

Saint John Wall Catholic School

A Catholic School For All



Mission Statement

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



Issue 38

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 15 July 2022

Catholic Life - This year's theme is based on the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13)

Termly theme: Respect (thorny soil)

Termly SJW values – Compassionate and Loving

Dear Lord, We ask of you to help each and every unique child to become educated in our school. We also ask of you to hear and respond to each and every prayer of the students in our care, we ask you to guide them to what God calls them to be. We pray that our pupils become learned and wise and are grateful for your love, support and generosity. Saint John Wall Pray for us. Amen

Important Dates to Note

- **Witness Week**
Monday 18 July 2022 to Thursday 21 July 2022
- **Summer Holidays**
Thursday 21 July 2022 – Pupils to finish at 12.15pm.

Witness Week

This week pupils have begun to participate in a variety of activities and attend trips. You can read more about the events further down this newsletter.

Next week, Witness Week will continue and all year groups will be going on trips and doing activities in school.

Consultation regarding changes to the school day

The government recently released an education White Paper titled Opportunity for all. This sets out their long-term vision for education. You can read the full report using the following link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/opportunity-for-all-strong-schools-with-great-teachers-for-your-child>

Part of this White Paper states that the government expect schools to operate a 32.5 hour week from September 2023. In order to fulfil this requirement, we need to extend the school day for our pupils at Saint John Wall. We plan to extend the school day by 10 minutes from September 2022. This means that school will finish at 3.10pm instead of 3.00pm. Before the covid pandemic the school used to finish at 3.10pm, so in effect we will be returning to pre-pandemic timings.

So, from September 2022 the school day for pupils will be 8.50am to 3.10pm. The school gates will continue to open from 8.20am for pupils if they wish to arrive early and use the breakfast club.

If parents and carers have any comments or feedback regarding this later finish time, please let me know by either telephoning the school, or putting your comments in writing by email or a letter.

Please provide me with your comments before Monday 18 July.

By Miss Marston



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk
www.sjw.bham.sch.uk



Summer Fete

On Thursday 14 July, each form created their own stall to raise money for an aspect of school that they wish to see implemented. We had 20 stalls ranging from Guess the teddy, throw the sponge at teachers and how many balloons are there in a car as well as food and drink stalls and an ice cream van. It was a wonderful day enjoyed by all pupils and staff in lovely weather. Thank you to everyone who contributed! **By Miss Cummings**



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Sports Day

Today all year groups took part in sports day at Tipton Sports Academy. Pupils competed in their Houses in events such as 100m, 200m, 400m, javelin, high jump, long jump and discus as well as others. It was a very beautiful day the weather was good and everyone had such a tremendous day taking part or cheering their Houses on from the stands.

By Miss Cummings



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University of Warwick Trip

On Friday 8 July, 12 Year 8 pupils accompanied by Mr Brooks and Miss Raybe attended a graduation event at the University of Warwick to celebrate them completing the Scholars Programme. The Scholars Programme is a university style seminar programme which aims to raise aspirations for pupils and introduce them to university life. Pupils took part in a series of seminars which culminated in them completing a university level assignment. As you will know from the newsletter published on Friday 1 July, all pupils achieved exceptionally well in their assignment, all gaining a First or 2:1. This is a fantastic achievement for pupils, congratulations to them all.

During the trip, pupils had a tour of the campus and attended the graduation event where they were awarded with their certificates. A special 'well done' to Sarah, Tahseen and Sonia who chose to be 'spoke scholars' during the graduation ceremony and gave a short speech about their experiences.

Thank you to Mr Brooks and Miss Raybe for accompanying the pupils and a special thank you to Miss Raybe for leading the Scholars Programme. **By Miss Guest**



"I would join the Scholars programme because it gave me a chance to learn new skills. The trip to Warwick University also answered lots of questions I had about university". **By Sonia Sandhu 8BAR**

"I found the Scholars Programme enjoyable because of the independent research that was needed for parts of it as well as the teamwork engaging with other classmates". **By Tahseen Khanpm 8MCI**



National Memorial Arboretum

On Thursday 14 July, myself, Mrs Chand, Mr Moran and Miss Clayton accompanied 30 budding Year 8 Historians to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire to take part in a National Project focusing on Teaching about Remembrance. Pupils took part in three sessions throughout the day. Firstly, they had a guided tour of the site, looking at and learning about those who had fallen whilst serving. Next they took part in problem solving activities, lead by serving members of the army. For the final part of the day pupils completed various team building activities lead by Dave Watson a multi medal winning Invictus Games winner and his team. Throughout the whole day Year 8 displayed compassion and care through their reverence and inquisitive nature of the questions they asked. **By Mr Woodward**



"My favourite part was learning about the Bevin Boys and all about their story mining coal." **By Jalal Aziz 8BAR**

"It was really interesting listening to Dave who fought in Afghanistan, listening to all his experiences and what he had been through." **By Deborah Fadola 8BAR**



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Carding Mill Valley

On Wednesday 13 July, myself, Mr Cockburn, Miss Lake and Miss Young accompanied the Year 10 Geographers to the beautiful setting of Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire to undertake their GCSE Physical Geography fieldwork. Despite scorching conditions and lack of shade, pupils worked hard to gather the data needed. This included: the width and depth of the river channel, the size and angularity of sediment and speed of flow. I was very proud of our pupils and was impressed by their ability to work efficiently as a team, even in hot and difficult conditions. **By Mr Woodward**





Maths Challenge

KS3 Summer Maths Challenge



Continue showing that you are curious and active...

Prove that you are intentional and prophetic...

Earn points for your house in the new academic year!

"The only way to learn mathematics is to do mathematics."
- Paul Halmos -

Are you up for the challenge?

You will receive an email today with a link to the challenge.
Entries must be submitted by **16th September 2022**.

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Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

HAPPY, SAFE SUMMER – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

The summer holiday is fast approaching, it is important our students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour while they are enjoying socialising with friends and family during the break. We also want to ensure they feel confident to keep themselves safe and away from 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 provide some reminders about the following:

- **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! Information is available at www.talktofrank.com
- **Swimming in rivers/reservoirs:** Reservoirs may look inviting, especially on a hot day, but they are extremely dangerous places to swim. If you jump in, you may not be able to get out as the sides are very steep; the water never gets above 11 degrees, and this will affect your ability to breathe and to move. Rivers and reservoirs may contain broken glass and may be deeper than you think.
- **Social Media:** Don't allow your use of social media to put you at risk of grooming, exploitation or regret in future. Use social media positively and avoid being negative about anyone online as comments/actions may be traced back to you and you will be held accountable.
- **Weapons in public places:** Carrying a knife or other weapon 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.
- **Anti-social behaviour:** Think about your actions towards others; a little thought & respect goes a long way.
- **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.



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If a student is in a position where they need help, they should talk to an adult they trust. Crimes can be reported directly to the police via 101; alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org. **If a crime is taking place or a life is in danger, call 999 immediately.**

We wish everyone a happy and safe summer.

Yours faithfully,

K Marston

Miss K Marston
Headteacher
Saint John Wall Catholic School

Mat Shaer
Chief Superintendent - East NPU
West Midlands Police

Richard North
Chief Superintendent - West NPU
West Midlands Police

