

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 39

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 21 July 2023

**Catholic Life - This year we are focusing on 'The Year of Sanctuary'.
Termly theme: Option for the Poor/Parable of the Great Banquet
Termly SJW Values – Curious and Active**

Message from Chair of Governors

"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."

While the effects of the Covid pandemic may have lessened, Saint John Wall School has still had to face many challenges since September. The continued rise in the cost of materials and fuel, strikes (involving teachers and local bus-drivers), heavy snow further disrupting travel and more recently an Ofsted inspection are just a few. As chair of governors I want to thank Miss Marston and all her colleagues and, of course, our pupils for how they have overcome whatever hurdles they've been faced with and to parents for their support and co-operation. A special mention for Mr Holder who whenever Miss Marston has been called away to support other Catholic schools has taken over the running of the school so well.

No stone was left unturned when six (yes six!) Ofsted inspectors paid us a visit last month. The lead inspector's verbal feedback confirmed what a great school we have and how we are outstanding in so many ways. It was especially gratifying to hear him heap praise on all the staff and pupils who he acknowledged make Saint John Wall such a wonderful place to work and learn in. Congratulations to Miss Marston, all the staff and to our pupils. Once the t's have been crossed and the i's dotted you'll be able to read the report for yourselves.

In the Friday letter issued on 30 June you'll find a full account of the ceremony in which Barbara and Denise from the Birmingham team presented us with the School of Sanctuary Award. Pupil leaders from Year 7 outlined the work they'd done, watched on-line by the rest of the school.

This week in Afternoon Prayer... "We prayed for the end of the school year. We gave thanks to our teachers and our friends. Even though we have had challenges as a community, we have pushed through and have been successful. We prayed our Saint John Wall School Prayer and asked that all pupils are guided and are able to hear God's message. We also prayed for the Great Banquet, that we do not get distracted and that we always accept what the Lord is asking. We prayed for the poor and thought about always taking time out to serve them. Finally, we prayed for the safety and wellbeing of all staff and pupils over the summer, that we all come back refreshed and willing to learn.

By Veer Kaura 8GRE



SJW Values



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It brought things full circle as when I taught here in the 1980s the school welcomed pupils whose families had been displaced by the Vietnam War and had settled in Handsworth. Saint John Wall has always been and always will be a school for all.

The week before I was delighted to be able to attend Year 11's final Mass, celebrated by Father Subba. The pupils took part respectfully and reverentially on this special occasion. Afterwards, as well as enjoying the array of refreshments that had been laid on, they were able to say goodbye to their fellow pupils and the staff who had cared for them over the past five years. I wish all of Year 11 the very best for the future and look forward to hearing more good news on the third Thursday in August.

Full coverage of these two events and many others the school has celebrated may be found on our superb website where you'll see that over the last three terms a lot has been going on.

Inevitably the end of each school year is tinged with a little sadness as we bid farewell to staff that are leaving us. In particular we say goodbye to Mrs Harms who is retiring after 17 years of service at Saint John Wall and many more in other schools. On behalf of the governors I wish to express our gratitude to her and indeed all who are moving on for their hard work. They leave with our very best wishes for the future. I hope Saint John Wall will always hold a place in their hearts.

Soren Kierkegaard's quote at the top of this report shows us that while it is important to reflect on and learn from the past, life goes on. So, looking ahead I hope the rain of July relents and everyone has a really wonderful summer holiday. Until the next time I'll end with this prayer:

Loving Father, as another school year ends, we give thanks for all we have learnt, for the help we've received and for the friends we have made. We pray for the well-being of those staff and pupils who are leaving us. We pray for a happy holiday time for all, for good weather and safety for those who travel. May we continue to grow in faith and hope and love.

Amen

Saint John Wall. Pray for us.

By Martin Jones, Chair of Governors

Headteacher's Message

This has been an extraordinary year, with disruption from weather and strike action, and ending with the school having an Ofsted inspection. Unfortunately, the final report has not yet been sent to school, so I won't be able to share it with you until after the summer holidays. However, once you receive it, I am sure you will agree that the inspection was successful. Thankyou to all staff, pupils and parents for your dedication, patience and co-operation this year.

As usual, at this time of year, we are saying goodbye to a few staff. Miss Ali and Miss Jordan have helped out temporarily with cover and lessons in science and art, and we wish them both the best for the future. Mr Barnes has taught at the school for 3 years, beginning with us as a trainee and successfully completing his ECT years. Mr Barnes is moving to a school nearer home, and we wish him good luck in his new job. Mr Woodward and Miss Lake have both taught at Saint John Wall for 6 years. Mr Woodward has capably led the Geography department and also taken many pupils on trips and visits, including Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Mr Woodward will be teaching abroad next year, and we wish him all the best in his new school. Miss Lake has been Second in the English Department and helped to develop the skills of English Mastery teaching. Miss Lake also coordinated all the teacher training and professional development for new teachers this year. Miss Lake will be teaching abroad next year, and we wish her all the best in her new adventure. Mrs Harms has taught at Saint John Wall for 17 years, and been Second in RE for a number of those years. Mrs Harms has positively influenced many pupils over her years of service and will be retiring. We wish her all the best for her retirement.

Have a safe and restful summer holiday.

By Miss Marston



"After six incredible years of teaching English at Saint John Wall, it's time for me to say goodbye. I want to firstly thank my amazing pupils; you've made every day so rewarding with your enthusiasm and curiosity. It's been an honour to watch you grow and learn. And I am so appreciative for being a part of the loveliest department! I'll miss our daily laughs and shared passion for teaching. Lastly, big thanks to the brilliant leadership team, you've created a supportive and inspiring environment for all of us. This is a truly special school and I will miss you all."

By Miss Lake





"Working as a Cover Teacher/ GCSE Art Teacher/Admin Support and assisting in various other roles in the school has been an immensely gratifying experience. It has allowed me to develop a versatile teaching approach and provided me with a deeper understanding of the school's functioning. This experience has strengthened my passion for teaching Art, and I am eager to continue making a positive impact on pupils' lives and contributing to their growth and wellbeing in my new school. Thank you SJW." By Miss Jordan



"It has been a pleasure working at Saint John Wall Catholic School. Thanks for the continuous support, advice and encouragement from the colleagues and the Science department. I have learnt new skills that will enhance my teaching skills, professional and personal development. I am grateful for the opportunities SJW has given me and it's sad to be leaving. Once again, I really thank you all." By Miss Ali



"In September after over 30 years of teaching, I shall be retiring. The last 16 years, teaching at Saint John Wall, have been the highlight of my career. The school has a very special atmosphere due to the unique blend of people that God has put together there. I have enjoyed teaching RE immensely and am proud of the achievements of the department across the years. However, I feel that education is about more than the academic so my fondest memories are of Alton Castle trips, sports days, Easter hat competitions, witness week activities and some beautiful services and Masses. I am looking forward to spending more time with my grandchildren in retirement but will be thinking of you all from time to time and praying for God's blessings on the school in the future."

By Mrs Harms



"As my time at Saint John Wall comes to an end after six memorable years in this incredible school, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude. Thank you to the staff and pupils for your enthusiasm and friendship. I will always cherish the memories and connections I have made. Best wishes to all as I embark on a new journey, and I hope our paths cross again in the future. Farewell with many thanks and good luck to you all."

By Mr Woodward

Results Day Information

Results day is on Thursday 24 August 2023.

Year 11 results will be available to collect from 10am to 12pm.

Other year groups results are available at 11am.

September 2023 Start Dates

September 2023 start dates are as follows:

- Monday 4 September 2023 - Teacher Training Day
- Tuesday 5 September 2023 - Teacher Training Day
- Wednesday 6 September 2023 – Year 7 and Year 11 pupils in school.
- Thursday 7 September 2023 – All year groups in school.



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Year 7 Gullivers World

Monday 17 July 2023

We had a wonderful day in Gullivers World on Monday, with pupils spending time on the rides and roller coasters as well as visiting all the attractions.

By Mrs Ellis



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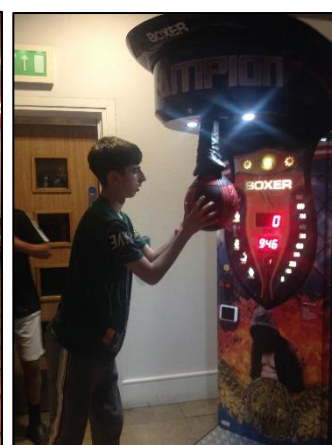
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Year 9 Weston Super Mare

Monday 17 July 2023

To finish our year, we had the pleasure of taking Year 9 pupils to West Super Mare on Monday. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by staff and pupils. Behaviour was impeccable on the coach as well as on the beach and pier. In the morning pupils were able to go onto the beach to play football, cricket, build sandcastles as well as flying kites. The tide was out but we still managed to have some pupils come back covered in wet sand. In the afternoon, we went to the pier, pupils were able to play games go on some rides and buy some gifts. There were comments by the members of the public about how well our pupils behaved and showed lovely manners. A big thank you to all staff/pupil coaches who came and supported what was a wonderful day out. **By Mrs Chand**



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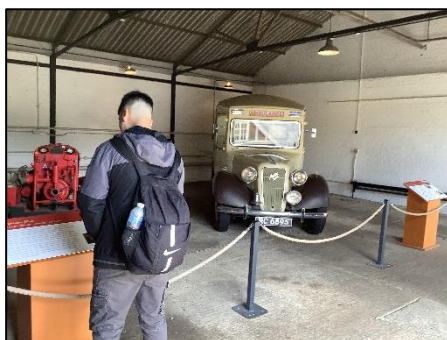


London Trip – Computing & Enterprise Monday 17 July 2023 & Tuesday 18 July

This week, Year 9 Computer Science, IT and Enterprise pupils got to enjoy an overnight visit to London. The trip began with a tour around Bletchley Park, home to some of the machines that cracked the Enigma code in WW2 and one of the birthplaces of the modern computer. We then went on to visit the National Science Museum where pupils got to see such exhibits as the Mathematics Winton Gallery, Information Age and Explore Space. We were also able to hop off and take a few pictures outside Buckingham Palace and were able to see the Royal Guards on patrol.

The second day was a visit to the Staines-Upon-Thames branch of the international software firm IFS (Industrial and Financial Systems). Pupils were given talks about how the firm works and some of the main jobs and customers they have. Pupils had the opportunity to present to IFS employees what they had learnt about the past and possible future of Computing and Enterprise. Congratulations to the winning Team who won the opportunity to drive a lap in the hi-tech Formula 1 Simulation Experience. We want to take this opportunity to thank IFS for sponsoring the trip and allowing the pupils the chance to see London, visit the IFS offices and learn more about the world of Computing and Enterprise.

By Mr Rathbone



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In School Activities

Monday 17 July 2023

On Monday, Year 8 participated in a day focusing on healthy body. They were encouraged to try sports they wouldn't normally try. Pupils played blind football in the hall, they played tag rugby outside. Two groups of pupils even had the chance to visit a local gym (Domin8) and attempt martial arts – there are places still available for their summer camp!

By Mr Lloyd-Price



Well done to Year 10 pupil Natalia Budna, who helped take photographs of the day's events as part of her work experience at SJW.



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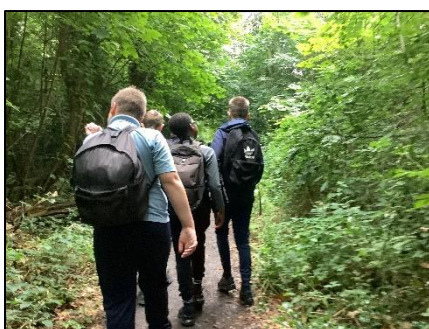


Year 7 Sandwell Valley

Tuesday 18 July 2023

It was a pleasure spending time with Year 7 on Tuesday at Sandwell Valley. While we all got wet, we still enjoyed our time together going for a long walk through nature and then pupils enjoying time in the park.

By Mrs Ellis



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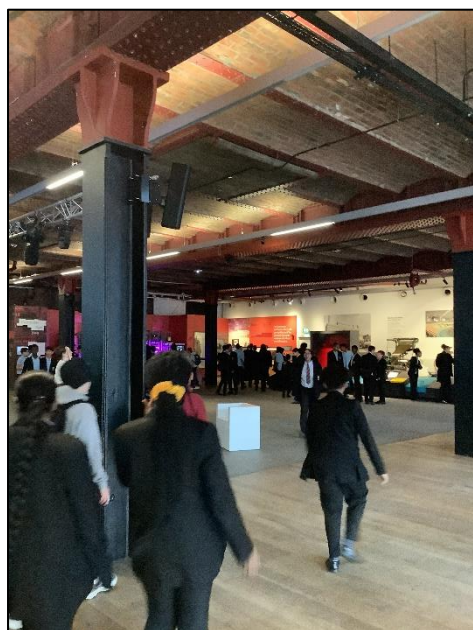
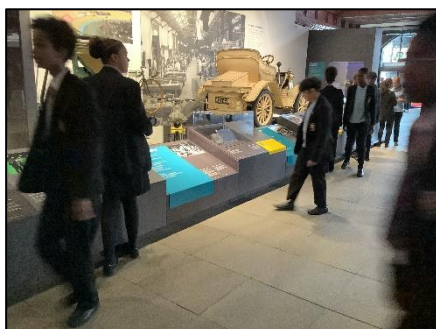
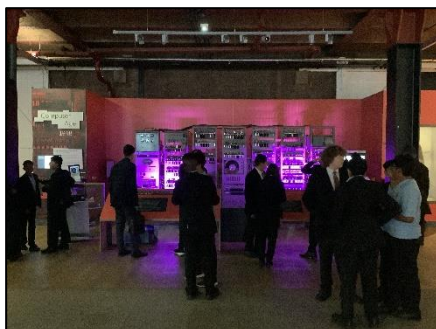
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Year 8 STEM Trip

Tuesday 18 July 2023

Year 8 pupils went to the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester to learn about the role the UK had in the industrial revolution. They learnt about how Birmingham helped to develop the steam engine and how those powered factories in Manchester, which played a big part in the development of the cotton industry. The pupils got to see one of the world's first computers, developed at the University of Manchester, and also got to see different types of energy in action on the science exploration floor. **By Mr Hayaat**



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In School Activities

Tuesday 18 July 2023

Year 9 welcomed Loudmouth, The Talent Foundry and Aquarius. Loudmouth led a performance and workshop looking at healthy relationships and how to spot signs of abuse. Pupils explored the dangers of alcohol and drugs in the workshop led by Aquarius. The Talent Foundry led an enterprise workshop where pupils were able to design a new product which responded to a particular issue in society. **By Mr Lloyd-Price**



Well done to Year 10 pupils Elizabeth Mpesi, Darren Okonwo, Lovinnia Rose and Cairo Hubert who helped take photographs of the day's events as part of their work experience at SJW.



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Fete Day

Wednesday 19 July 2023

We celebrated our annual fete day on Wednesday. Stalls included: throw a sponge at the teacher (Mr Barnes!), hook a duck, snacks, pizza and let's not forget the ice cream van!

We raised £270 – half will be given to St Augustine's Catholic Church and half will go towards our Christmas show.

By Mr Lloyd-Price



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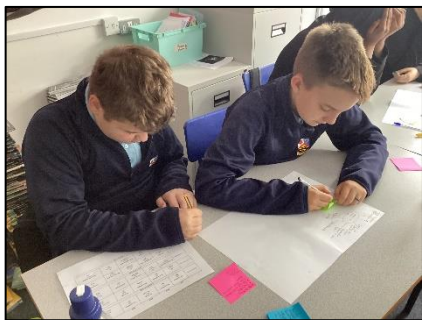
SMSCV Day

Thursday 20 July 2023

SMSCV (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural and Vocational Development) Day allows our pupils to develop and grow ready to contribute to society when they are older.

Pupils enjoyed a variety of workshop including:

- Online safety led by Libby from Sex, Lies and Love
- First Aid led by Red Cross
- Prison Me No Way working with Year 9
- PC Manns talking about drugs and stop and search
- Fit for Kids looking at healthy body



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Community Card Delivery

Friday 21 July 2023

Today, pupils delivered summer holiday cards to our local community. Pupils posted the cards to all residents in the vicinity of school to wish residents a happy summer holidays.



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End of Year Service

Friday 21 July 2023

Today the school came together to celebrate the end of term through a service of music, drama and dance. We were reminded of the great banquet and how we can include others being children of God. We also celebrated the end of Witness Week with some fantastic photos of all the activities from this week. All who participated did a fantastic job! Thank you to Mrs Ellis, Mr Lysaght and Miss Antonucci for your contributions.

By Mrs Crooks



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End of Term Competition

Friday 21 July 2023

As part of an end of term competition forms were invited to nurture a tomato plant to see how many flowers they would have by the end of term! I'm pleased to report 10 HAL have grown 16 flowers and are the winners! I must also tell you about the adventure the tomato plant from 7JAS went on...

It was dropped by Mr Greedy in front of traumatised 7JAS pupils, as it was starting to blossom, Mr Jasat had to recoup, repot and re-motivate the plant to grow again from just a stem with no soil or home! It then suffered a school-wide kidnapping, which it survived and here is the evidence!

9WOO's tomato plant has even turned into a completely different plant!

By Mrs Crooks



10HAL Winners



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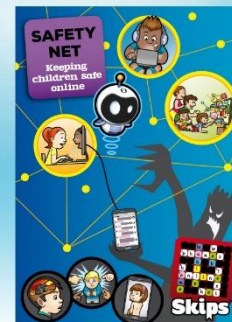
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Summer holidays – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

School's out for summer!

It's always best to be prepared

During the summer holidays, without the distraction of school, internet usage for many young people can increase all the way up to September. This guide is designed to help parents with a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games. Please click on each image below for more information.



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school if you would like to attend a parents internet safety workshop or have any concerns.

Schools please [contact us](#) if you would like a SKIPS Safety Net session delivered to your parent groups or staff.

Skips Educational

Web: www.skipssafetynet.org
Email: info@skips.com
Tel: +44 121 227 1941

142 Newton Road
Great Barr
Birmingham B43 6BT

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Developed in partnership with



Skips

Keeping children safe online

www.skipssafetynet.org



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Bring it on Brum

INCLUDES A FREE MEAL

SUP PRESENTS

**BOYS & GIRLS
AGES 8-16**

**SUMMER
ACTIVITIES**

**TIMES
12:00PM-4:00PM**

**MUAY THAI, FOOTBALL
FITNESS & SPORTS**

**WEEK 1
MON 31 JULY - THUR 3 AUG**

**WEEK 2
MON 7 AUG - THUR 10 AUG**

**WEEK 3
MON 14 AUG - THUR 17 AUG**

PICK UP REGISTRATION FORM FROM THE GYM OR EMAIL info@sup.co.uk OR REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.BRINGITONBRUM.CO.UK](http://www.bringitonbrum.co.uk)
DOMIN8 ACADEMY - UNIT 13, RALEIGH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, CAMP LANE, BIRMINGHAM B21 8JF



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PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE 6 WEEKS SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2023



moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

TESCO

Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from Mon 24th July - Fri 1st September 2023

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

M&S

Free Kid's Munch Meal when you spend £5+ on non-kids food or drink at M&S Cafés

TRAVELODGE

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays & up to 2 Kids get free breakfast with 1 adult breakfast

PREMIER INN

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 & get one free kids meal all day, every day. FREE Crumpets also available

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

BILLS

2 kids eat FREE Monday - Friday from Monday 24th July - Friday 1st Sept 2023

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

SA BRAINS PUBS

Children can eat for £1 with any adult main. Valid All Day Wednesdays

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

YO! SUSHI

From Mon 17th of July until Fri 11th of Aug kids eat free with every £10 adult spend

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

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