

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 17 February 2023

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

Termly theme: Peace

Termly SJW Values – Eloquent and Truthful

This week in Weekly Worship... Pupils were introduced to Saint John Wall's Lenten Challenge. The Weekly Worship was led by our Year 7 Chaplaincy Team and reflected on the Gospel of Saint Matthew and how Jesus came to fulfil the work of the Prophets. Pupils also listened to how they can be stewards of the earth and how they have a duty to care for creation and our global family. Pupils responded by thinking about the work of CAFOD and how CAFOD can help families around the world to overcome poverty and injustice. They were shown different ways that they can help to support the charity, such as through their Big Lent Walk which Saint John Wall will be taking part in this year. Pupils were then able to go forth by thinking about the importance of supporting our global family this Lent by walking and fundraising as a community.

"I felt pride being able to talk to others in Weekly Worship about those who are less fortunate than us and how we can help them."

By Gloria Osavbie Osazemwinde 7JAS (part of Chaplaincy Team).

This week in Afternoon Prayer... Pupils prayed for the sick and for those who care for them. They also thought about acts of love and kindness that they could portray on Valentine's Day. As we are not in school next week for Ash Wednesday, pupils reflected on sin and forgiveness and what they can give up or do to help others during Lent. Towards the end of the week, pupils prayed for the sick on the Feast Day of Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto who came from Fathima in Portugal. On Friday, pupils prayed for the safety of our school community over the half term. As part of this, they reflected on all the things that went well over the last half term.

"I like afternoon prayer because it gives us time to reflect on the issues that are happening in our world."

By Ella Prescott-Hopkins 8GRE

Message from Chair of Governors

"Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness"

Last weekend I had the privilege of witnessing one of my grandchildren receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The chorus of the opening hymn, *Christ Be Our Light*, contains the words shown above. For Christians, Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. As the amount of daylight slowly increases we appreciate the important role light actually plays in our lives. It brings the first signs of Spring accompanied with a renewed sense hope, something we're all badly in need of considering the despondency caused by the horrifying Turkey-Syria Earthquake, the on-going war in Ukraine and, nearer to home, the problems presented by the cost of living crisis.

Some good news that gave us optimism for the future was Mr Luke Payton joining our governing body. Mr Payton has much experience of Catholic education and will enhance even further our strong team of governors. At his first meeting Mr Payton heard Mr Lloyd-Price provide governors with a very detailed account of Catholic Life at Saint John Wall and how we are responding to the new Framework introduced by the Catholic School Inspectorate. An area focused on was Collective Worship and in particular the prayer said right across the school marking the end of each day. Several times I've been meeting with Miss Marston when it has come around and on each occasion I have found it truly moving. Many other examples of the rich array of experiences our chaplaincy team offer pupils may be seen on our excellent website (www.sjw.bham.sch.uk).



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The news at the moment seems to be filled with protests against the government's continued reduction in funding public services. You will be aware of the cuts to budgets that schools have faced over the past ten years. Saint John Wall is no exception. Back at the start of term governors met to plan for the new financial year which begins in April. We literally went through the school budget line by line trying to find savings without diluting the quality of our pupils' education. The wise stewardship of our finances by Mr Holden and Miss Whitehouse is ensuring we receive the best value for the money we do spend. Incidentally Miss Marston mentioned how pleased she was with the co-operation and understanding shown by parents and pupils on the national strike day earlier this month.

At another recent governors' meeting Mr Holder explained how Year 11 pupils are being geared up for what lies ahead of them over the coming few months. When they return after the half-term break they'll be sitting their Mock Exams which as well as giving invaluable practice for the summer exams also provides each individual pupil with detailed information about whether or not they are meeting their targets and more importantly identifying areas they still need to improve upon. It was clear from Mr Holder that everything is being done to enable Year 11 pupils to repeat the outstanding success the school has achieved in recent years.

At the same meeting Ms Hanson showed how Year 8 pupils are not being neglected. She described the well thought-out programme of guidance and advice pupils will be offered as they choose from a broad selection of vocational and GCSE subjects to study through to Year 11. Living in Birmingham young people are spoilt for choice when it comes to the courses available from 16 years of age onwards. Ms Hanson stressed the trust parents have in what the school is doing enables each pupil to be matched to the appropriate menu of subjects he or she takes up.

Staff work extremely hard with parents to make sure pupils attend school. If absent they are challenged as to why their child isn't at school. Vindication of this strategy may be seen on our web-site which shows the school has received two prestigious awards for our excellent pupil attendance record. Congratulations to all concerned. Safeguarding is another aspect of a child's development that is taken very seriously. Mrs Crooks described the lengths the school goes to in supporting individual pupils who may be experiencing problems. In addition, Mr Holder outlined how any additional funding the school receives is being used to help our more vulnerable pupils make the progress they are capable of. Miss Timmins also reported how well pupils conduct themselves in school. She underlined how co-operating with staff enables pupils to thrive. Occasionally a pupil may be either unable or unwilling to co-operate in which case action is taken to put them back on the right path.

Please get in touch should you have any comments about what I've written. This Friday sees the start of the half-term break. On Monday 27 February pupils will return. For Year 11, as I mentioned earlier, it sees the start of the final build-up to the summer exams which begin in May. And so, until the next time I'll finish by wishing all the staff and pupils an enjoyable half-term break and end with this prayer:

Loving Father, as we come to the end of another half term, we turn to you in confidence and place any difficult relationships into the healing hands of Jesus, your Son. Enable us to leave behind any regrets and bitterness. May the holiday be for us a time of rest and relaxation, to help restore us and re-create us in your image and likeness, as we enjoy more of the love and presence of our families on whom we ask your blessing. Amen Saint John Wall, pray for us,

By Martin Jones - Chair of Governors

NEU Teacher Strike - 1 March 2023 - confirmation of arrangements

Teachers who are members of the National Education Union have voted to strike again on the following dates: Wednesday 1 March, Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March.

The school has 26 teachers who are in the NEU. We do not expect all those teachers to strike, but we will need to make some changes to pupils' education on each of the strike days if they go ahead.

Plans for Wednesday 1 March:

- **Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 10** should attend school as normal. Year 7, 8 and 10 pupils should wear their PE kit and bring their school bag and equipment.
- **Year 9** pupils have assessment week. They should attend school between 8.50am and 12.15pm. They will be able to have lunch and then go home at 12.15pm to revise in the afternoon.
- **Year 11** pupils also have mock 2 assessments. They should revise at home in the morning and then attend school between 12.00 midday and 3.10pm. Lunch will be available at 12.00 midday when pupils arrive in school.

If any additional information comes to light, I will endeavour to inform you at the earliest opportunity if the above arrangements need to change. Thankyou for your patience and cooperation with these plans.

By Miss Marston



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Important Dates to Note

- **Half Term**
Monday 20 February to Friday 24 February 2023
- **Year 11 Mock 2**
Week commencing 27 February 2023
- **National Education Union Strike Day**
Wednesday 1 March 2023
- **Year 8 Pathways and Core Parents' Afternoon**
Thursday 9 March 2023 – 2.30pm to 4pm
- **National careers week values@ day**
Friday 10 March 2023
- **Year 8 Globe Theatre Trip (45 pupils)**
Thursday 16 March 2023 – 9.30am to 7pm
- **Year 10 University of Birmingham Trip (14 pupils)**
Wednesday 22 March 2023 – 8.30am to 3.30pm
- **Year 11 Parents' Evening**
Thursday 30 March 2023 – 4pm to 6pm

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent for the Catholic Church. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him.

On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on our forehead to symbolise the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

As Ash Wednesday is taking place during half term, there will be no school service. If you would like to visit a local church to celebrate Ash Wednesday, please visit:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/Category/find-a-church?Take=30>

Some churches also offer a webcam service including St Chad's Cathedral. The webcam link can be found at the bottom of this webpage: <https://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/>

By Mr Price

Lent and Fundraising

Thankyou to all pupils, staff and parents who raised funds for us to send to the Cafod Syria/ Turkey earthquake appeal. We raised over £400 through samosa and raffle ticket sales, and non-uniform tops today.

During Lent, we are supporting CAFOD's Big Lent Walk.

Our school community will join thousands of others fundraising so that families around the world can fight the effects of the climate crisis.

We will be walking 200km as a school community throughout Lent, finishing with a whole school walk on Friday 31 March.

CAFOD is an international development charity and the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Further details at cafod.org.uk/secondary

To donate, please go to: <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/SJW>

Thank you!

By Mr Price

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, if a pupil is found in possession of an item that is perceived as a weapon, it will be reported to the Police and the Police may decide that it is necessary that the individual is arrested.

West midlands police have offered our school a unique opportunity to show that there are different jobs available within the Police force. Over the forth coming months the police sniffer dogs and handlers will be in school to show case how they are used.

By Mrs Crooks



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Year 10 Parents' Afternoon Parent Feedback

Yesterday was Year 10 parents' afternoon and parents had the opportunity to give the school feedback, here are some of the results:

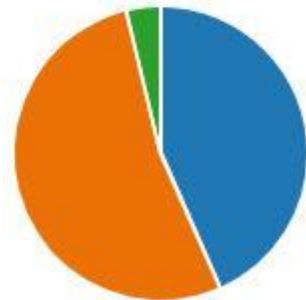
By Mrs Crooks

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

[More Details](#)

Insights

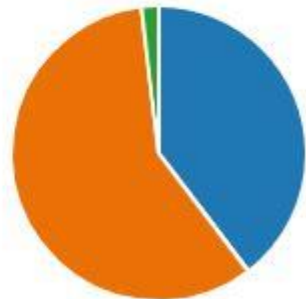
Strongly Agree	23
Agree	28
Disagree	2
Strongly Disagree	0



I understand the school report and the support in place for my child

[More Details](#)

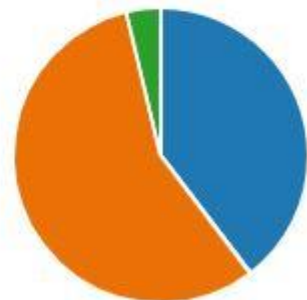
Strongly Agree	21
Agree	31
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	0



My child feels safe at school.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Agree	21
Agree	30
Disagree	2
Strongly Disagree	0



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UoB Pathways Trip

On Tuesday 14 February, pupils in Year 8 went to the University of Birmingham on an outreach trip as part of their Pathways process. The aim of this trip was to inspire the pupils in the school to consider higher education when they leave school. On the day, the pupils were introduced to university life. They completed a quiz on different aspects on university, answering questions such as what does undergraduate mean and what does Russell group mean. They then had a tour of the University of Birmingham, which has a very big campus with lots of facilities. The pupils saw Old Joe (the tallest free-standing clock in the world), Aston Webb Hall, the different sports facilities, and even the Lapworth Museum of Geology where the pupils saw some stunning crystals and even a dinosaur. The pupils then had some lunch which was provided by the University, followed by a Q&A session with students from the University. The pupils really enjoyed the day, which also would not be possible without the help of Mrs Ellis, Miss Mubashar, and Mrs France.

"It was a very interesting and fun experience, my favourite part was exploring the university." **By Armaan ali 8HAY**

"It was a very good experience and I had a good time, I enjoyed the campus tour and I learnt that university is not boring like they show in TV." **By Harit Kumar 8GRE**

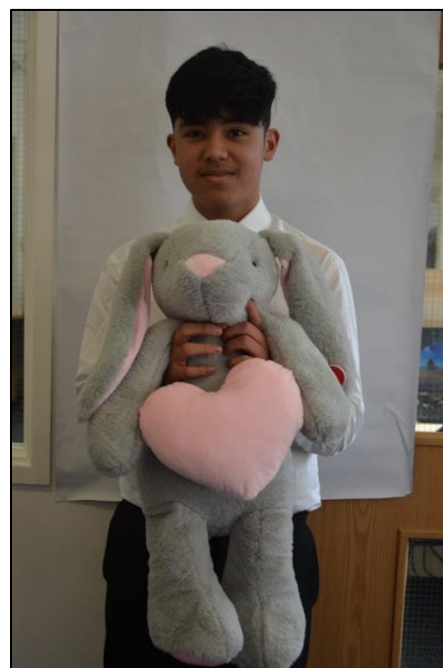
"It was a good trip, I enjoyed the food and the campus tour, I also found out that universities are really big like cities."
By Silvia Nah 8GRE

By Mr Hayaat



Raffle Winner

Well done to a Year 8 pupil whose winning raffle ticket won him a giant teddy bear. By buying meal deals on Valentine's day pupils were automatically entered into the raffle.



Coventry University STEM Visit

In a recent workshop, pupils gained a deeper understanding of the important role that ethical practices play in building a fairer and more just distribution and generation of energy, especially in combating energy poverty. The workshop covered a range of subjects related to the ethics of data management, cyber security, and the energy sector and its operation.

Throughout the workshop, pupils engaged in fun and interactive activities designed to help them grasp the complexities of the topics. These activities included group discussions, role-playing exercises, and case studies that allowed the pupils to apply what they had learned in practical scenarios.

One key area of focus in the workshop was the importance of data management and cyber security in the energy sector. Pupils explored the ethical considerations involved in managing sensitive data and how cyber security measures can be implemented to ensure that data is kept safe from potential threats.

The workshop also highlighted the need for ethical considerations in the energy sector's operations. Pupils learned about the potential impact that energy generation and distribution can have on vulnerable communities, and how ethical practices can help ensure that all communities have access to affordable and reliable energy.

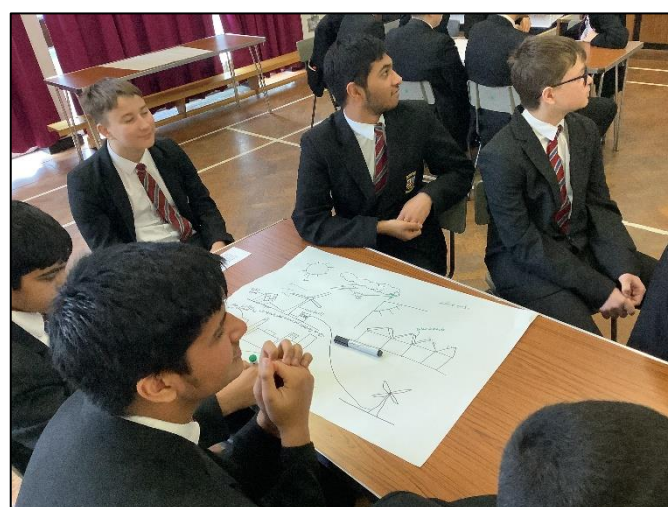
By Mr Esmaili

"This workshop about energy was really interesting to me. In computer science, we learn to 'dissect' a problem and solve it. In this workshop we were shown an actual problem in society and were given a chance to come up with ideas as to how we would have a clean green energy system. In the workshop we were also shown how new technologies such as AI are being used to fix modern problems in society."

By Ali Mirshekarikazerouni 10JON

"This workshop really helped me improve my understanding on energy and how companies are trying to create technology that distributes energy efficiently between houses. It also helped me understand what ethical issues are, the different types of ethical issues and how it could be linked to a real-life situation."

By Daniel Wainer Kodua 10JON





Year 11 Mock 2 Examinations

Period	Monday 27 February	Tuesday 28 February	Tuesday 28 February	Wednesday 1 March	Thursday 2 March	Friday 3 March	Monday 6 March	Tuesday 7 March	Wed 8 March
1 9:00 Start		Geography Paper 1 Physical 1 Hour 30 Mins	Spanish Speaking Assessments	P1 (Year 9) 9:15 - 10:15 Year 9 Science 1 hour calculators	RE Paper c1 C1 Theology 1 Hour 30 mins	RE Paper 2 C3 Judaism 1 Hour	Maths 3 F/H Calculator 1 hour 30 Mins	Geography Paper 2 Human 1 Hour 30 Mins	Art Day
Break				Break			Break		
2 and 3 10:50 Start	Maths Non Calculator F/H 1 hour 30 Mins	French L + R 1 Hour 45 mins Hospitality 1 Hour 30 Mins DT 1 Hour 45 Mins		P2 (Year 9) 10:50 – 12: 00 Year 9 Maths 50 mins calculators	History Paper 2 B4 &P4 S&EEE 1 Hour 45 Mins	Comb Science - Chemistry F/H 1 Hour 10 Mins S Science Chemistry 1 Hour 45 Mins	Spanish L + R 1 Hour 45 mins French Writing 1 Hour 15 Mins	English Lang 1 Hour 45 Mins	
Lunch				Lunch 12:00 - 12:30 Year 9 and 11			Lunch		
4 13:50 Start	GCSE PE 1 Hour Perf. Arts 1 Hour Sport 1 Hour 15 Mins	Comb Science - C - Biology F/H 1 Hour 10 Mins		P3 (Year 11) 12:30 - 13:30 English Lit 1 Hour 13:30 - 13:45 Break P4 (Year 11) 13:45 - 15:15 Maths F/H 1 hour 30 Mins Calculator	Spanish Writing 1 Hour 15 Mins Health and S C 1 Hour Music 1 Hour	History Paper 1 C&P 1 Hour 15 Mins	Comb Science - PhysicsF/H 1 Hour 10 Mins Science Physics 1 Hour 45 Mins		

Wednesday 8 March – French Speaking Assessments



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Kids can eat for 'free' or for just a quid this half term

Asda

Kids get a FREE breakfast or can get a meal for £1 every day of the week. No minimum spend required.

Beefeater and Brewers Fayre

Up to two children under 16 can eat a 'free' kids' breakfast when an adult buys a cooked breakfast for £9.50. Valid every day.

Bella Italia

Kids eat for £1 when an adult buys a main meal. Available Monday to Thursday between 4pm-6pm.

Bill's

Get a 'free' kids' meal when an adult buys a main meal. Weekdays only.

Café Rouge

Kids eat for 'free' when an adult buys a main meal. Every day from midday.

Carluccio's

When an adult purchases a main meal and mentions the code CKE1MS, kids can eat for £1.

Dunelm Pausa Café

Kids can eat for 'free' when an adult spends £4. Available Monday to Friday until cafés close.

Giraffe

If you mention the code GRKE1MS kids can eat for £1 when an adult purchases a main meal.

Ikea

Every day from 11am kids can get a main meal from 95p. No minimum spend!

M&S Café

Kids eat 'free' when an adult spend £5 in the café. The meal includes a main, side, fruit and drink!

Morrisons Café

You can get a 'free' kids' meal when an adult buys a main meal for £4.49. Valid every day until closing time!

Sizzling Pubs

Kids eat for £1 when an adult buys a main meal. Valid Monday to Friday from 3pm-7pm.

Table Table

Up to two children aged under 16 can eat a 'free' breakfast when an adult buys an unlimited cooked breakfast for £9.50. Valid every day.

Tesco Cafés

Kids eat 'free' when an adult makes a purchase in the café, and scans their Clubcard. Weekdays only.

The Real Greek

Kids under 12 can eat for 'free' on Sundays when an adult spends £10.

MoneySavingExpert



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Donations of Uniform

Do you have any items of uniform at home?

Would you like to donate them to our school?



Black school trousers -
Girls or Boys

White plain shirts

PE navy shorts
PE navy joggers



School coats

Blazers

SJW ties

Black school skirts

Any donations will be very much appreciated.



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Internet Matters six tips for keeping children safe while online gaming

internet
matters.org

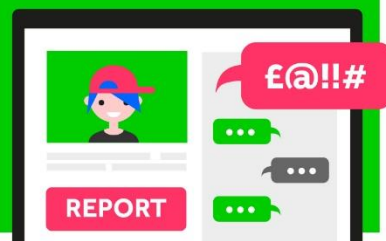


Take an active interest in the games your children are playing to get to grips with how they work and why they enjoy playing them

1

2

Ask who they play with online, who they meet and talk to, and talk about what kind of language is being used. Make sure your child knows how to do report abusive or anti-social behaviour



For younger children, use 'airplane' mode settings on your tablet or smartphone. That way, they can play offline without making accidental purchases or connecting with someone they don't know

3

4

Use PEGI ratings and App store ratings to ensure your children are playing age appropriate games. Help children understand why some games are allowed and others aren't

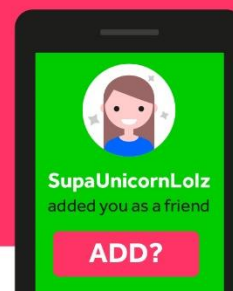


Gaming can be very addictive, so agree boundaries and how long they're allowed to play for and with whom they are allowed to play online with. Remind them that people may hide behind fake profiles and not be who they say they are

5

6

Teach your children to protect themselves by thinking critically – remind them not to share personal information and to keep gaming friends in the game only rather than adding them to their other social networks



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COME AND TRY BRING IT ON BRUM!



Suitable for children & young people aged 4-16
eligible for free school meals.

Young people and their families are encouraged to join us this
half-term at one of our **FREE** taster sessions, to learn all about
Birmingham's **FREE** Holiday Activity & Food Programme.

- Activity tasters including, Arts & Crafts, Cooking & Sports
- Signposting to further cost-of-living support services
- And much more!

**DON'T MISS OUT
THIS HALF-TERM!**

BOOK IN ADVANCE TO GET A FREE LUNCH WHEN YOU ATTEND

**TO BOOK A PLACE AT YOUR LOCAL
VENUE AND TO FIND OUT MORE GO TO:**

WWW.BRINGITONBRUM.CO.UK

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