

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 14

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 16 December 2022

Catholic Life - This year we are focusing on 'The Year of Sanctuary'.

Termly theme: Solidarity (The Good Samaritan)

Termly SJW values – Compassionate and Loving

Dear Lord, As we approach the end of this first school term, we thank you for all the great things we have experienced. May we be guided by The Good Samaritan, always being compassionate and loving as we go about our daily lives. We thank you for our families, friends and our communities. May we have a Happy and Holy Christmas and a positive start to the New Year. Amen.

Message from Chair of Governors

"Prospero ano y fefslicidad"

When Jose Feliciano wrote Feliz Navidad way back in 1970 little did he imagine that fifty or so years later the song would continue to be popular. The song expresses, in English and Spanish, how, as we await the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Advent is the season of reflection, anticipation and reconciliation.

As can be seen from our excellent web-site preparation for Christmas is in full swing at Saint John Wall. At a recent governors' meeting Mr Lloyd-Price outlined what is happening. He mentioned how the appointment of Mr Lysaght to the Chaplaincy team has further strengthened the school's mission to bring Jesus Christ closer to the lives of all our pupils and staff. In his report Mr Lloyd-Price told us the welcome news that in the New Year, Father Peter Madden, Parish Priest at St Teresa's in Perry Barr, will be our new Priest Chaplain. Something Father Peter is sure to be impressed with will be the daily 3.05 pm prayer in which the whole school ends their day by coming together on-line to pray and reflect. I've worked in many Catholic schools but have never witnessed anything quite like the reverence and respect shown right across the school. By the way Mr Lloyd-Price also described how the school is working towards **CAFOD's Live Simply Award**. More news to come in the months ahead.

It isn't a surprise, considering we've had no fewer than five (!) Education Secretaries since the summer, to learn the government has abandoned its Schools' Bill. Apart from anything else it means that one of the main policies, the academisation by 2030 of all schools, will not now be implemented. As you know because the school continues to be so successful we have been cautious about joining a Multi-Academy Company (MAC). Nevertheless, members of staff here continue to support those working in other MACs. In fact, I was delighted to learn that Miss Marston will be working closely over the next year with colleagues in the Our Lady of the Magnificat MAC, based in Leamington Spa.

Last month you'll have heard the Chancellor's Autumn Statement. Regarding school budgets he stated that: *"This restores 2010 levels of per pupil funding in real terms and provides an average cash increase for every pupil of more than £1,000 by 2024-25, compared to 2021-22"*. As we continue to experience rising costs, it will take time for Mr Holden and Miss Whitehouse to assess the impact this proposed additional funding will have on Saint John Wall's finances.

The effect the pandemic has had on young people is still emerging. Attendance nationally is way below the level it was in 2019 with thousands of pupils across the country going missing from school. It was pleasing, therefore, to hear from Mrs Crooks that our attendance is way above the national average. She also described all the help and encouragement those individuals experiencing difficulties are receiving as they settle back to school-life. Miss Timmins also reported how, especially lower down the school, pupils understand how good behaviour and co-operating with staff lead to positive outcomes.



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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



On this topic Mr Holder gave us a detailed analysis of how well our Year 11 pupils are currently progressing. It's still early days but without tempting fate their attainment data is looking promising. Such progress is inevitably a consequence of good teaching. In the same meeting Miss Hanson outlined how the monitoring of lessons and the training staff receive is contributing to some outstanding work in the classroom. Incidentally her report showed that a lot of the guidance and advice being given to staff takes place between their own colleagues.

Before I finish I want to mention two things we were told about at a recent governors' meeting. The first involved an educational consultant who works with lots of schools across the midlands area. As these are far from where he lives he decided to reduce the number he works with - an exception being Saint John Wall. He is so impressed with our staff and pupils he wishes to continue working here. The other was something one of our parents said. Having previously considered a grammar school place for her child she became aware of our incredible exam results and so decided instead to send her child to Saint John Wall.

As the year draws to an end and we look back at 2022 we realise what an extraordinarily unstable period it has been. No sooner were the Covid restrictions being relaxed than the outbreak of war in Ukraine created unforeseen demands such as over the supply of fuel. We owe Miss Marston and all the staff at Saint John Wall an enormous debt of gratitude. Whatever else is happening in the outside world they ensure our pupils continue to feel valued and well looked after.

This term ends a little earlier than is usual with pupils returning on the first Wednesday of the New Year – 4th January. Until then to you and your families, **Feliz Navidad**. I hope yours is a peaceful Christmas and that you manage to keep warm. I'll leave you with this prayer and look forward to being in touch again in 2023:

Christ, come into our world of darkness. Light up our lives with your coming. Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth. Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world. And to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings. Amen. Saint John Wall, pray for us.

Martin Jones - Chair of Governors

Headteacher's Message

Today's photo newsletter showcases some of the lovely activities that have taken place during this season of Advent. My personal highlights have been watching Year 8s perform at the MAC theatre, seeing a variety of pupils from different year groups performing and helping at the school Christmas Showcases and post-covid welcoming parents back into school for Parents' Afternoons. It was also a pleasure to host a range of visitors including Headteachers and Senior leaders from other schools, the Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner Tom McNeil and also Baroness Estelle Morris. All were impressed by the high standards at the school, considerate and engaged pupils, and welcoming and generous staff. We are only saying goodbye to one member of staff this term, Mr Penfold, our Technology technician. Mr Penfold will be starting a new job closer to home and we wish him all the best for the future. Everybody has worked extremely hard and I want to particularly commend our dedicated staff whose attendance has been excellent this term, contrary to the trends in other schools.

Thankyou and Happy Christmas all members of the Saint John Wall community!

By Miss Marston

Welcome to Baroness Estelle Morris

It was a pleasure to welcome Baroness Estelle Morris and Tim Boyes from Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) to visit our school. I was extremely proud to showcase the valuable work of our DLP (Developing Local Provision) Hub. Our team provides a service to local schools, supporting pupils with SEND, to make rapid progress in learning so that they can join mainstream education. Both Baroness Morris and Mr Boyes were provided with in-depth knowledge of our work by Mrs Hough (DLP Lead). They were able to see the weekly prize giving for pupil achievement from Mrs Kaur. Our pupils were excited to inform our visitors about the progress they are making in their reading, writing and communication skills. It is hoped that through this visit, our school will continue to be supported with funding so that we can serve our local community with this excellent provision.

By Ms Hanson



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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

Help and Support with Cost of Living

We are a Catholic School for All, we pride ourselves on supporting all members of our community through life's challenges. Our SJW Values remind us to show all people love, compassion and generosity. We wish to ensure that all our families have what they need to keep their children safe and happy.

On our school website we have information about the current support available to our families through the cost of living crisis.

Please visit or click here:

[Saint John Wall Catholic School - Cost of Living \(sjw.bham.sch.uk\)](http://sjw.bham.sch.uk)

[Home - Gogna Schoolwear and Sports \(www.gogna.me\)](http://www.gogna.me)



ASDA

PLEASE STOP & READ

Did you know that every day, for the rest of this year, your kids can eat at ASDA Cafe's across the country for just £1, with no adult spend required. Depending on the store and the cafe there will be a hot and a cold meal available. For much younger children and babies there's free baby food pouches. With the cost of living crisis being what it is, all of us can benefit from this. But for some people who are really struggling, this could be a lifeline. Please re-share to your story to help somebody who needs to know this, Well done to ASDA

St Mary's Coffee Morning

Pupils have had a wonderful final visit for 2022 to St Mary's this morning and it's been busy as usual. They were brave enough to have a go at some line dancing which although difficult they picked up really well. They also entertained the guests with some amusing Christmas poetry and should be very proud of how well they read in front of adults when there was so little time to practise.

By Mrs Clayton

Milk and Cookies for Santa

By Kelly Roper

There's milk and cookies for Santa,
And they look delicious to me.
There are four on a plate on the mantel,
And if I eat one, there will still be three.

Santa's quite a plump fellow,
Looks like he eats well all year through.
If I eat one more of those cookies,
Santa will still have two.

Those cookies have made my mouth dry,
And now I need something to drink.
That milk is still quite chilly,
A few gulps will do it, I think.

Those cookies were oh so tasty.
I don't think my tummy's quite done.
If I only eat one more cookie,
Santa surely can get by with just one.

That last cookie looks so lonely,
He must miss his friends in my tummy.
I'm not sure that I can resist him...
No, I can't, and he's certainly yummy!

Uh-oh, Santa's treat is all gone now.
If I'm caught, I will be in big trouble.
I need to beat feet from the scene of my crime,
And get back into bed on the double!



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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



100% Attendance

Here at Saint John Wall, we recognise those pupils who have been getting 100% attendance, and this term rewarded them with a trip to the German Christmas Markets in the city centre. Pupils were able to visit the different stalls in the markets and what they had to offer, as well as go onto the Big Wheel of Birmingham in Centenary Square. This was very exciting, as the wheel offered some amazing views of Birmingham from up high, where we could see the different parts of the city, as well as some of Birmingham's most iconic landmarks.

Well done also to the following pupils for 100% attendance and received a 'front of the queue' lunch pass: Michael John 7ESM, David Ifeosame 7RAH, Zenab Imran 7JAS, Sara Anthony 7ESM, Sidra Hamarahim, Bhagwant Singh 8AHM, Hazem Rahma Al Ashrafani 8HAY, Karina Banger 8AHM, Anna Horvathova 8GRE, Samuel Kinavuidi 8PAW.



Top Form Attendance

Well done to the forms below for winning the best attendance for this term. They were rewarded with doughnuts.



9BRK



8FOR



10GOS



7LEV





Sanctuary Group – International Migrants Day

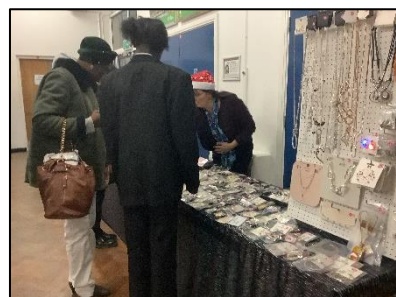
Pupils in Year 8 have been continuing their work on International Migrants Day. Pupils explored the push and pull factors for migration and decided what message they would like put onto the plaque that will celebrate the contribution of Migrants to the area. This design was then sent to Mr Penfold and we visited Design Technology to see the plaque being made!





Christmas Variety Performance & Exhibition

We held a variety performance which included all year groups, performing music, drama and dance pieces. We also had beautiful artwork on display alongside amazing work from Humanities and English departments. We wanted to showcase all the outstanding work that takes place on a daily basis at Saint John Wall and all the talent that resides here too. We had performances from Year 7 Dance group, Year 10 band, Year 11's talented guitarist. We also had Year 7 and 8 drama groups. We would like to thank all pupils who performed so well, you all made the night very special.



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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



Christmas Variety Performance & Exhibition

On Tuesday we also held another night of wonderful performances. We had the art and other departments great work on display and we had another night of amazing performances. We had Year 9 band who played L.O.V.E by Frank Sinatra and Year 11 who played Higher by Teams alongside Year 11 Romanian style band who all performed beautifully. We again, had the Year 7 dance and acting group perform and we closed both nights with the audience and all performers singing Christmas Carols getting everyone in the Christmas spirit. Thank you to all parents for coming to watch, thank you to all the performers for making both nights so special and thank you to all the staff that made it possible.



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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



Christmas Jumper Day

At this time of year it's really important to remember to give back to those who are struggling at this time of year, with illness, money worries or family issues which is why at Saint John Wall we work hard to ensure that we continue our charity work to help towards proving some hope to others. On Thursday 15 December the school celebrated Christmas Jumper day raising money for Save the Children. It was so lovely to see staff and pupils getting into the Christmas Spirit of giving. We raised £103.29. Well done everyone!



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825

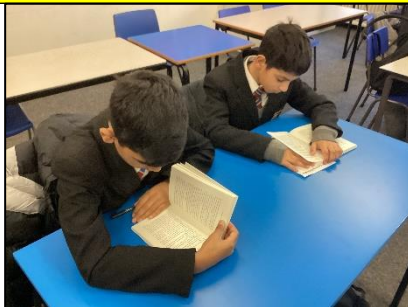


enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk
www.sjw.bham.sch.uk



Reading Relay – Years 7, 8 and 9

On Thursday 15 December, pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in our latest Reading Relay. At the beginning of every lesson, they were led in discussion and reading of 'The Promise and the Light' by Katy Morgan. The book is an exciting and compelling modern retelling of the Nativity story. It focuses on real human emotions of suffering and joy that arose from the circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth, told mostly from the perspectives of Mary and Joseph. Pupils were engaged and thoughtful as they considered questions like: what is Joseph's moral dilemma? Why do Mary and Joseph face prejudice and discrimination in Bethlehem? What fears does Mary have about becoming a new mother? Every pupil in years 7-9 has been gifted with a copy of the book, as a Christmas present from Saint John Wall. We hope you enjoy reading the rest of the story!



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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



Christmas Card Local Community Delivery

We also think about how to shine a beacon of hope to those in our local area who might not have family and friends sending them Christmas Cards. All pupils from Year 7-10 delivered Christmas Cards to our local residents to wish them a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year. Pupils entered a house competition for the Christmas Card design, I hope our local community approved of the winning designs.



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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



Christmas Card Winners



Joint
Winner

By Sakshi Mahey 10JON



Joint
Winner

By Priya Chem 8PAW



Joint
Winner

By Alina Mathews 8PAW

Well done also to the following pupils who entered the Christmas Card competition: Sara Antony 7ESM, Lydia Binyam 7ESM, David Ifeosame 7RAH, Keyaan Miah 7RAH, James Doyle 7RAH, Hubert Wolant 7RAH, Maninderdeep Sidhu 7RAH, Demi-Lee Hulme 7RAH, Trae Nguyen 7RAH, Krishnoor Singh 7RAH, Alan Adamkowski 7LEV, Amina Jahanzeb 7LEV, Allenjot Ohaliwal 7JAS, Gloria Osazemwinde 7JAS, Neha Kaur Sagoo 7REG, Ashtaz Islam 7REG, Silvia Nah 8GRE, Muhammad-Sahil Adam 8AHM, Taylor Milligan 8FOR, Maja Karwanska 8PAW, Italia Holder 9BAR, Zara Khan 9RES, Nicola Matusik 9RES, Yousma Mustafa 9WOO, Mercedes Johnson 9WOO, Sarah Manu 9MCI, Francisca Idemudia 9BRK, Mawra Hussain 9BRK



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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



House Competition – Year 7 Nativity

All forms demonstrated active and compassion values through their teamwork into creating their entries. Each pupil should be really proud of themselves for their brilliant efforts. This Christmas our forms in Year 7 have been getting creative and creating/building their own Nativity Scene. It has been a great competition and was definitely a hard one to judge but here are the results:



7JAS

Winner



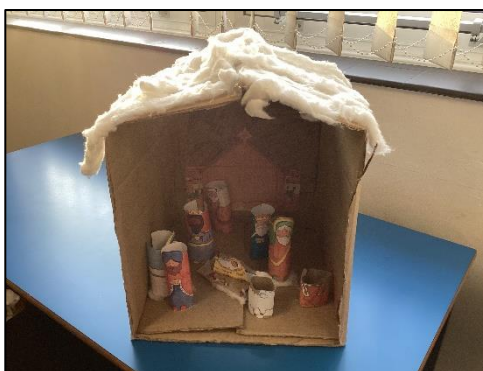
7LEV



7REG



7RAH



7ESM





House Competition – Year 8 Jesse Tree

Year 8 created a Jesse tree this year showcasing active and compassionate values demonstrating their own creative spin for each entry. It has been a great competition with amazing team spirit from each form, here are the winners:



8FOR



8HAY



8PAW



8GRE



8AHM





House Competition – Year 9 Advent Calendar

New this year, Year 9 and 10 created an advent calendar. When visiting the forms there was a lot of competitive spirits and enthusiasm throughout both KS4 year groups which was brilliant to see. This was extremely hard to judge, pupils made tremendous efforts, but the winners are:

A special efforts reward is going to 9RES! this is because for each date there is a baby photo of each pupil in their form. Their form teacher will have fun guessing who each one is!



9RES

Winner



9WOO



9MCI



9BAR



9BRK





House Competition – Year 10 Advent Calendar

Year 9 and 10 created an advent calendar. When visiting the forms there was a lot of competitive spirits and enthusiasm throughout both KS4 year groups which was brilliant to see. This was extremely hard to judge, pupils made tremendous efforts, but the winners are:



10JON

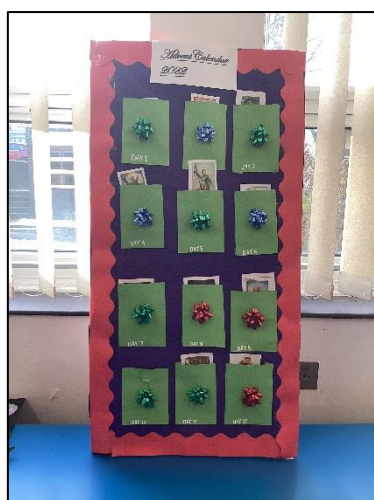
Winner



10HAL



10GOS



10WIO



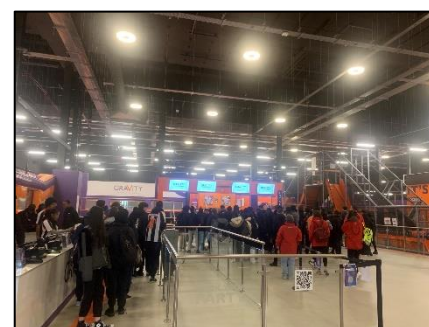
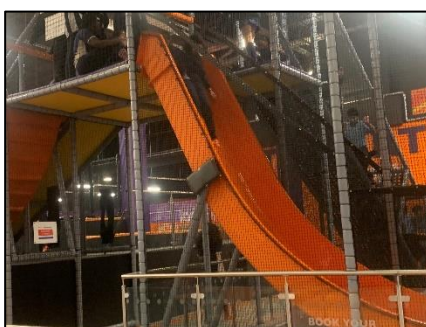
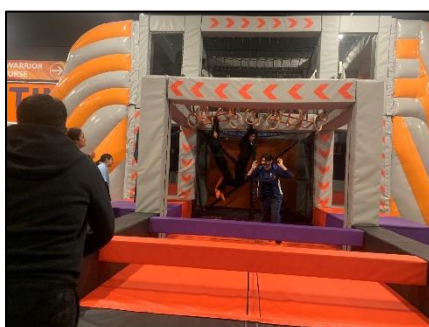
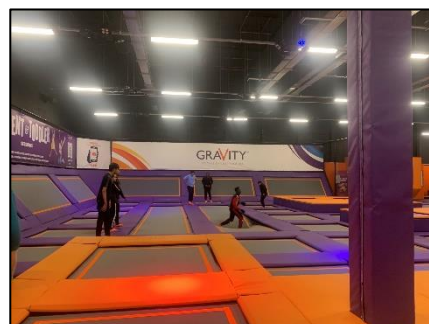
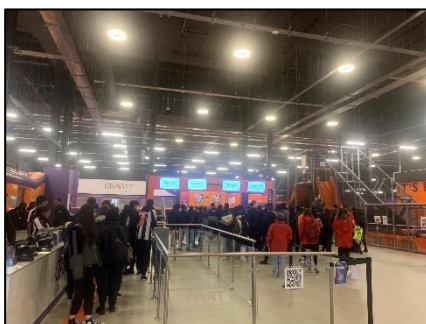
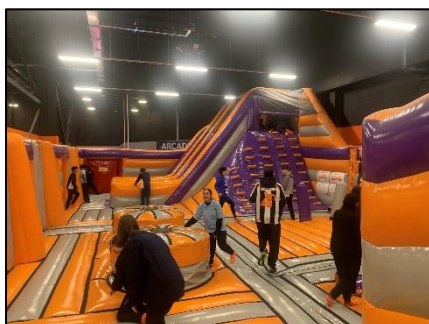
10HEA





Year 11 Trip to Gravity – Star City

Each year the Year 11 pupils attend a treat trip, this year we have tried something new by going to Gravity Trampoline park at Star City. This year's trip has been used to congratulate and celebrate pupils Mock 1 results and allow for the pupils to let off steam by jumping around the wonderful trampoline park which SJW were able to hire out just for our pupils to enjoy. As you can see by the photos that all the pupils that attended had a fantastic time! Well done Year 11 you have earned every minute of this treat!



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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



End of Term Service

Today we held our special Christmas service, the first service since 2020. Thank you to the readers, steel pan pupils, drama pupils, dhol player and the readers who all made this a service to remember.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

HiPAL

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

(with reduced functionality for under-12s)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

HiPal's under-12 accounts don't allow direct connections with strangers (although children seeking more friends can share their 'Friend Code' on other platforms), but for older users, chatting with strangers seems to be the app's main appeal. The 'Public Square' shows nine online users (nitting 'refresh' replaces these with another nine), and clicking on someone's profile starts a conversation.

SEXING AND SUGGESTIVE PICS

Almost immediately after our expert downloaded the app, strangers began to message privately – asking for provocative images or sharing explicit photos of themselves. Likewise, in the 'Explore' feed, many of the pictures and videos are innocent ... but some are far more salacious. There is always the risk of other users secretly saving a revealing photo and re-sharing it elsewhere.

NEED FOR VALIDATION

Some users – particularly girls – post photos on apps of this type hoping for positive reactions and comments to boost their self-esteem. Suggestive images tend to attract more flattering feedback, encouraging the user to post more frequently and with more explicit content. Conversely, receiving unkind comments about their picture can impact a young user's confidence and sense of self-worth.

HiPal is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, allowing people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers. There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers, enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, sending private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.

NO AGE GATES OR MODERATION

Although users are given an initial choice of the under- or over-12 profile, there is no verification method to confirm someone's age: it is quite clear that the 'older' option offers a more complete experience on the app, but there seems to be no content moderation in place. Likewise, there is a reporting button for users to make a complaint but these reports do not appear to be followed up.

INTRUSIVE FEATURES

HiPal's walkie-talkie gimmick is no different from a normal phone call and seems rarely used; although it allows conversations to still be heard while a phone is locked, which could have awkward results. HiPal also offers 'Boom' messages: unmissable large-text notifications which are highly distracting and briefly take over the phone – users can't access other apps until the message fades.

LARGE GROUP CHATS

The app offers group chats with up to 100 people – both friends and unknown users. This not only means excessive 'Boom' messages taking over your child's device, but near-constant notification alerts and – most worryingly – the potential for walkie-talkie chatting and sharing photos with strangers outside parental supervision and apparently with no moderation from the platform itself.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Remind your child of the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Some may be using the app innocently; others may have more sinister intentions. Encourage your child to consider what information they disclose in private messages and emphasise that they should inform a trusted adult if someone on the internet ever attempts to persuade them to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXING

It can be an awkward conversation (which young people are often reluctant to have), but it's vital to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sharing explicit images, as well as the emotional impact. Make it clear your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that they should tell a trusted adult if they receive any unwanted explicit images.

BUILD RESILIENCE

With HiPal's lack of moderation, it's imperative that children are prepared for comments they might receive after uploading an image. You can build their resilience and equip them to manage these situations by having them show you any comments they've received. Together, discuss how the nice ones made them feel – and what they could do if someone posted a comment that upset them.

AVOID OVER-SHARING

Young people should think carefully about what they share in their profile, bio and posts. Talk to your child about not disclosing personal details such as phone numbers, other social media accounts or images which could reveal where they live or go to school. It's essential for children to recognise that strangers can assemble a detailed profile of someone based on things they can find online.

CONSIDER MENTAL WELLBEING

Many users on HiPal publicly share photos that are intended to be alluring in the hope of gaining more likes, friends and positive feedback – Boosting their self-esteem and making them feel more self-assured. When young people regularly engage with social media platforms, it's important that parents and carers keep in mind the potential impact such platforms can have on mental wellbeing.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



<https://hipalapp/about/privacy.html>

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 07.12.2022



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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

Industrial Action: Tuesday 13 - Saturday 17 December 2022

What's happening?

Significant disruption is expected on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday next week due to industrial action by members of the RMT union. Trains will run between 7.30am and 6.30pm on certain routes only. Some routes will have no train service.

This strike action will also affect a number of other train operating companies. Please check before you travel.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused by this industrial action.

[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

What does this mean?

The following routes will have a limited service on Tuesday 13 December, Wednesday 14 December and Friday 16 December:

- Cross-City Line (Lichfield Trent Valley - Redditch/Bromsgrove via Birmingham New Street)
- Wolverhampton - Birmingham
- Birmingham New Street - Birmingham International
- Birmingham New Street - London Euston via Northampton (London Northwestern Railway service)
- Birmingham New Street - Crewe via Wolverhampton (London Northwestern Railway service)

No services will run on any other WMR route on these dates, including all routes via Birmingham Snow Hill, Birmingham-Shrewsbury and Nuneaton-Leamington Spa.

Thursday 15 December

A normal timetable is expected to be in operation on all routes on Thursday 15 December following a later start up.

Saturday 17 December

Members of the TSSA union at WMR will also strike on Saturday 17 December, further impacting services. Timetables for this date are being finalised and will be published next week.

Further industrial action December 2022

Passengers are also being warned to expect disruption over the Christmas period due to further industrial action by RMT members. Timetables for journeys from Sunday 18 December until Christmas Eve are currently being finalised and will be published next week. No train service will run on Christmas Day or Boxing Day.

Industrial action travel advice

- Plan ahead. Check our [industrial action webpage](#) for the latest updates, details on travelling on alternative dates and refund information.
- Visit [National Rail](#) for a summary of how this will affect other operators' services.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM EVERYONE AT ST CHAD'S SANCTUARY!

YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY HAS DONATED TO ST CHAD'S SANCTUARY DURING 2022 AND WE ARE SO VERY GRATEFUL. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS HELPED SOME OF THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY, PEOPLE WHO ARE OFTEN OVERLOOKED OR IGNORED. WE ARE ONLY ABLE TO OFFER THE WELCOME AND SUPPORT THAT IS SO DESPERATELY NEEDED BY SO MANY DUE TO YOUR KINDNESS: THEREFORE WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU!

WE WISH YOU PEACE AND JOY THIS CHRISTMAS AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AGAIN IN 2023.



Scan me



www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/sports-for-champions-community-hub

**Sports For
Champions UK CIC**

#SFCCCommunityHub

**Sports For Champions needs your help
with their new Community Hub!**

**Even the smallest of donations go a
long way as they are looking to:**

- 🏆 Deliver FREE hot meals within the community
- 🏆 Provide a warm, safe space for those who need it most
- 🏆 Free gym membership and PT sessions led by Team GB athletes!

Scan the code to visit the website and donate where you can!



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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

THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may over balance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50 % of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank, you may find it easier to roll

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for **'HELP'** and dial **999** or **112** if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to **'KEEP STILL'** and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.

StyWise



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

18

'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers: they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

18

CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

16

LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 14.12.2022



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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