

# 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 2

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 17 September 2021

### Catholic Life - Termly theme: Excellence (hard soil)

Dear Lord,

Help me to hear what people say today so that I can become a better friend, pupil, son or daughter. As my week is nearly over, I would like to give thanks for the things that I have learnt and the progress made. Give me strength to build on these successes. Amen

#### Important Dates to Note

- **Year 10 Assessment Week**  
Monday 11 October – Friday 15 October
- **Remote learning preparation afternoon**  
Wednesday 20 October
- **Cultural Heritage Day**  
Thursday 21 October
- **Half Term**  
Thursday 21 October – Friday 29 October
- **INSET Day – Pupils to access form time via Teams**  
Friday 22 October
- **Year 11 Mock 1 Examinations**  
Monday 1 November – Friday 5 November

#### Parents' Evenings and Afternoons

- **Year 11 Parents' Evening & targeted Year 10 pupils**  
Thursday 18 November 2021- 4.00pm – 6.00pm
- **Year 7 & Year 9 Parents' Afternoon & targeted Year 8 pupils**  
Wednesday 15 December 2021 - 1.00pm – 4.00pm

#### Wellbeing: Top Tips

Have you ever wondered how to deal with sleep and routine?

Here are some top tips from the pastoral team to help you out!

- Regular exercise (60 mins per day) helps you sleep more soundly, as well as improving your general health.
- A warm (not hot) bath will help you relax and get ready for sleep.
- Have a regular bedtime routine. Doing the same things in the same order an hour before bed can help you drift off to sleep.
- Limit your screen time, and have at least an hour off screen-free time before going to sleep.
- Cut out the caffeine or drink less caffeine as too much caffeine can stop you falling asleep and reduce the amount of deep sleep you have.

By Mr Hussain



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# School Attendance

## A very important message for all parents/carers

### September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer.

This is an important update about school attendance for the 2021/22 academic year.

Saint John Wall Catholic School is working in partnership with parents and Birmingham City Council to ensure all children return to school following a difficult previous year. We would like to thank parents for the work you have done in ensuring your children received education during that time.

It is now vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on their education, wellbeing and wider development. We also know that when not in school, children missed being with their friends and the wider social aspects of school.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. ***Therefore, the government has confirmed that school attendance continues to be compulsory.***

This means that unless parents are formally notified of new lockdown arrangements where schools are closed or a child is required to self-isolate, the usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to send their child/children to school regularly where they are of compulsory school age
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the option for local authorities to again consider the use of legal sanctions, including penalty notices and prosecution in court.

If you are worried about your child/children attending school the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with the school directly. The school has specialist staff who may be able to help, and all schools work closely with health and council teams who may also be able to help if needed.

***Please note that, given the disruption to children's education caused by the pandemic, requests for leave during term time are unlikely to be authorised by the Headteacher.***

Family emergencies also need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members.

No school or local authority wants to take legal action. Every attempt to resolve parents' concerns and improve a child's attendance will be made before any formal legal action, which may include a penalty notice or court action, is instigated.

***However, where all efforts fail and parents fail to ensure their child attends school regularly, legal action may be considered.***

After so much disruption to children's education over the past year, the most important thing is that the school and parents work together to get children back into school. The school is ready to listen so please contact them if you have any worries and they will try to help you. There is also information for parents and carers on attending school during the pandemic here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>



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Additionally, Birmingham City Council provides online information and guidance to parents on school attendance which you can access here:

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20014/schools\\_and\\_learning/1502/school\\_attendance\\_advice\\_for\\_parents](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20014/schools_and_learning/1502/school_attendance_advice_for_parents)

We wish you and your child/children all the best for the new academic year.

Yours faithfully

**K Marston**

Miss K Marston  
Headteacher

## ***Medical Conditions***

### A very important message for all Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is a message about pupils who have Medical Conditions attending school.

**We would like to thank those parents who make sure their child is attending school regularly and are therefore benefiting fully from their educational opportunity.** We are happy to work in partnership with you to maintain your child's attendance in school during those times where medical conditions require home maintenance or school support.

It is important that we are made aware of any medical conditions your child may have which can become known in school so that we can fully support pupils through their educational journey.

If your child has been diagnosed with a Medical Condition please visit the school webpage to complete our online Medical Form ([www.sjw.bham.sch.uk](http://www.sjw.bham.sch.uk). Go to the Parents section and select medical information – the form is titled medical conditions form). By completing the online Medical conditions form, this will confirm your consent has been given for the school to contact the nursing team if needed.

Yours faithfully

**K Marston**

Miss K Marston  
Headteacher



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**Monday 27th September at 1pm**

# **Mental Health Information for Parents/ Carers**

**Join for free for a 1 hour session online about how Kooth can  
support young people in your life**

**Register on Eventbrite using link below:**

**[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-for-age-11-25-parent-carer-information-session-with-kooth-tickets-169821425455](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-for-age-11-25-parent-carer-information-session-with-kooth-tickets-169821425455)**



**Kooth is the UK's largest  
digital mental health  
platform, providing free  
mental health and wellbeing  
support services for young  
people aged 11-25.**



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# PIPA

An online **P**arenting **I**ntervention to **P**revent  
affective disorders in high-risk **A**dolescents:  
**The PIPA Trial**

Mental health during childhood and adolescence is very important. Difficulties like anxiety and depression can start when people are young and it is important for young people and their families to understand these difficulties and get support when needed.

The PIPA Trial is exploring the effectiveness of an online resource for parents/carers to help reduce depression and anxiety in young people. The trial is being coordinated by the University of Warwick and involves families of young people aged 11-15 years from schools in Birmingham, Coventry and surrounding areas.

The trial is free and conducted completely online. Eligible parents/carers and young people will be asked to complete some questionnaires. Parents/carers will then receive access to some online parenting resources: either the standard educational package of factsheets or the personalised programme with up to nine modules. Parents/carers and young people will also be asked to complete some follow-up questionnaires.

Please look out for the letter about how to sign up which also contains some information sheets with more details. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs L Ellis or contact the PIPA trial team at [PIPA@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:PIPA@warwick.ac.uk) or 02476574316/02476575078.



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# ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR WATER CHARGES?

If you are a Severn Trent Water customer and require assistance, apply for help today via:

## THE BIG DIFFERENCE SCHEME

- You could receive up to 90% off the average Severn Trent water bill through the Big Difference Scheme
- Eligibility for the scheme is based on all household income (excluding housing entitlements)
- If you are eligible for income based free school meals it's likely that you will qualify for the Big Difference Scheme

### HOW TO APPLY:



APPLY ONLINE AT  
[WWW.BIGDIFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.BIGDIFF.CO.UK)



COMPLETE THE ONLINE  
APPLICATION FORM



SUBMIT YOUR  
APPLICATION

The Big Difference Scheme is funded by Severn Trent Water, which offers significantly reduced water charges to some households on a low income.

Apply now: [www.bigdiff.co.uk](http://www.bigdiff.co.uk)



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