

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 13

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 9 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

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

Important Dates to Note

- **Christmas Variety Performance and Exhibition**
Monday 12 December and Tuesday 13 December
5pm to 6pm. Please contact the school office for free tickets.
- **Year 7 and Year 9 Parents' Afternoon**
Wednesday 14 December 2022 – 1pm to 3.30pm. School closes to pupils at 12.30pm
- **Pastoral Attendance Reward Trip (20 Year 7 to 10 Pupils)**
Wednesday 14 December 2022 – 9.15am to 12pm
- **HUB Trip to Birmingham German Market**
Wednesday 14 December 2022 – 9.30am to 1pm
- **Christmas Jumper Day and Reading Relay**
Thursday 15 December 2022
- **Christmas Holiday, School closes to pupils at 12.30pm**
Friday 16 December 2022
- **Inset Day – School Closed to all Pupils**
Tuesday 3 January 2023
- **School Opens**
Wednesday 4 January 2023

Christmas Variety Performance and Exhibition

We will be putting on a Christmas Variety performance and exhibition on Monday and Tuesday next week. Please see the next page for further details and how to attend.

Year 7 and Year 9 Parents' Afternoon

Next week Wednesday 14 December, it is parents' afternoon for Year 7 and 9 pupils from 1pm to 3.30pm.

To enable the afternoon to run successfully all pupils will be leaving school at 12.30pm.

Last Day of Term

The last day of term is on Friday 16 December, all pupils will be leaving school between 12.20pm and 12.30pm.



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SJW Christmas Variety Performance and Exhibition of Talent

- Doors open at 4:30pm for the exhibition and light canapes. Performance starts at 5pm- 6pm.
- Tickets are free but you must have a seat allocated. Please get your ticket from the school office from Wednesday 7 December or call to book over the phone.
- Talents being showcased include, Art, Humanities, Computer Aided Design, Steel Pans, Keyboard, SJW band, solo artists, Dance, Acting, Catering



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Year 11 Prefects

Congratulations to the following Year 11 pupils on being successful in their application to be a prefect:

Azailea Tweede	Ravjot Singh
Ronny Nkuidjeu	Andrea Zajacova
Julia Moszczynska	Samiya Muhumed
Kymani Harvey	Olamide Adekunle-Olayiwola
Deborah Gebrekiristos	Crystabel Owusu
Amrita Gill	Rachel Ohene-Williams
Darin Diako	Varlin Kaur
Amelia Baldyga	Ivie Imadonmwinyi
Asher Rogers	Jannatpreet Singh
Jaspreet Kaur	Simran Tiwana
Julia Zyla	

By Miss Reynolds

St Mary's Coffee Morning

Pupils have taken part in a Christmas quiz this morning with guests at St Mary's and each been awarded a chocolate rabbit for their efforts. There was a serious amount of cheating going on amongst some of the adults which is probably why they didn't win! Sadly, though it was a much quieter visit today as it is very cold and icy outside which makes elderly people not want to leave their homes. It's very important to check on friends, relatives and neighbours especially when the weather is bad to make sure they are ok and have everything they need. Is there anyone you could check on to show that you care?

By Mrs Clayton



Duke of Edinburgh Award

There are still places for Year 9 and 10 pupils to sign up to the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is an incredible experience and qualification which involves a range of activities and requirements in order to be gained. The award is made up of four sections.

1 Skill Section – A new life skill (outside of school lessons). There are hundreds of different activities that young people can choose from. Popular choices include music, art, drama, cooking, DJing, committee skills, graffiti art and sign language.

2 Volunteering Section – This section requires young people to spend approximately one hour per week doing voluntary work. This gives young people the opportunity to get out into their communities and give something back.

3 Physical Section – This section requires young people to spend one hour per week of their own time engaging in physical recreation. It can be any form of activity and does not need to be in a team or competitive environment.

4 Expedition Section - Walking, camping, map reading, team work, survival.

If you are interested in the award please see Mr Woodward or the school office to register.

The TV presenter on the BBC, Jonathon Ross, completed his award when he was in school and has the following glowing endorsement of the award:

"I've been an admirer of the DofE for many years. Throughout this time, I've met lots of people who've done it and they're the type of people you'd like to know and employ – employers are always keen to meet people like you. I know the experience you've had will be an enormous benefit – it's an incredible achievement, it's exciting, impressive and fills me with a lot of hope for the future. You're the best of your generation!" **Jonathan Ross**

By Mr Woodward



Aspire2Be German Markets Trip

On Wednesday, pupils from Mr Hayaat's Aspire2Be mentoring group went to the German Christmas Markets in the city centre. This was a reward trip for their hard work and effort in their mentoring sessions. Throughout the past few months, pupils in this mentoring group have been working on building their confidence, social skills, and friendship groups through weekly sessions. At the markets, the pupils looked through the different stalls that had been set up. There were lots of souvenirs and gifts, such as clocks, crystals, ornaments, bells, etc. as well as lots of delicious looking German food such as pretzels, Berliner doughnuts, and churros. The day we went was especially cold, so the children warmed up with hot chocolate in souvenir mugs which were all Christmas themed, and the children got to keep. Finally, we went into the Birmingham Library to look at the amazing building and books they had to offer, before heading back to school.

By Mr Hayaat

"I enjoyed the hot chocolate, I also really enjoyed going to the Library."

By Dillianne Levande 7REG

"I really enjoyed it! It was lots of fun, and the hot chocolate was really tasty. I would love to go on an exquisite trip like this again!"

By Raheem Nadeem 7LEV

"I liked the landmarks. I also liked exploring the Library."

By Titus Grayburn 7LEV



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English Reading Corner

Year 7 and 8: Why not read 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/11>

(Also located in your [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just

Year 9, 10 and 11: Why not read 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer' by Mark Twain

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/74>

(Also located in your English development Homework on our Shared area in the reading corner folder.)

Your English teacher would love to hear about what you have been reading!

By Miss Jones

SJW on Stage!

On Sunday I visited the Hexagon Theatre at Birmingham MAC near Cannon Hill Park to watch our Year 8 pupils perform 'The Christmas Gift'. This was a heartwarming play created, scripted, choreographed and produced by the pupils along with staff from the Recre8 mentoring company. It was a special occasion with some outstanding performances alongside some dramatic poignant moments, bringing a tear to the eye of audience members. After the performance there were refreshments for all involved. It was lovely to see how our pupils had developed in confidence during this experience, and also to hear how proud their families were seeing them on stage. Well done to Godson Omenma 8FOR, Shamelia McLean 8AHM, Kodi Brown 8HAY, Maria Tibuleac 8HAY, Africa Beauty Garcia George 8HAY, Deborah Agbolade 8PAW, Aaphryl Antonio Pereira 8PAW, Damaris Tofei 8PAW, Karina Banger 8AHM and Daiana Mancescu 8PAW.



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What else do I need to know?

- E-scooters should only be used within the local area hosting the trial
- Only ever ride one person per scooter
- You must not tow anything using an e-scooter
- You must not use a mobile phone when using an e-scooter
- You may use a screen to display navigation information, but this must be set up prior to setting off
- Always ensure bags or other small items you are carrying will not cause a danger to you or others around you – for example, never hang them from the handlebars
- Never ride an e-scooter while drunk or otherwise intoxicated – you may be prosecuted under drink or drug driving laws as careless and dangerous driving offences also apply to users of e-scooters
- Follow local traffic rules and adapt your speed to your surroundings
- Always ride and park in designated areas identified by the operator's app.
- You should also refer to the terms of use of the e-scooter operator before renting a trial e-scooter

Where can I get more information?

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users>

<https://www.voiscooters.com/>

E-Scooters and the law

West Midlands
POLICE



E-Scooters and the law

I own an E-scooter, where can I ride it?

A privately owned e-scooter can only be used in a private place with the land owner's permission. They remain illegal to use on a road or in a public place.

What will happen if I ride my own E-scooter on a road or public place?

If you are stopped riding it on the road or public place, it can be seized and you could face prosecution, which may result in penalty points on your driving licence and a fine.

If E-scooters are illegal why can I hire one?

The government and some local authorities have embarked on trials of E-scooters. The E-scooters provided through these trials are legal to use on a road or public place as long as you abide by the conditions of hire and the law.

How old do I need to be to hire one?

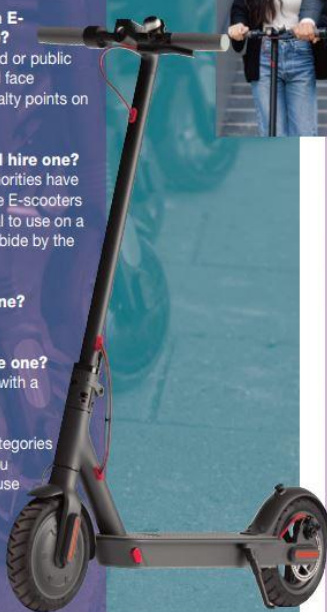
18 years old

Do I need a driving licence to hire one?

Yes, you need a valid driving licence with a category Q entitlement.

A full or provisional UK licence for categories AM, A or B includes category Q. If you have one of these licences, you can use an e-scooter.

If you have a provisional licence you do not need to display L plates.



I have an overseas licence, can I still hire one?

If you have an overseas driving licence, you can use an e-scooter if you have:

A valid full licence from an EU or European Economic Area (EEA) country (so long as this does not prohibit you from driving low-speed mopeds and motorcycles) or

A valid full licence from another country that entitles you to drive a small vehicle (for example, cars, mopeds or motorcycles) and you entered the UK within the last 12 months

Do I need insurance?

E-scooters must have motor insurance, but you do not need to arrange this as this will be provided by your e-scooter rental operator

What should I wear?

It is recommended that you wear a cycle helmet, however it is not a legal requirement. If you do wear a helmet make sure it conforms to current regulations, is the correct size and is securely fastened.

It is also recommended that you wear light-coloured or fluorescent clothing so that other road users can see you.

Where can I use a trial E-scooter?

E-scooters can be used on the road (except motorways) and in cycle lanes.

You must not use them in areas designated for pedestrians – including pavements.



Traffic signs with the following cycle symbol apply to e-scooters (unless a sign is displayed prohibiting e-scooters from that particular cycle way)



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RATING

13+

Servers and channels marked as NSFW require users to be 18 or older to join.

Discord is a free app which allows users to communicate in real time via text, video or voice chat. Available on desktop and mobile devices, it was originally designed to help gamers cooperate – but has evolved into a more general networking platform for a range of online communities, discussing topics like TV series, music, Web3 and more. Discord is organised around closed groups, referred to as 'servers'. To join a server, users must be invited or provided with a unique link. It's a space for users to interact with friends, meet others with shared interests and collaborate privately online – but it's also a place where young people can be exposed to risks if the right precautions aren't taken.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CYBERBULLYING

Discord's easy accessibility and connectivity, unfortunately, makes it an ideal place for cyberbullying to occur – especially as audio and video streams disappear once they've ended, meaning that bullying could take place without leaving any evidence. Closed groups can also be created, giving young people the opportunity to exclude their peers or send cruel messages without adult oversight.

DIFFICULT TO MODERATE

Like many private communication apps, Discord's real-time messaging can be difficult to control. The system enables content moderation through each individual server – so different groups can set their own rules for what's acceptable, and some groups may not monitor for unsuitable content. Anything that happens in an audio or video stream is also virtually untraceable once the stream has concluded.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord mainly hosts private groups, making it easier for unsuitable or explicit content to be shared on channels. Pornography, racism and inappropriate language can be found in some groups. Server owners are required to add an age-restriction gate to channels where 18+ content is being shared – but this solution isn't foolproof, as the platform doesn't always verify users' ages when they sign up.

ACCESSIBLE TO PREDATORS

On many chat platforms, users can lie about their age or true identity – and Discord is no exception. Predators have attempted to abuse the platform by using it to contact and communicate with underage users – by initially chatting with a child on an age-appropriate channel, for example. While Discord has improved its safety settings, some users will still try to bypass them for malicious reasons.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Discord does have strict Terms of Service and Community Guidelines to protect its users – but, sadly, not everyone adheres to them. Criminal activity including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing and extremist or violent material have all been found on Discord servers over the last two years. In 2020, Discord received almost 27,000 reports of illegal activity on the platform.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SAFETY SETTINGS

Discord has a series of safety settings, enabling users to choose who can direct message them or send them friend requests. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if the app's privacy and safety settings are configured to only allow messages or friend requests from server members. This will minimise the chances of potential predators from outside the group contacting them.

EXPLAIN AGE FILTERING

While Discord requires users to be at least 13 to sign up, many servers geared towards older users are flagged as NSFW (not safe for work), which indicates they probably contain material that's inappropriate for children. It can be easy to click through settings without properly reviewing them, so ensure your child understands why age filtering is important and that it's there to protect them.

SCREEN OUT EXPLICIT CONTENT

In the privacy and safety settings, Discord users are offered the ability to filter direct messages for inappropriate content: a setting that should be enabled if your child uses the platform. Discord automatically tries to flag images that are explicit, but the setting must be manually enabled for text. If a young user is sent explicit content in a direct message, Discord will scan and (if necessary) delete it.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's wise to regularly review your child's activity on Discord. This can include checking their safety settings to ensure they're correctly enabled, talking about which servers they've joined and reviewing some of their friends and direct messages. Ask if anything has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Things can change quickly online, so plan routine check-ins and follow up frequently.

DISCUSS GOOD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that cyberbullying or exchanging inappropriate material online can have in the real world.

HAVE CANDID CONVERSATIONS

It can sometimes be awkward to discuss topics like grooming, pornography, racism or explicit content with your child – but it's important to ensure they're aware of the harms these things can pose. Talking openly about these subjects is a great way to help your child feel more comfortable about coming to you if they experience an unwanted encounter on Discord (or anywhere else online).

Meet Our Expert

Coral Cripps is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at gmw3.com: a website specialising in all things Web3, gaming and XR (extended reality). With a focus on brands and culture, she researches and writes about the ways that our current innovations – including the metaverse and Web3 – are impacting people, places and things.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/dec/01/discord-is-a-toxic-for-gamers-and-sexual-exploitation> | <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-56422228>



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