents, and the programme of online masterclasses has also begun; both of which have been well received.

In school, we celebrated Black History Month and this culminated today with Cultural Heritage Day. We have also continued with our House Activities. You can read more about these later in the newsletter. We also welcomed Miss Cousins (Inclusion pupil coach), Mr Censi (Site Assistant) and Mr Wade (Safety Associate) into our support staff team. They have settled in quickly and are making valuable contributions to the safety, behaviour and welfare of our pupils. Two members of staff will be leaving us this half term. Miss Dawkins will be starting a job closer to home, and Mr Panjanaden has gained a promotion at another Catholic School. I would like to thank them for their hard work and commitment and wish them all the best in their new posts.

One of the covid 19 restrictions we have put in place is reducing the numbers of unannounced visitors who come into school. However, we are still getting many parents calling in to reception. Please can I ask that you make use of our school website and check it first before coming to school. The website has a lot of information which may well answer your questions and queries without the need to visit school. Also, you can telephone school on 0121 554 1825 or email [enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk) instead of visiting.

### Welcome to new members of staff:



*"My name is Miss Cousins and I am the Inclusion Pupil Coach. I am looking forward to having a positive impact on all children by encouraging positive behaviours and setting high expectations to promote personal and academic development. I hope to achieve continuous inclusion within lessons and a positive worth ethic for all children to reach their full potentials."*



*"My name is Mr Censi and I'm the site assistant here at Saint John Wall School. My aim here is ensure the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors is kept to a very high standard and to ensure the school building is maintained. Being a staff member I want to be an example for all pupils, sharing all the ethos of the Catholic School."*



*"My name is Mr Wade and I am a Safety Associate. I am aiming to keep all pupils and staff as safe as possible during this pandemic by disinfecting all surfaces touched by everyone regularly and restocking hygiene stations as needed in classrooms and offices."*

### Message from Mr Jones – Chair of Governors

**"God, who called you out of darkness into his own marvellous light."**

Should you be reading this the chances are you regularly keep up to date, through our excellent website, of events at Saint John Wall. You won't need me, therefore, to remind you of the great lengths Miss Marston and the staff have gone to in enabling the safe return to school of your children. On behalf of the governors I wish to thank her and all her colleagues. Despite the ever-changing, and often confusing, advice schools have received from the government Miss Marston has helped create an optimistic atmosphere which is truly remarkable considering such testing circumstances.

The fiasco, in August, of the release of GCSE results was maddening for all schools. I am delighted therefore to tell you that in spite of all that confusion Saint John Wall has improved still further on the outstanding results it has achieved over recent years. At one of our governors' meetings Mr John informed us that our Provisional 2020 Progress 8 or P8 score is +0.86. As you may be aware a school's P8 is used by the government to measure the progress pupils have made since starting in Year 7. A P8 of 0.0 tells you pupils have achieved exactly what is expected of them. Our P8 of +0.86 is way above the national average. This is a consequence of the huge amount of hard work of everyone involved. Congratulations to Miss Marston and her team of staff and of course to the pupils on such an impressive achievement - and many thanks to you as parents too for all your support.

At the same meeting governors heard from Miss Guest about the measures she and others have introduced to ensure staff remain healthy - for teachers are human too and subject to the pressures and worries we all have experienced during this pandemic. What struck me is how well staff who are new not only to the school but also to the teaching profession have settled in. There really is nowhere better than at Saint John Wall to begin a career in education.

Remote learning was, until recently, something few knew anything about. At our recent meeting Ms Hanson described the many steps taken to make remote learning a part of the lives of our pupils. This has, out of necessity, developed during lockdown and has the potential to revolutionise education and teaching in the years to come. Using mobile phones, i-pads, laptops and PCs pupils can now take part in lessons on-line. It is so easy to be overwhelmed by modern technology to the point that it can sometimes make us feel like giving up. The presentation Ms Hanson gave was similar to that already shared earlier this term with staff and pupils and made very clear how learning remotely may be done. Staff have provided loads of teaching material for pupils of all ages and levels. Not much good has come out of this pandemic but remote learning may be one.

Naturally safeguarding pupils' welfare tops the list of all our priorities. Mrs Crooks recently provided very detailed training for governors on this topic. As you can imagine the Corona virus has demanded more and more measures be taken to ensure not just pupils' physical well-being but also their mental health. Parents can be reassured that the safety of your children is paramount in all of the school's planning.



## Autumn SJW Values: Generous and Grateful



At another governors' meeting we heard from Mr Price on the developments in the Catholic Life of the school along with plans for the coming year. This year's theme is: "Circle of Life."

The limitations imposed by Covid 19 have interrupted much of what was planned made even harder by our school chaplain Father David moving to a new parish. Mr Price emphasised that the Gospel messages of love, compassion and understanding continue to be shared throughout our school.

Congratulations to Mrs Whitehouse on her appointment as our Business Officer. Making sure our finances are in order is a crucial role. I know from the commitment Mrs Whitehouse has shown, especially since March, that she will be striving to make sure all the essential aspects of school life, especially Covid precautions, are affordable.

At the start of a new school year governors have the responsibility of reviewing and updating all our policies. Believe me they are many in number! Thank you to Mrs Nayyar for ensuring these are regularly kept up to date so that all we do is lawful.

Finally, I wish to express our gratitude to two people who have recently stood down as governors. Mrs Lynch has been a parent governor for many years and having a daughter here from the time when the school was in more challenging circumstances witnessed the improvements introduced. As the staff governor Miss Williamson has, from an insider's position, also experienced the many changes taken initially by Mr Quinn and in more recent times by Miss Marston. Some haven't been easy but were always necessary for the school to achieve the success it currently does. Thank you to both Mrs Lynch and Miss Williamson for their service and the invaluable contribution each made to the work of the governing body.

As the pandemic remains and further restrictions are imposed these are difficult times especially with winter ahead of us. Please continue to take care of yourselves and each other. I'll end with this prayer:

*Brothers and sisters in crisis. As you walk alongside us always, may we walk beside one another listening and responding in love. Shine the light of your compassion through us, dispelling chaos, fear and despair. Breathe hope and courage into all our hearts as we work together to rebuild once more. Strengthen us, Lord, and keep us steadfast. Bring healing and comfort to all and lead us renewed into your marvellous light. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

*Saint John Wall, pray for us.*

**Martin Jones - Chair of Governors**

## Year 11 Mock 1 Examinations

A big well done to Year 11 in regards to their mock examination results. There were some fantastic performances, top performers were Natesh Phagania, Mohammed Ehsan, David Lemvoka, Shantae Mendy, Yerusalem Germai, Colin Ndou, Callum Khan, Jasmeet Singh, Kyrah Masih, Kabanza Simamba, and Samah Khan. A massive well done to those pupils, and the many more that worked so hard and prepared properly for the mocks.

**By Mr John - Assistant Principal - Impact**

### Monthly Attendance

#### Our Top Form Groups

**7FLI 98.8%**

**11LAK 98.7%**

**10FOR 98.4%**

**9HAB 96.8%**

**8WIO 96.3%**

**Well done for your excellent  
attendance!**



## School Website

[www.sjw.bham.sch.uk](http://www.sjw.bham.sch.uk)

Parents and pupils, did you know you can find useful information about our school by visiting our school website?

Over the next couple of pages, we have highlighted the main points you will find very useful.



### School Email



All pupils have their own school email address, the school email can be accessed by clicking on the 'Office 365' icon at the top of the school website.

Pupils need to enter their username which is the last two digits of the year they began school followed by the first letter of their first name then their full surname, followed by @sjw.bham.sch.uk

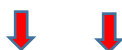
Example: A Year 7 pupil will need to enter: [20jsmith@sjw.bham.sch.uk](mailto:20jsmith@sjw.bham.sch.uk)

Pupils have their own passwords.

### Microsoft Teams



Pupils can log on to Microsoft Teams by clicking the Teams icon located at the top of the school website. A guide on how to log on and pupil expectations for live lessons can be found by selecting either the 'Pupils' or 'Parents' drop down menu and selecting 'Remote Learning – Pupil Guide'.



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## School Website

[www.sjw.bham.sch.uk](http://www.sjw.bham.sch.uk)



### Examinations and Homework

We have uploaded worksheets, activities, powerpoints and past exam papers for every subject taught in each year group on the **Development Homework** page. Along with dates for upcoming assessment weeks and Year 11 mock examinations.

This information can be found by clicking on the **“Exams and Homework”** button on the homepage

### Admissions



Our Admissions Policy and online application form along with admissions timetable can be found by selecting the **‘Admissions’** link at the top of the school website.

### Transition and Year 6 Welcome

Details of Transition from Primary to Secondary school and welcome to Saint John Wall for new Year 7 pupils is available by selecting the **‘Transition’** button and **‘Year 6’** button.



### House System

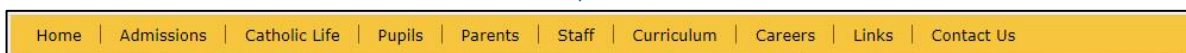
All pupils are placed into houses and we regularly hold house competitions where pupils have the opportunity to gain house points and to also gain individual prizes. Details of these can be found by selecting the **‘Pupil’** drop down menu then selecting **‘House System’**.

### Policies

All of main school policies are available on our website for parents to view, these are located in the Policies page. (see arrow above).

### Vacancies

Our vacancies page can be found by selecting the **‘Staff’** drop down menu and there is also a pop up with a link that appears when you first visit our school website.





## Head of Year

### YEAR 7

**Mrs Ellis**

#### Welcome to Year 7

It has been wonderful to welcome our new Year 7 pupils into our school this term. It has been a very strange start to their educational journey at Saint John Wall and it is taking pupils some time to adjust, but I'd like to thank them and all those at home who are supporting them at home. I am very impressed with Year 7 uniform, they all look very smart each morning and are ready to learn.

#### Transition and Wellbeing Support

Transition is a very difficult period for many pupils who leave their primary school. There is often a lot of anxiety, especially during the months from September to December as your children have gone from a school where they have built good relationships with staff, to a completely new environment. It is going to take them time to learn to come to staff with their worries or concerns. With this in mind, we are inviting pupils to visit the Kooth website, which is currently being offered to all children in Birmingham from age 11 and up.

The website offers wellbeing support for those who may be struggling with their emotions, which will be true for many children in our current climate. The service is completely free and anonymous. There are also trained counsellors available who can speak to your child, as well as the option to journal or to ask for advice in a safe way. Should you wish to find out more about this brilliant service please go to [www.Kooth.com](http://www.Kooth.com) where you will be able to view a video and your child can sign up and log on.

#### Year 7 Equipment

Can you please ensure that all Year 7 pupils have their equipment each morning before they leave the house to come to school. All pupils should have a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, school bag, PE Kit (PE days only!) and a waterproof coat.

As the days grow colder and wetter it is vital that all pupils bring in a coat to school. They do spend a lot of time outside currently and may find their learning is impacted if they are cold and wet during their lessons.

#### Early Help

We are here to help! Should you need support or find that your child may be having difficulties to matters that arise at home please contact the school and ask to speak to Mrs Ellis. We want to make our home and school relationship work, so please get in touch if your circumstances change.

#### Attendance Matters

##### Form Groups

7FOX	98.8%
7WAL	98.4%
7BRK	96.9%
7FLI	95.4%
7CUG	93.0%

**Well done for your excellent attendance @96% +**

### YEAR 8

**Mr Hussain**

It has been my privilege to welcome Year 8 back to school for the new academic year as their Head of Year.

Our school has put procedures in place to keep all our pupils and staff safe and I can proudly say Year 8 are active and curious in following guidelines and rules. Please continue to follow and adjust to these procedures as we enter the autumn period, and we can pass this period together, if we all play our part and stay safe.

Remote learning on Microsoft Team is available to our isolating pupils, and this can be accessed through your school email and our website.

Please always continue to be in full school uniform, and have appropriate outdoor coats! Our safety associates are selling ponchos for only £1.

Thank you to all of you for your patience as we continue to line up during lesson changeover, to facilitate a smooth and safe entry into the building. As the weather gets colder the quicker you line up the quicker we get indoors! Year 8 have been participating in Black History Month activities in form time and have shown skills in being hopeful for the future.

#### Attendance Matters

##### Form Groups

8WIO	96.3%
8JON	96.0%
8RAT	95.1%
8JOS	92.1%
8JAN	90.4%

**Well done for your excellent attendance @96% +**





### YEAR 9

Miss Reynolds

Hello Year 9, well done for a good start to the year. Many of you have displayed maturity as you began your GCSE option subjects. Unfortunately, there have been signs of immaturity from some in your attitude towards others and within lessons, let us remember to be compassionate and loving in both our speech and actions, as well as generous and grateful within lessons, as we return from the half term break.

As the weather is getting colder please remember to bring your coats to school with you and try to ensure it has a hood for if it is raining, also, if you have gloves and hats then it will be a good idea to bring these too. As it is starting to get darker as we travel to and from school please make sure you take extra care on the buses and roads and stay as safe as possible.

When you return for the new half term you will have your first set of assessments in November. You will have been given some Homework Booklets to work through and teachers may have set you work to do in these, try and get this work done over the half term break.

As well as revising for these important examinations try and find time to do things that you enjoy, remember your mental health and wellbeing is just as important as your physical health. If you feel you need any support, then contact

[wellbeing@sjw.bham.sch.uk](mailto:wellbeing@sjw.bham.sch.uk).

Remember you are not alone, and we are here for you.

Have a happy, restful, and most importantly, safe half term, we look forward to seeing you back on November 2nd.

#### Attendance Matters

##### Form Groups

9HAB	96.8%
9HAR	95.6%
9PEJ	95.1%
9PAR	93.5%
9COL	86.0%

Well done for your excellent attendance @96% +

### YEAR 10

Miss Moyo

Hello Year 10, we have made it through the start of an Autumn term that has been quite different to Autumn terms of the past. You have had to socially distance, stick to your year group bubble, wash your hands regularly and at specified times, wear your masks and remain constantly vigilant about your own space and the safety of others. Alongside all of that, you have had catch-up sessions, masterclasses and an enhanced academic focus during form time.

Throughout all of these changes, you have remained calm, considerate and conducted yourselves with the grace and maturity that I have come to expect from you. I have been impressed with the way you have modelled social distancing for younger year groups on the playground by religiously remaining within your bubble. Just a couple of improvement points:

- Those of you who play basketball during lunch, please begin getting ready for lesson a few minutes earlier than everyone else so that you have time to get ready for class and are no longer the last Year 10 pupils off the playground.

- Uniform standards seem to slip quite drastically towards the end of lunch. Let's all ensure that our shirts are tucked in and our ties are on as we re-enter the building for lesson 4.

As you know, your first Assessment Week of the year will be upon you very soon. You have been using Thursday mornings to keep up to date with your examination homework booklets, as well as using room 3 to aid revision. Please ensure that you continue to use those examination booklets and continue with your revision over half term.

You have had a fantastic start back to school this term, gaining respect from visitors, as well as positive feedback from our Senior Leadership Team here at St John Wall.

I am extremely proud of you, please maintain these high standards when you return from half term break.

A scripture to reflect on:

#### Romans 15:13

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

#### Attendance Matters

##### Form Groups

10FOR	98.4%
10FOD	97.7%
10WOO	94.7%
10LAL	92.4%
10BRO	91.0%

Well done for your excellent attendance @96% +



### YEAR 11

*Mrs Chand*

I would like to say a very big thank you to all pupils who have returned this term with a fantastic attitude to their final year at Saint John Wall. There have been challenging times over the Summer but the way Year 11 had adapted to these changes have been great. I thought that their behaviour throughout the Mock Exams was excellent.

This term Year 11 completed their Mock 1 exam and these results will be shared on Parent's evening this Thursday 22 October between 4-6pm. This will be done a little differently this year due to Covid-19 restrictions, all pupils have been making appointments to see their teachers virtually which will be done on Microsoft Teams. It is really important that pupils and parents get the chance to talk to teachers regarding results and how their child has done this term. Can I please stress the importance of seeing your child's teachers on parents evening to help you understand how they can continue to work to this level and also how you can support them.

I have been sending all Year 11 pupils emails regarding upcoming virtual days at colleges/6<sup>th</sup> form so they can start looking at choices they will be making, we will endeavour to have colleges do some virtual assemblies to help pupils decide on their future courses. We will continue to have a careers advisor in school to support your child make these decisions and how best we can help them with their further education applications.

Due to Covid-19 if your child has any symptoms they will need to stay at home and get a test done. Although this is not ideal for Year 11 your child's health is a priority and they will then need to complete work at home through virtual learning until they are well and able to return.

Have a safe, restful half term.

#### Attendance Matters

##### Form Groups

**11LAK 98.7%**

**11SIM 96.9%**

**11WIN 96.3%**

**11RAH 95.7%**

**11MAN 93.7%**

**11PAW 90.4%**

**Well done for your excellent attendance @96% +**

## Black History Month

The 1st October marks the start of Black History Month in the UK, a time where we celebrate historical achievements and contributions that sometimes go unrecognised. This year pupils have had the chance to learn more about the contributions of lesser known figures such as Claudia Jones, Doreen Lawrence and Paul Stevenson alongside celebrating the legacy left by better known figures such as Martin Luther King, Mary Seacole and Nelson Mandela. At the core of our approach to Black History Month at Saint John Wall is a recognition of the inherent dignity and sanctity of all human life. This month form tutors also facilitated guided discussions about the difficult issues of injustice, which allowed our pupils to voice their opinions and attempt to form practical solutions to some of the problems they identified.

Black History Month is also a time where we explore our common humanity and brotherhood. Pupils from each year group are encouraged to explore their heritage and backgrounds, culminating, this year, in the production of 'I Am' poems for our termly House Competition. The task was to explore identity in a holistic way and the resulting poems and poetry performances were stunning. This celebration of our individual identities was then brought together in a powerful display of unity as each student offered their contribution to a form masterpiece - a display, acknowledging the cultural diversity of each form. These beautiful displays were then shared with other forms remotely through Teams during an extended form time on Cultural Heritage day. The respect shown by all pupils for the cultures of others was inspirational, to say the least.

Cultural Heritage Day closed our first half term back in a bright and colourful way, as pupils and staff wore outfits reflecting their cultural traditions to celebrate the beauty and diversity that we share.

As the sun shone and we ate our samosas, amidst the smiles and admiration of each other's clothing; we were able to relax in the comfort and safety of the knowledge that we are truly a Catholic School 'for All'.

**By Miss Moyo**



## Black History Month





## Black History Month

### 'I am' Poems

I am black,  
I am beautiful,  
I am unique,  
I am myself,  
I am Ghanaian,  
we bring culture,  
we mean everything,  
I am great,  
we are all great,  
I am human,  
I am the world,  
I believe in BLM,  
I am black and human.

**By Nadia Yentumi 7BRK**

I am me,  
I am English and Indian,  
I am a girl who likes football,  
I say that a bully is a bad person,  
I am a tomboy,  
I cry to be happy again,  
I dream all the good things,  
I am scared when I cry,  
I am a helping girl,  
I am tall for my age,  
I am strong for a girl,  
my favourite colour is orange and blue,  
I want to be a vet.

**By Dilpreet Sandhu 7CUG**

I am a Christian and I am proud,  
I am a girl who likes to sing but not that loud,  
I am a gemini who acts like a child  
and sometimes even a bit wild.  
  
I am a ray of light,  
trying my best to keep things bright,  
and finally I am eleven with 17 cousins in England.

**By Sonia Sandhu 7CUG**

I am an African  
Not because I was born there  
But because my heart beats with Africa's  
I am an African  
Not because my skin is black  
But because my mind is engaged by Africa  
I am an African  
Not because I live on its soil  
But because my soul is at home in Africa

When Africa weeps for her children  
My cheeks are stained with tears  
When Africa honours her elders  
My head is bowed in respect  
When Africa mourns for her victims  
My hands are joined in prayer  
When Africa celebrates her triumphs  
My feet are alive with dancing

I am an African  
For her blue skies take my breath away  
And my hope for the future is bright  
I am an African

For her people greet me as family  
And teach me the meaning of community  
I am an African  
For her wildness quenches my spirit  
And brings me closer to the source of life

When the music of Africa beats in the wind  
My blood pulses to its rhythm  
And I become the essence of sound  
When the colours of Africa dazzle in the sun  
My senses drink in its rainbow  
And I become the palette of nature  
When the stories of Africa echo round the fire  
My feet walk in its pathways  
And I become the footprints of history

I am an African  
Because she is the cradle of our birth  
And nurtures an ancient wisdom  
I am an African  
Because she lives in the world's shadow  
And bursts with a radiant luminosity  
I am an African  
Because she is the land of tomorrow  
And I recognise her gifts as sacred

**By Asher Rogers 9PEJ**



## Black History Month

### For Tomorrow

Years of culture eroded and stripped away in vain,  
outspoken voices only to be silenced by shackles and chains,  
with nights on repeat praying for better days.  
our history that was overwritten and defaced;  
movements for deserved rights which seemed like a futile  
chase, but on August 28 1963, that marked one day,  
which would eventually lead to moments in the present whom  
Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela and others  
help pave the way.

Black History Month is a way of saying:

'Remember our sweat, our tears, our despair. Remember our  
years burdened with heavy sorrow.'

And with those words, we can make them a memoir for  
tomorrow.

### **9PAR**

They don't speak, are they afraid. Afraid of what, afraid of  
change? Little do they know we need change.

Diversity is power. Our different colours and races benefit us.  
But they ignore it because they are afraid.

Afraid of what? Afraid of change? We'll never forget George,  
we will never forget Breonna.

We will never forget Emmett. We will never forget that we  
matter. The tears that the slaves cried matter,  
The long days they worked matter, the lives that were lost  
matter.

There is talk of change but it is always ignored. The rich lives  
matter but what about the poor,

We said black lives matter and they changed it to all but all  
lives can't matter until black lives do,

I know it seems sad but we all know it's true. Justice for Belly  
Mujinga Justice for Christopher Kapesa

Belly was someone's mother, someone's Wife and someone's  
joy. Christopher was someone's son, someone's Friend 13 Just  
like us.

But the sad excuse for police, people who are there to ensure  
our safety,

Failed them.

How many times will the death of Black people be 'an  
accident', 'they deserved it' 'they looked dangerous'. How  
many times will the police fail us because of the colour of our  
skin.

**By Ruth A Nkiambi 9PAR**

I am blue and red, Philippines is my country  
I am myself: casual and calm  
I am a lion, catching with a palm

I am games: funny and entertaining  
I am cars: transporting the disabled  
I am money for those destitute

I am the Good Samaritan, kind and nice as pie  
I am who I really am  
Kind, helpful and sometimes bossy

I am Gerrard. A brave spear  
I am Miguel. An Archangel  
I am Mendoza. A brave soldier

I am Catholic, following mass and not Maths  
I am servant of God, hoping I get what I want

**By Gerrard Mendoza 8JOS**

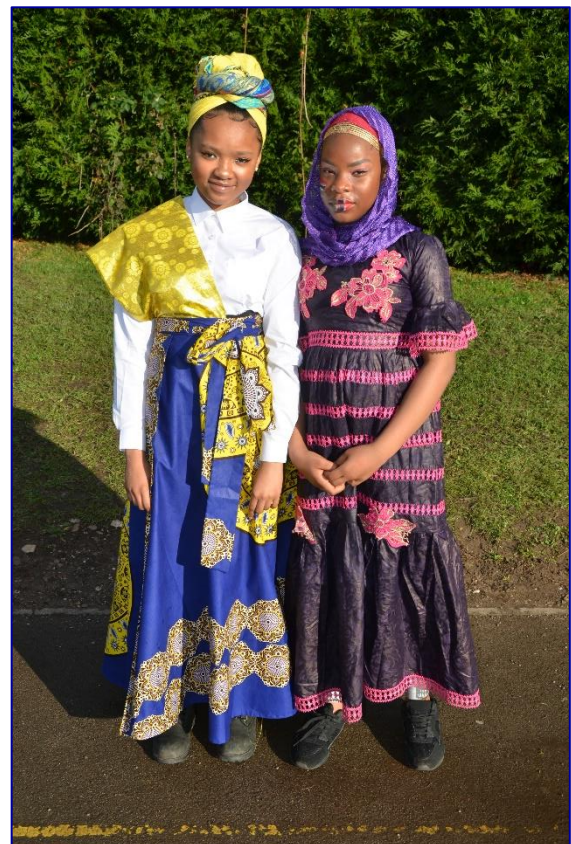
My name is Zara  
I am 11 years old  
I am Muslim  
I am a shining star  
I respect people of all cultures  
Black, white, Asian  
Everyone unite.

Everyone is equal  
and has the same rights  
in the eyes of God,  
spread kindness only.

**By Zara Khan 7WAL**



## Cultural Heritage Day





## Cultural Heritage Day







## Cultural Heritage Day





## House System

Although things are a little different this year regarding the house system, pupils have made a superb effort taking part in activities and adding points to each individual house.

Year 7 have taken part in a Spelling Bee competition towards the end of the half term with John Paul placing 1<sup>st</sup>, Pankhurst 2<sup>nd</sup>, Luther King and Gandhi finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and Mandela 4<sup>th</sup> but still adding vital points for their team, well done to all pupils who represented their house.

Year 8 completed a Master of Maths this half term with Pankhurst and Gandhi sharing points finishing 1<sup>st</sup>, Mandela 2<sup>nd</sup>, Luther King 3<sup>rd</sup> and John Paul 4<sup>th</sup>. Again, thank you and well done to year 8 pupils who have contributed to their house.

Saint John Wall held their annual charity event supporting Macmillan Cancer Support. In previous years cakes were held in the hall for pupils to buy at break and lunch, unfortunately we were unable to hold in the same way this year. Pupils and staff were asked to donate individually wrapped cakes/bars, a huge amount was collected so thank you to all who contributed. The total raised was **£146.14** which I'm sure will have a positive impact for the charity.

### Current House Rankings:

**1<sup>st</sup> = Luther King**

**2<sup>nd</sup> = Gandhi**

**3<sup>rd</sup> = John Paul**

**4<sup>th</sup> = Pankhurst**

**5<sup>th</sup> = Mandela**

Thank you all for your effort so far.

By Mr Owen





*Every year in November, we sell poppies in school as symbols of Remembrance to remember the fallen of the Armed Forces.*

*Poppies will be sold in school starting on the 2nd November.*

*Look out for them and buy a poppy to support the Royal British Legion so that they can continue to support the Armed Forces community.*

*If you have any questions about what the Poppy Appeal is and why it is important then please ask Mr John, Miss Lally, Miss Guest or Mr Woodward.*



VERY HIGH  
HIGH  
MEDIUM

## LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL

# HIGH

<b>Social Contact</b>  1 household / bubble indoors. Rule of six outdoors.	<b>Weddings and Funerals</b>  Up to 15 guests for weddings and up to 30 guests for funerals. 15 for receptions, wakes and related ceremonies.	<b>Overnight Stays</b>  Overnight stays permitted subject to social contact rules.	<b>Working from home guidance</b>  Work from home where possible.
<b>Shopping and Retail</b>  Open.	<b>Leisure and gyms</b>  Open.	<b>Hospitality</b>  Open with some restrictions including 10pm closing time and table-service only.	<b>Entertainment and tourist attractions</b>  Open, except nightclubs and adult entertainment.
<b>Education</b>  Schools, FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions.	<b>Healthcare Services</b>  Open.	<b>Residential Care</b>  Closed to external visitors other than in exceptional circumstances.	<b>Travel and Transport</b>  May continue to travel to open venues, but reduce number of journeys where possible. Avoid travel into Local COVID Alert Level Very High areas where possible.
<b>Sporting Activity</b>  Organised sport / licensed physical activity allowed in outdoor settings. Indoor organised sport must follow social contact rules (other than youth or disabled sport).	<b>Worship</b>  Open, subject to social contact rules.	<b>Childcare</b>  Registered and wraparound childcare. Supervised activities permitted in private homes. Children's groups permitted. Childcare bubbles for under 14s.	<b>Youth Clubs and Activities</b>  Permitted.

**There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other:**

**Wash hands**  
keep washing your hands regularly

**Cover face**  
wear a face covering in enclosed spaces

**Make space**  
stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

For more information and detailed guidance visit:  
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)



## SAINT JOHN WALL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

### *A Catholic School For All*



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

#### **HAPPY, SAFE HALLOWEEN/BONFIRE NIGHT – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE**

With the darker nights fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of 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.

Sadly, this year's Halloween, Bonfire night and the half term break will look very different due to COVID-19, so please be aware of the legislation and rules in place linked to this. Remember it is now a legal requirement to wear a mask on all public transport and within communal areas such as shops, cafes, restaurants and bars and we must maintain social distancing, ensure we abide by the the rule of six, and the bespoke rules for Birmingham regarding entering other people's homes:

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/coronavirus\\_advice](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/coronavirus_advice) | <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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

- **Anti-social behaviour:** Halloween can be a scary time for people who don't like surprises or callers at their door. Think about how your actions and behaviour affect others; elderly and vulnerable people may be frightened by 'trick or treat' so look out for signs in windows that people do not want callers at their door.
- **Personal Safety:**
  - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables such as phones out of public view whenever possible.
  - 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!
  - West Midlands Fire Service recommends that you go to an organised display; it's the smart way to stay safe. You'll see a lot more fireworks and it's a lot cheaper. Information about firework safety is available at [www.saferfireworks.com](http://www.saferfireworks.com)
- **Weapons in public places:** carrying a knife 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.
- **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.

Yours sincerely

*K Marston*

**K Marston**  
Headteacher  
Saint John Wall Catholic School

**Mat Shaer**  
Chief Superintendent - East NPU  
West Midlands Police

**Stephen Graham**  
Chief Superintendent - West NPU  
West Midlands Police



## FIREWORK SAFETY TIPS AND GUIDELINES

We want all our customers to be as safe as possible when using our fireworks.

So we have put together this firework safety information page for you with all the latest safety information on fireworks.

Our own safety videos on how to set up your fireworks and firework displays in the safest way possible.

Despite annual safety warnings, Bonfire Night week still ends in disaster for far too many families. Fireworks and bonfire evenings can provide fun and entertainment for families at a time of year when the evenings are rather dark and gloomy. They light up the sky.

As long as everyone follows the right safety procedures and remembers that fireworks can be dangerous if misused, a good, safe time may be enjoyed by everyone.

## FIREWORK SAFETY TOP 10 TIPS

1. Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable
2. Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time
3. Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary
4. Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back
5. Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks
6. Never return to a firework once it has been lit
7. Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them
8. Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators
9. Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire
10. Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

## SAFETY RULES FOR SPARKLERS

Never give them to young children under five years old. Always wear gloves with sparklers, preferably leather ones. Hold it at arms length while an adult lights it for you. Use in a clear space away from others. Never hold a baby in your arms when you are holding a sparkler. When the sparkler has finished, put it into a bucket of cold water straight away and leave it there.

- **Sparklers should not be given to anyone under the age of five.**
- **To a young child, the heat from a sparkler is equivalent to the heat from a welding torch.**
- **Sparklers are often viewed as being harmless but they do burn at fierce temperatures.**



## Stay safe and keep moving.

### Travel Advice:

- Only travel to work or education and venues or services that are open.
- Look to reduce the number of journeys you make.
- Cycle or walk for shorter journeys.
- If you need to use the bus, train or tram plan ahead.
- Think about travelling at a time when [services are less busy](#).
- Keep your distance. Use all available space on board and at stations.
- Let other people off safely before stepping forward to get on board.

### What we are doing:

- We continue to clean and disinfect our buses, trams and trains regularly to help keep you and our staff safe.
- We have teams of extra cleaners, extra inspectors and police officers out supporting customers across the network.
- Measures are in place to help you to keep your distance on public transport.



### You must wear a face covering when travelling on public transport or visiting transport hubs

Scientific advice says that face coverings can help reduce the chance of infecting others while out in public. However, it is important to remember that face coverings are not a replacement for social distancing and you should still do this wherever possible alongside regular hand washing.