

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 20

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 10 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 focused on Children's Mental Health Week. This week's Weekly Worship was led by our Year 9 Wellbeing Ambassadors. Pupils listened to a reading from the Gospel of Saint Matthew on the Light of the World and how they can use their own light to connect with others. Pupils responded by thinking about different individuals they connect with and how it can be hard to feel disconnected. They watched some videos on the importance of connection and were shown different ways that people have stayed connected with each other through time. Pupils were then able to go forth and think about how they were going to reconnect with someone or whether there may be someone in the community that they could reach out to. They were also reminded to think SMART when connecting with others both offline and in person.

"I find weekly worship important and helpful as it brings year groups together as a community and allows us to connect with each other and understand the importance of it."

By Deborah Fadola 9BAR

This week in Afternoon Prayer... pupils prayed for Racial Justice Sunday which was celebrated last weekend. As well as this, pupils held a moment of silence for all those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and kept those who have died, and their families, in their prayers. Pupils also prayed for Safer Internet Day which took place on Tuesday and reflected on the importance of keeping SMART online. Towards the end of the week, pupils prayed for Children's Mental Health Week which is taking place this week. They also prayed for all victims of trafficking and reflected on slavery and trafficking statistics in the UK.

"I find the afternoon prayer useful because it helps us reflect and think about people suffering around the world."

By Awais Hussain 9BAR

NEU Strike Action – Information for Parents

Thankyou for your co-operation with the changes to education on the 1 February, the first teacher strike day.

Teachers who are members of the National Education Union have also voted to strike 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.

Draft 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.

I will confirm these arrangements in next Friday's newsletter, once I have more information about the numbers of teachers who will definitely strike.

I will at all times try to minimise the impact of this strike action on the education of your children. If you have any queries, please contact me using the enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk email address

By Miss Marston



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Year 10 Parents' Afternoon

Next week Thursday 16 February is Year 10 parents' afternoon from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. I would like to urge all parents of Year 10 pupils to attend this important afternoon. You will have the opportunity to talk to teachers about your child's progress and to address any concerns you may have.

In order for parent's afternoon to take place, all other year groups will finish school between 12.30pm and 12.40pm. Pupils will be able to take their lunch with them before they leave school.

At 12.50pm, Year 10 pupils will have a grab and go lunch and will then stay on site to collect their reports and attend Parents' Afternoon. Pupils will be asked to wait in the Library for parents. If any pupils are attending on their own, they will queue up in the Hall.

Year 8 Pathways

This week, the Year 8s had a weekly worship about their pathways. This is the stage in their education where the pupils will get to take a lead in their education and choose the subjects they will be studying over the next three years. Over the next few weeks, both before and after the half term holiday, the pupils will be learning more about their pathways and be taking part in various activities to help them understand the pathways process, the different options available to them during and after their secondary school education, and ultimately help them understand what God calls them to.

As part of the pathways process, a group of pupils from Year 8 will be attending a trip to the University of Birmingham with Mr Hayaat. This will help them understand more about what university is like, the type of things they can study, the doors university can open for them, and to raise the aspirations of our pupils.

By Mr Hayaat

PE Safety Notice

For Health and Safety reasons, during PE, pupils must either:

Remove any Karas during the PE lesson

or

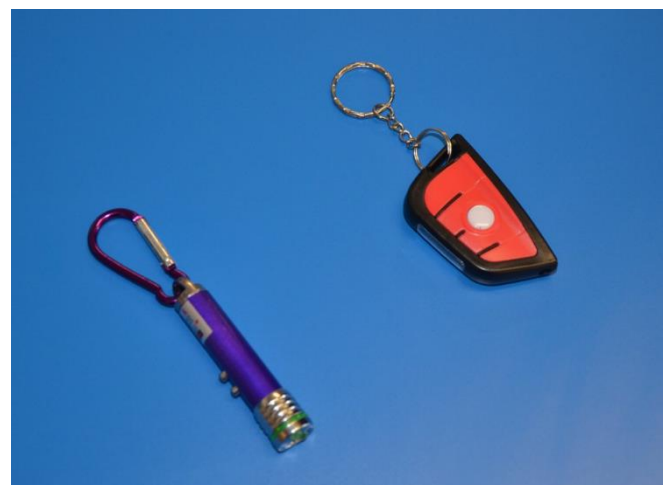
Bring and wear a sweat band that is big enough to cover it. If a pupil is unable to do either of the above they will not be able to take part in that PE lesson.



Banned Items

Lasers and laser pens are banned items. Lasers are harmful to the human eye and cause damage which may result in sight loss. Any pupil found in possession of a laser pen will be suspended in line with our behaviour policy.

By Miss Timmins



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Important Dates to Note

- **Year 8 University of Birmingham Pathways Trip (50 pupils)**
Tuesday 14 February 2023 – 8.30am to 1.45pm
- **Year 9 Retreat to Soli House (30 Pupils)**
Wednesday 15 February to Friday 17 February 2023
(Leaving at 2pm arriving back at school at 4pm on Friday)
- **Year 10 Parents' Afternoon + Invited Year 7, 8 & 9**
Thursday 16 February 2023 – 1.30pm to 3.30pm
- **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 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

St Mary's Coffee Morning

We had a visit from a Tai Chi instructor today which was very relaxing to listen to. Pupils chose to chat to the guests and help clear away tea and coffee mugs. We will be thinking about Gabriella, one of the guests who has an operation this week and wishing her a speedy recovery.

By Mrs Clayton



Easyfundraising Challenge

Did you know you can support our school by raising money every time you shop online? More than ever our education facilities need support. Your support will mean we can buy/fund additional resources for all our pupils - and it doesn't cost you or us a penny.

We're using easyfundraising, a free fundraising platform that allows us to earn money when we shop online. easyfundraising works with over 7,400 online brands, everyone from Asda, Iceland, eBay, SportsDirect, Groupon, The Range, Screwfix, M&S, Booking.com, and everything in between.

Once signed up all you need to do is start your shopping journey at the easyfundraising website, use the donation reminder or app (information will be provided when you register) and the brands you shop with will send us a donation based on how much you spend.

With the general cost of living impacting everyone, this isn't about asking you to spend more, but to make you aware that if you are making an on-line purchase anyway, booking travel or taking out insurance by using easyfundraising you can give to us at the same time, and at no additional cost to you.

22 supporters have raised nearly £30 in just over a week already.

PLUS - for a limited time only, we have been offered an additional incentive!

******Between now and 10th March easyfundraising will give us £1 for every new supporter if we can get at least 20 supporters - WITH NO UPPER LIMIT, so 100 is £100, 200 = £200 and so on****** so now is the ideal time to do it!

So please support us today at <http://efraising.org/KZMj7g6FzZ> it only takes 2 minutes and all you need is your email address.

Share with your friends and family – the more the merrier to help us take full advantage of the additional incentive by **10th March**.



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PE House Competition

Wow! What an amazing first PE house competition of 2022/23 here at Saint John Wall. It has been great to see so many pupils engaged in the variety of football activities and participating in encouraging others during this week. I have seen many of you demonstrate our values such as learned and wise, curious and active during this week's events. Due to the success of our extra-curricular x band vs y band matches, we will be hosting another tournament in the summer term up at hilltop - keep your eyes open for updates on this!

The national schools football week organisers have donated us two brand new footballs which we will be giving as prizes to 2 pupils who have demonstrated great teamwork, participation and sportsmanship in this week's events. The results of all our games will be published in next week's newsletter along with a congratulations to our winners of the footballs chosen by the PE department. A big well done to everyone who has taken part from the PE department.

By Miss Young



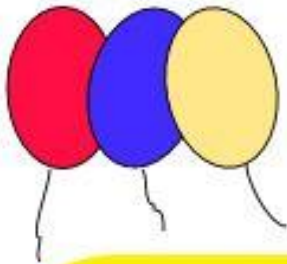


Year 11 Yearbook

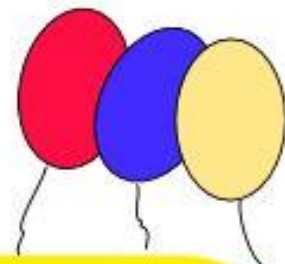
Memories of
your time
at SJW

Only
£12

Includes
Comments
and
Photographs



Class of 2023



Payments are now being accepted!

The overall cost of the yearbook is **£12**
You can pay in 2 instalments of £6 each.
Payment to be made at the school office.

Place your order by Friday 17 February



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Birmingham
City Council

Department
for Education

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

SCAN HERE



@BRINGITONBRUM



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Set Up Safe

Helping parents keep their children safe online.

internet
matters.org

We've designed a simple checklist to give you peace of mind regarding your child's safety on the internet.

Set your children's device up before you give it to them so you know they're safe online as soon as they start playing.



Get started



Set parental controls on your broadband to prevent your children seeing things they shouldn't



For smart phones check parental controls are also set up on the mobile network

Set up the device safely



Use the device setting so you can only download age appropriate apps and games



Disable location services so your child doesn't unintentionally share their location with others



Set up password control or disable in-app purchasing so big bills are not run up accidentally



Download age appropriate apps you're happy for your child to use

Talk about staying safe



If your children are 8-10 years old, download our parent / child Internet Matters app to help you talk about e-safety issues in an interactive way.



Be aware of key issues and how to discuss them with your children so they know how to stay safe online



If your child is using social networking apps check their profile and privacy settings, making sure they are not sharing personal or private information with people they do not know



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ARE YOUR BILLS TOO HIGH?

IS YOUR HOME REALLY HARD TO HEAT?

You could be eligible for the
Home Upgrade Grant Scheme (HUGS)
up to £25,000

Available for home owners with electric heating

Don't miss out on how your home can benefit from:

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High Retention Storage Heaters
Double-glazing
External Doors
Loft Insulation
Solar PV
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Air-source Heat Pumps



For further information call 0121 440 3500 or email info@mecctrust.com

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