

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 21

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 18 February 2022

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

Termly theme: Achievement (rocky soil)

Termly SJW values – Learned and Wise

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Chair of Governors' Message

"Even when the darkest clouds are in the sky..."

As daylight gradually lengthens we can sense that Spring is just around the corner. It is the season that brings new optimism - something we badly need with all that's going on.

As with household budgets, schools currently have to be more prudent than ever with their money. Governors strive to make informed decisions in supporting Miss Marston to provide the best education for each of our pupils. We are grateful to Mr Holden and Mrs Whitehouse for ensuring we receive the best value for the money we do spend.

Doubtless your children tell you about what their daily school lives are like. For a broader view I would encourage you to take a moment to look regularly at our weekly newsletter. Mr Mull spares no effort in not only keeping us all informed of crucial dates and advice but equally importantly celebrating, through photographs and reports, the many events and activities our pupils enjoy. I'd particularly draw to your attention the newsletter of 28 January which is jam-packed full and sure to include mention of your child or their year group.

As Covid restrictions are about to be lifted it is worth remembering the disruption our pupils have faced to their studies initially from March to July 2020 and again for long periods between September 2020 and July 2021. Even during this school year their work has been interrupted by testing and often the subsequent need for them and indeed staff to self-isolate.

So what has Saint John Wall School been doing to enable pupils to catch up on any gaps that may have arisen in their learning?

Well, the short answer is lots!

At a recent governors' meeting we received a wide range of detailed updates from a number of staff about how our pupils are being helped to overcome the unavoidable hurdles they've encountered. We learned from Miss Guest how some additional funding we receive is being used to help our more vulnerable pupils catch up. She also outlined the positive impact the enormous amount of work staff are doing to support pupils with particular learning needs. Similarly Mrs Crooks explained the effort being put into encouraging those pupils, whose parents are unable to care for them, to make the progress we know them to be capable of. Miss Jones informed us of a project she has led targeting crucial language development with a group of our Year 10 pupils in English. Mrs Pawlowska outlined how the maths department are adopting Maths Mastery approaches. Ms Hanson outlined the work she is doing alongside Mr Simmons with leading the Maths Department during Miss Allen's extended absence. As you know Maths is a crucial subject not only as a passport to college and beyond but also for coping with everyday life.

It goes without saying that our Year 11 pupils have been hit especially hard by the pandemic as they fast approach the end of the secondary phase of their education. At long last the government has issued guidance on how exams are to be administered this summer. Mr John highlighted the ways staff are helping our Year 11 pupils to overcome what they've missed out on during large parts of Years 9 and 10.



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They've still much to do when they return after the half-term break. The record of success the school has achieved over the past five years, however, ought to give them the confidence to believe they are capable of doing even better than their predecessors.

Since March 2020 Miss Marston, and the staff as a whole, have had to cope with last-minute changes of advice from the government, adapt to new methods of teaching as well as alterations to what they actually have to teach. The governors were extremely impressed to hear all that they are doing. It is hard to imagine any school doing more to support our pupils who to their great credit have responded in a co-operative and mature fashion. Thank you for all their hard work to Miss Marston and the staff mentioned above who are just a small sample of dedicated colleagues right across the school. And, of course, a big well-done to our pupils. Let's hope we never again have to experience what the past two years have brought.

You may recall that I wrote before Christmas how the Diocesan Education Service (DES) intended, in January, issuing further advice on how schools like ours that are yet to be academies could do so. We are now already half-way through the school year but are still awaiting guidance. Establishing a new Multi-Academy Company (MAC) or even joining an existing one is complicated with many legal and other details to be resolved. We continue to hold informal talks regarding academising but I'm afraid I've currently nothing more to report to you. Perhaps when I write again in April I might!

This Friday marks the start of the half-term break - school opens again on Monday 28 February. I hope all our pupils, and of course staff, manage to have a very well-earned rest.

Until the next time please continue to take care of yourselves and each other. I'll end with this prayer:

***We ask for God's blessing on our school. May its Christian roots continue to support our local community and be an example of Christian witness in our troubled world.
Saint John Wall – pray for us.***

By Martin Jones - Chair of Governors

SEND Parent Drop In

Monday 28 February 2 – 3.30pm

- Are you concerned about your child's progress?
- Do you believe your child requires additional support?

Come and speak to Mrs Adams in the Conservatory on 28 February during the time slot listed above.

By Mrs Adams

Important Dates to Note

Important Dates to Note:

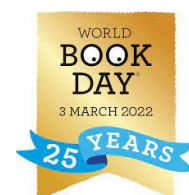
- **Spring Half Term**
Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 25 February 2022
- **World Book Day**
Thursday 3 March 2022
- **Early Finish for Reading Afternoon**
Friday 4 March 2022 - Pupils to finish school at 2.30pm and take their new book home to read
- **Year 11 Mock 2 Examinations**
Wednesday 9 March to Wednesday 16 March 2022
- **The Crescent Theatre – Macbeth (27 Year 10s)**
Thursday 10 March 2022 – 8.30am to 1.30pm
- **Values@SJW Day 3**
Friday 11 March 2022
- **Year 11 Parents' Evening**
Wednesday 30 March 2022 - 4.00pm to 6.00pm

Safety Notice

We continue to work with the police supporting their initiatives to ensure that pupils are aware of any dangers and risk to their life and others. Therefore, we shall be spot checking pupils as well as searching whole year groups as appropriate over the academic year in line with our behaviour policy.

By Mrs Crooks

Literacy Week



Our first week back after half term is Literacy Week. As part of our celebration, our pupils will be taking part in House competitions during form time, reading different texts over the course of the week, and finishing the week with a book to take home as part of World Book day.

We will be able to provide the pupils with their free book on Friday. In order to give pupils the opportunity to read and enjoy their new book, school will be closing early at 2:30pm on Friday 4 March for both staff and pupils so they can all go home and spend the afternoon reading. **By Mrs Hillier**



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Parent Voice – Year 10

As you heard last week we had a very successful parents afternoon for Year 10. 89% of parents and pupils attended, and it was great to be able to meet so many parents face to face again.

We asked parents to complete an online survey and here are the positive results:

I am well informed about the development of my child at school.

[More Details](#)

Insights

Strongly Agree	22
Agree	27
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	0



The school's Catholic ethos, values and attitudes have a positive impact on my child.

[More Details](#)

Insights

Strongly Agree	22
Agree	27
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0



My child feels safe at school.

[More Details](#)

Insights

Strongly Agree	29
Agree	20
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0



How else could the school support your child in achieving their target grades?

[More Details](#)

Insights

29

Responses

Latest Responses
"Giving more homework"
"Revision"

3 respondents (10%) answered **Revision** for this question.

monthly basis interest such as science interaction with emails
parents of the students Revision sessions home work work and homework
weekly progress **Revision** subjects school is good
strict on homework work emails to parents
Extra stem subjects Giving more homework sessions during lunch
Continued Support online classes

Several parents commented on homework and revision as areas for development. Please take some time to look at our school website which has development homework available 24 hours of the day!! We also issue examination homework in line with the school's assessment calendar – again, details are on the school website. Thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting the children in your care to achieve so well at Saint John Wall; and thank you for supporting us in helping us to prepare your child for their next steps!

By Mrs Crooks



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Cyber Security

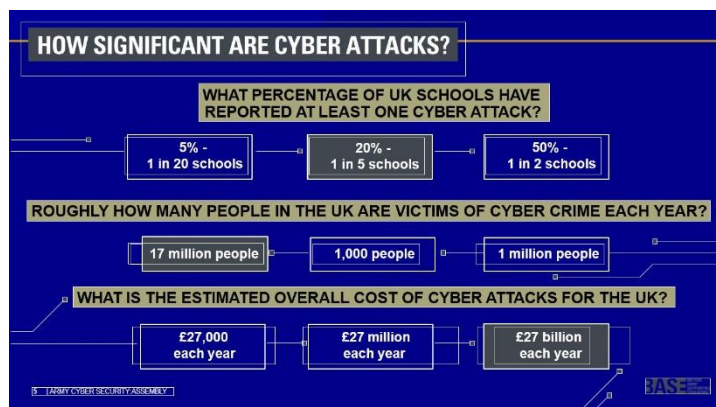
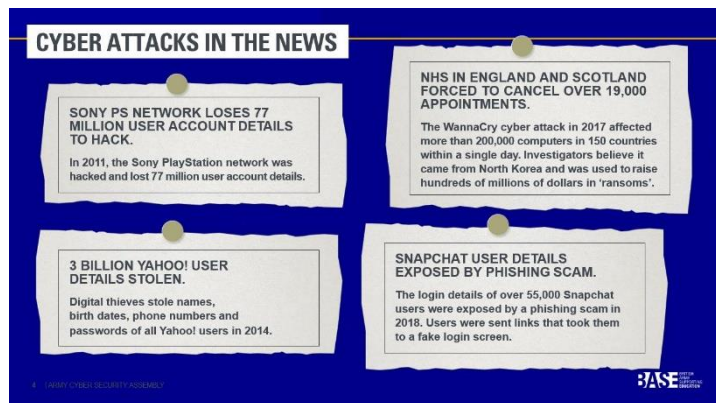
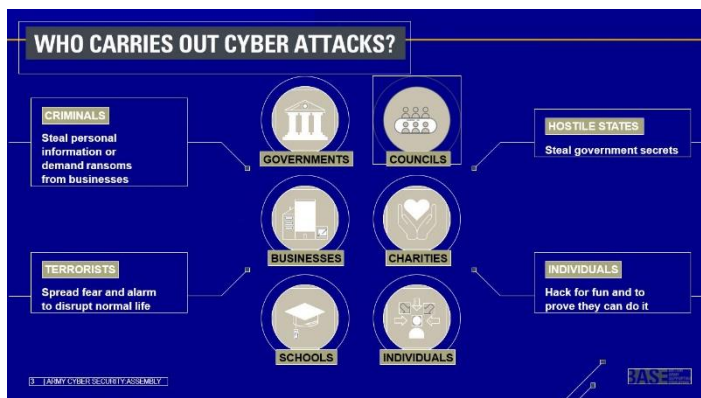
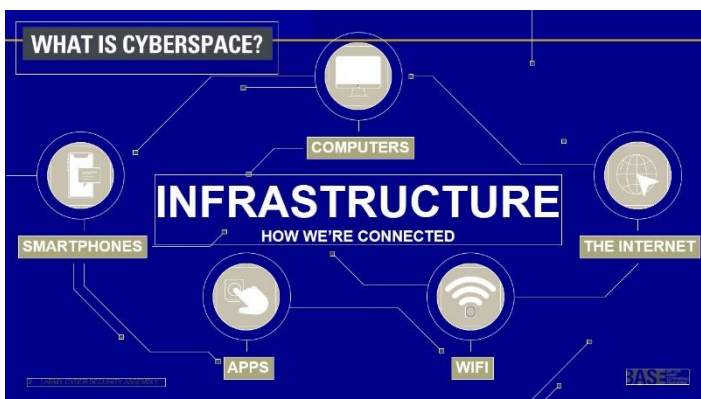
During this week pupils have been made aware of the increasing concerns our world has for cyber-attacks and what we can do to help to prevent them!

Being safe online helps our mental health and wellbeing, supports us in how we communicate with others and protects us from fraud.

One particular focus was how the army is working hard at protecting our world from cyber-attacks.

See the information below for some key information and tips for staying safe online.

By Mrs Crooks



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PE Update

Thank you to staff and pupils for taking part in extra-curricular activities during the first half of the spring term. As a PE department we have taken part in 13 football fixtures so far and a sports hall athletics event for KS3. It was really pleasing to see pupils of Saint John Wall showing grit and determination whilst taking part in the activities and showing their passion and dedication to Physical Education, well done all! We will continue with football fixtures after half term until the Easter break.



As part of the Commonwealth Games being held in Birmingham, you will find information about local people and how they are involved in the games in the male and female changing rooms. We are also going to hold numerous sport clubs linked to the games to gather interest and give pupils the opportunity to get involved in sports which are not taught in the PE curriculum. These involve:

- Hockey
- Judo
- Rugby Sevens
- Boxing

Please look out for more information in the Values@ Powerpoint after half term and sign-up sheets, it will be a first come, first serve basis.

After school clubs will consist of:

Basketball	Every other Monday	Mr Owen
Football	KS3 Mondays	Mr Brooks Miss Reynolds
Football	KS4 Wednesdays	Mr Owen Mr Ahmed
Fitness/Dance	Thursdays	Miss Reynolds
Badminton	Thursdays	Mr Ahmed
Netball	Thursdays	Miss Young
Child Development extra exam sessions	Wednesdays	Miss Reynolds

By Mr Owen



EAL Trip

Aspirational Trip to Worcester University

On Monday 14 February some of our EAL pupils in Years 11 and 10 went on a visit to Worcester University. The main aim of the visit was to raise educational aspirations of our recently arrived pupils. Saint John Wall pupils met University students and had some collaborative teaching and learning activities. They also went on a tour of the campus and could taste and understand what student life is like in the UK. Many of our pupils said they want to study and go to the university, because now they can see it is achievable for them as well.

By Mrs Kawecka



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T2 Revision Strategy Sessions for Year 11s

This week has seen the start of Miss Raybe's revision strategy sessions in the Year 11 study room at lunch time.

Miss Raybe, who is a pupil coach and ex-pupil, is planning and delivering 3 engaging sessions each week. The turnout has been excellent and it was great to see so many pupils asking questions about revision and actively trying the strategies. These sessions will help pupils as they prepare for their mock 2 assessments and final examinations in the summer

Thank you to Miss Raybe for being compassionate and loving to our pupils.

By Miss Guest

Pupil Comments:

"Miss Raybe's help is very useful as I have learnt how to revise effectively for Science and Maths especially by using mind maps and cue cards". **By Shantae Campbell 11RAH**

"I found these sessions really useful as it taught me new techniques that I could use to memorise the information that will help me pass my exams". **By Roop Kaur Kamalpreet 11LAK**

"The sessions are very productive and have helped me focus my revision more. It helps me to actively revise as there are many ways to recall information". **By Yuseph Mufti 11RAH**

"The session has been extremely helpful to find new ways to revise and to clarify how we can actively revise. The fact that Miss Raybe did her GCSEs only a couple of years ago means that the advice is very relevant". **By Grace Ihaze 11RAH**



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How to Revise

Miss Raybe is hosting a series of study sessions with a focus on different revision techniques. These will take place in T2 during lunch time. The schedule is below.

Tuesday 15 February	1.How to Revise - What Kind of Learner Am I?
Wednesday 16 February	2.How to Revise - How to use Cue Cards
Friday 18 February	3.How to Revise - How to Make Mind Maps
February Half Term	
Tuesday 1 March	4.How to Revise - Revising Maths and Science
Wednesday 2 March	5.How to Revise- Option Subjects
Friday 4 March	6.How to Revise - Learning the Mark Scheme
Tuesday 8 March	7.How to Revise - Practise Questions
Wednesday 9 March	8.How to Revise - What did I Learn from Mock 1/ Revision Timetables
Friday 11 March	9.How to Revise - How to Revise from My Examination Booklets
Tuesday 15 March	10.How to Revise - Using GCSEPOD
Wednesday 16 March	11.How to Revise - How do I Remember EVERYTHING?
Friday 18 March	12. Making revision fun

Feel free to use T2 for silent revision on these days even if you do not want to take part in the sessions.

SJW Values: Learned and Wise



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World Book Day – 3rd March 2022

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

Reading
is about
books
and...

COMIC
BOOKS AND
GRAPHIC
NOVELS

AUDIOBOOKS

MAGAZINES

CHECKING
OUT POETRY
VIDEOS ON
SOCIAL MEDIA
CHANNELS



YOU ARE A READER



THERE IS A BOOK FOR EVERYONE

✂ Check out our 5 TOP TIPS to help you find yours ✂



EXPLORE THE BOOKS IN FRONT OF YOU

1

CHECK OUT THE FRONT COVER

Does it make you want to find out
more about the book?

2

DRAWN IN BY WHAT YOU SEE?

Read the blurb on the back – does it
make you want to read the book?

3

FIRST PAGE CHECK

Does the first page
make you want to
carry on reading the
rest of the book?

4

GET READING

Or have another go
at finding the right
book for you!

5

STILL STUCK? ASK FOR A RECOMMENDATION



Ask a friend, family member,
teacher or librarian to
recommend a book
they enjoyed.

✂ GET TALKING ✂

Share what you enjoyed reading – talking with friends about what
they've read is a great way to find even more brilliant books to read.

Discover the World Book Day
Book Club at
worldbookday.com/bookclub

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Proudly Introducing our Books for World Book Day – 3rd March 2022

This World Book day you will have a choice of four brilliant books, depending on what appeals to your interests. There is something here for every kind of reader.

<p>LOOK INSIDE </p>	<p>LOOK INSIDE </p>	<p>LOOK INSIDE </p>	<p>LOOK INSIDE </p>
<p>Written by: Sharna Jackson</p> <p>Publisher: Knights Of</p> <p>Thinking of doing a bit of investigating? A little light snooping? A sprinkle of scammy? Nik and Norva are headed to the Peak District, for a school trip and a break from being The Tri's best detectives. But, a new mystery is never too far!</p>	<p>Written by: Rashmi Sirdeshpande</p> <p>Illustrated by: Adam Hayes Publisher: Hachette</p> <p>Ever thought making money was just for adults? Or that business was boring? And that inventing stuff was only for super clever people? Think again</p> <p>Though this book may be small, it's bursting with big ideas for budding entrepreneurs. From understanding money and looking after it, to the nuts and bolts of setting up a business, making your big ideas a reality and using your cash for good.</p>	<p>Written by: Ben Bailey Smith</p> <p>Publisher: Bloomsbury</p> <p>Carmichael Taylor – Car for short – is just a normal school kid with an answer for everything. But life's not always about having the last word, as the wise-cracking Car is about to discover.</p>	<p>Written by: Sophie McKenzie</p> <p>Publisher: Simon & Schuster</p> <p>Cousins Ellen and Harlan have been forced to go on a family camping trip – the worst timing ever, because they're in a huge fight. So Ellen is happy when Harlan storms off into the woods, but her peace and quiet quickly turns to panic when he doesn't come back. Facing heart-stopping danger on the clifftops, will Ellen be able to find Harlan before it's too late?</p> <p>An adrenaline-fuelled race against time from the Queen of teen thrillers.</p>



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YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE
BIRMINGHAM 2022 YOUTH
PROGRAMME AND HELP YOUR
PUPILS TO

BRING THE POWER



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

-  School workshops
-  Digital classroom resources
-  Teacher inspiration sessions
-  Cultural activities
-  School festival days

JOURNEY SO FAR



School pupils from the West Midlands were invited to be flagbearers for the launch of the Queen's Baton Relay at Buckingham Palace



Pupils from West Heath Primary School learning about the Games through our classroom resources



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO GET INVOLVED VISIT
WWW.BIRMINGHAM2022.COM/POWER



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LET'S TAKE IT ON.

Find out how your school can be involved in an unmissable part of the **Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games celebrations**, as the **Queen's Baton Relay** arrives in the **West Midlands in Summer 2022**

Domestic Sector proudly partnered with

LONGINES



BIRMINGHAM 2022
**QUEEN'S BATON
RELAY**
commonwealth
games

**commonwealth
sport**

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

Birmingham 2022 are offering all secondary schools in the West Midlands the once in a life time chance to nominate a student to be a Batonbearer and carry the Queen's Baton in Summer 2022. Don't miss your school's chance to be part of this epic journey!

How to select your Batonbearer is up to you. It could be an in-school competition, students could nominate each other, or it can be decided by school staff.

Birmingham 2022 Batonbearers will be inspiring individuals with amazing stories to tell. So, whichever way you select your Batonbearer, they must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- 1 Always willing to take on a challenge and has a unique and inspiring story
- 2 Has made a meaningful contribution to sport, education, the arts, culture, or charity
- 3 Is a figure of inspiration that positively challenges others to achieve their best
- 4 Has taken on a challenge or cause and made a positive impact within their community

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR CHOICE

The window for schools to nominate Batonbearers runs from 11 January until 4 March 2022.

To tell us about your chosen Batonbearer you'll need to let us know:

- Their full name, email address, telephone number, region and whether they are under 18
- The reason you've nominated them as a Batonbearer, in 100 words or less

Please ensure you have agreement from your Nominee to share their details prior to submitting the nomination.

Find out more at:
www.birmingham2022.com/school-batonbearers

BIRMINGHAM 2022
**QUEEN'S BATON
RELAY**



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Activities include:
Football, Multi-Sports,
Music & Workshops



KICKS

GIRLS YOUTH CLUB



@KE VI HANDSWORTH WOOD GIRLS ACADEMY
(B20 2HL)



Every Thursday
4:30-6:30pm
11-16 years old



GET INVOLVED... FOR FREE



Email: To register, email Kate for a consent form!

kr01@avfc.co.uk

www.avfc.co.uk/foundation

Registered Charity No: 1152848



**ASTON VILLA
FOUNDATION**



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KICKS

SEND YOUTH CLUB



MONDAY'S
5:30-7:00PM
VILLA PARK (ACADEMY BUILDING)
11-16 YEARS OLD



GET INVOLVED FOR FREE!

Email:

Contact Aaron for more information...

aaron.drakeley@avfc.co.uk

www.avfc.co.uk/foundation

Registered Charity No: 1152848



ASTON VILLA
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Premier League
Kicks



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