

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 11

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 25 November 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

Loving God, we lift all victims of violence to you. We ask you to give them your love and protection. We ask for your courage and strength, so we can speak up against the violence inflicted upon your precious people. Help us to see situations where violence is taking place and give us wisdom to know how to act. Heavenly Father, we lift every girl and woman to you who has suffered or witnessed violence. We pray for justice in each of these situations and provision for a safe place where they can find healing. Amen

Important Dates to Note

- **Year 7 and Year 9 Assessment Week**
Monday 28 November 2022 to Friday 2 December 2022
- **Christmas Variety Performance and Exhibition**
Monday 12 December and Tuesday 13 December, 5.00 – 6.00pm. This is a ticketed event.
- **Year 7 and Year 9 Parents' Afternoon**
Wednesday 14 December 2022 – 1pm to 3.30pm
- **Christmas Jumper Day and Reading Relay**
Thursday 15 December 2022
- **Christmas Holiday**
Friday 16 December 2022
- **Inset Day – School Closed to all Pupils**
Tuesday 3 January 2023
- **School Opens**
Wednesday 4 January 2023

Christmas Variety Performance & Exhibition

We are putting on a Christmas Variety Performance and Exhibition on 12 and 13 December for parents to attend and see not only performing arts but other departments' work. This will be a ticketed event; tickets will be available soon. We look forward to seeing you there.

By Miss Antonucci

Free Winter Food Boxes, first come first served

As part of the winter Bring it on Brum! programme supported by the Department of Education and Birmingham City Council; we are pleased to offer families the opportunity to request a winter food box.

[REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE FOOD BOX HERE](#) Live from Wednesday 23 November, registrations will close on Wednesday 30 November or when all available food boxes have been allocated.

One food box is available for each eligible household (not one per child). Eligible households must have at least one child or young person eligible for benefits-related free school meals living there. You will need to enter the details of one eligible child in order to register for a food box.



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Year 7 and Year 9 Assessment Week

Period	Monday 28 November	Tuesday 29 November	Wednesday 30 November	Thursday 1 December	Friday 2 December
1 09:15		Year 9 English Lang 1 hour	Year 9 Computer Science (9B) 1 hr	Year 9 RE 1 hr	
			Year 9 French Reading (9B) 45 mins		
		Year 9 Health and SC (9B) 1 hr			
		Year 9 IT (9B) 1 Hour			
Break					
2 10:50	Year 7 Maths Non-Calculator 45 mins	Year 9 Child Development (9C) 45 Mins	Year 9 Maths 45 Mins Non-Calculator	Year 9 Enterprise (9A 9C) 1 Hour	
		Year 9 Spanish Reading (9C) 1 Hour			
3 12:05	Year 9 History (9A 9B 9C) 1 hr	Year 9 PE (9A) 1 Hour	Year 9 Geography (9A 9B 9C) 50 mins		Year 9 Catering (9B) 2 hours 30 mins Practical in T1
		Y9 Sport (9A) 1 Hour			
Lunch					
4 13:50	Year 9 Science (Combined) 1 hour Calculators	Year 7 RE 50 mins	Year 7 Science Calculator 1 hour	Year 7 English 1 hour	Year 9 Catering (9B) 2 hours 30 mins Practical in T1
	Year 9 Science Biology (9C) 1 hour Calculators				



Catholic Life

St Mary's Coffee Morning

We've had another really busy morning at St Mary's as it was the Christmas pottery session. Pupils have been able to create their own Christmas decoration from clay and decorate it with all things sparkly! We also had time read some poetry, one of which was about carers which is below. Pupils should be very proud of how well they read their poems as there are quite often a great number of guests present for coffee and cake.

Mrs Clayton

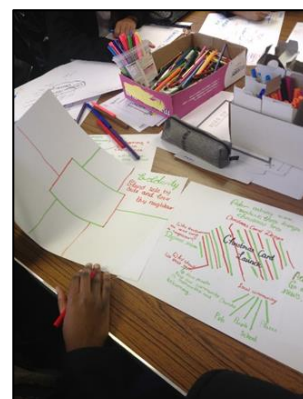
Carers are like Angels, their hearts are warm and pure, they give all their support, without prejudice for sure. My wife gives her love, to her brother who's in need, Bob can be so demanding, making her heart bleed. Sometimes just being there, is simply just very nice, offering a warm comforting smile, and a little advice. Often people are lost, so it's nice to see a friendly face, there is those who need help, in getting about the place. A carers job is huge, varied and a rewarding task, so if you've got a heart, and want to help, just ask.

Peter Stockdale.



Year 7 Chaplaincy Team Mrs Ellis and Mr Lysaght

Pupils in Year 7 have been working on launching this year's Christmas Card Competition. We met and discussed the importance of Community and how important it is that members of our local parish receive a Christmas Card from Saint John Wall. When speaking about community, we also reflected on the importance of Solidarity and The Good Samaritan. Pupils spoke about what the Christmas Cards should look like and how they will come together as a team to promote the competition.



Year 7 Chaplaincy Team Trip to Alton Castle

This month our team also visited Alton Castle to learn about leadership and teamwork. The group had a great day and came back with lots of ideas. Thank you to Miss Reynolds for accompanying the team.

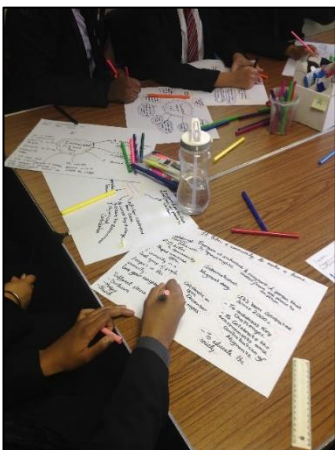


Year 8 One World Team

The One World Team have become Active Travel Ambassadors this month! The team are working alongside Transport Birmingham to design and deliver a campaign encouraging pupils to travel actively, safely and considerately. They will also raise awareness of the benefits of this. The group met with Alice Dale, who will be coming into school throughout the year to encourage our pupils on the project that they choose and help them to put a bid together for funding.

Year 8 Sanctuary Team – International Migrant's Day

Pupils in Year 8 have been exploring International Migrant's Day together. We came together and read a short piece on what International Migrant's Day is and why it is important to celebrate it. As a group, the pupils spoke about the importance of the local Community, specifically thinking about who and what is in our local Community. We then discussed examples of migration that we see every day, remembering that it takes a community to make our home. These examples were put into a paperchain by the pupils.



Year 7 Trip to Saint Teresa's Parish Church

Year 7 visited St Teresa's Parish Church in Perry Barr and attended weekday Mass. It was a very wet and blustery day, but all our pupils enjoyed the quiet stillness of the Mass, and had the opportunity to meet with the Parish Priest afterwards. We look forward to visiting again next month.

Year 7 Visit to Saint Chad's Sanctuary

We attended Saint Chad's Sanctuary in the heart of Birmingham this month and were given a tour of the charity, even joining in on a team meeting! Pupils were able to ask lots of questions about the lives of refugees and asylum seekers, as well as find out more about the charity from the volunteers who work there.

Year 7 will fund raise throughout Advent for Saint Chad's Sanctuary. For more details, look at the Head of Year Section in this newsletter.



Chapel at lunch time

This month, pupils have taken part in a range of different activities in the Chapel including celebrating **World Youth Day, reflecting about remembrance and other CAFOD inspired activities.**

Last week, we celebrated World Youth Day. The theme of this year's day was 'Rise Up' and allows us to reflect on standing up, finding strength and helping others to 'Rise Up' too. Pupils took part in different 'Rise Up' activities such as thinking about what they want for themselves as individuals, for their lives and for the world around them. As well as this, pupils did some bunting colouring and also took part in a 'Young People can change the world' debate.





Remembrance Day

On Friday 11 November, pupils focused on the importance of Remembrance. As part of this, pupils coloured in some poppies and wrote down what Remembrance meant to them. As well as this, pupils completed a Remembrance style word search, discussing key words around the importance of this day.

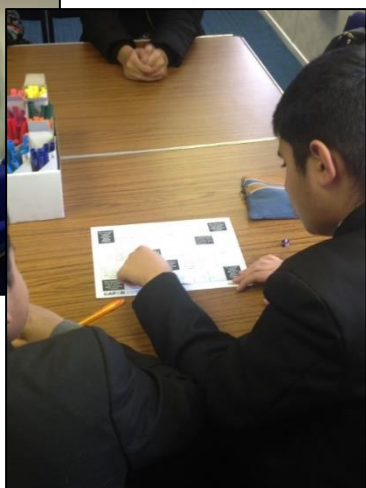


CAFOD Activities

This month, pupils have also taken part in a lot of CAFOD activities, exploring world issues such as poverty. One activity that pupils took part in was 'Sometimes, Always, Never', looking at how their lifestyle can have an impact on the planet and what they can do to change it up.

Pupils also took part in an education board game looking at how poverty can stop some children from attending school. This board game explored many issues such as sickness, the importance of crops and the role of the government.

Pupils also took part in an Unfair memory game. This is where pupils had to try and memorise as many items in a box before it was taken away. Pupils then discussed what connected all the items on the tray together, with the discussion focusing on where injustices exist in the world



Mindfulness

For the past few Mondays, there has been a focus on Mindfulness in the Chapel. #HelloYellow resources from Young Minds were used to encourage pupils to begin a conversation and have a discussion. Many discussions were had around topics such as the voting age, smoking and the use of technology in school.



Pumpkin Reflection

This month, pupils also had the opportunity to come into the Chapel to reflect and write on the pumpkin. Pupils had the opportunity to write the name of a person, group of people, or activity that leads them to do good. We were then able to pray for everyone in our school community and give thanks for those who support us.





Year 8

Head of Year Messages

Head of Year 7 and Year 8 Message

Year 7

This month Year 7 were invited to **Reach Out** in our Anti-Bullying Campaign. The theme of Reach Out came about following consultation with teachers and pupils by the Anti-Bullying Alliance which coordinates Anti-Bullying Week every year in England and Wales. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes. The whole school started off the week by wearing odd socks to highlight the importance that we are all unique.

Bullying affects millions of lives and can leave us feeling hopeless. But it doesn't have to be this way. If we challenge it, we can change it. And it starts by reaching out.

That's why I would like all parents and carers to talk to our pupils regularly about the importance of celebrating everyone's uniqueness and why we should show kindness to all. As a school we are focussing this term of the kindness of the Good Samaritan.

'But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.' Luke 10:33-34

We must remember that although we may not always get along with one another, a kind act goes a long way to supporting friendships in the future.

In response to the question, who is my neighbour?' Year 7 will also be fundraising for a local charity called Saint Chad's Sanctuary this Advent. We are inviting each pupil in Year 7 to bring in an item of non-perishable food over the next three weeks so that we can hit our target of 130 food items by Christmas. We hope that everyone will be able to take part in this fundraiser which will help so many families within our city.

November 14-18 was Road Safety Week and our One World Group have started working alongside the Department for Transport to become Active Travel Ambassadors. Their mission is to make the journey to school for all our pupils a happier, healthier and safer one.

Throughout the year the One World Group will design and deliver a campaign encouraging pupils to travel actively, safely or considerately. They also hope to raise awareness of the benefits of travelling actively, safely and considerately. All pupils across the school were invited to take part in a survey this week on how they travel to and from school and consider how they would prefer to come to school if they had a choice. It was amazing to see so many considerate responses from our pupils, with many reflecting on the current climate crisis and global warming, opting to prefer to walk or cycle to school as their preferred mode of transport, in the hopes that they can do that in the future.

This term we have asked pupils to live in solidarity with their neighbour. One way that they can achieve this is through considering those around the world who are impacted by climate change, and how, through active travel, they can begin to reduce the use of fossil fuels. Every little helps!

We are also calling on all pupils from Year 8-11 to support our Advent campaign, which this year is for local charity SIFA Fireside.

In Birmingham, many adults are homeless or vulnerably housed with the true figures often unknown due to the hidden homelessness that's associated with sofa surfing, modern slavery and individuals not making themselves known.

SIFA Fireside supports clients in their recovery from the effects of homelessness. From essential services such as the Adult Support Hub, Tenancy Support Services and the essential needs met through their Drop-in Centre, SIFA Firesides range of services exist not to 'throw money at the issues' but to stand by people while they rebuild their lives with safety and dignity.

We hope that you can help to support this amazing local charity by donating the following: **Instant meals, canned meals, porridge, baked beans, chocolate bars, cereal bars, biscuits, crisps, coffee, sugar, bottled water, socks, jogging bottoms, jackets, roll matts, toiletries, trainers, plastic carrier bags.**

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me' Matthew 25: 35

By Mrs Ellis



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Year 9

A big well done to all the Year 9 pupils this term showing compassion leading up to their assessment week which begins on Monday 28 November. Pupils have been working hard to ensure that they do and try their best during this term. Staff have also worked hard to provide revision booklets for pupils to use prior to sitting their assessments. In order to be prepared, please make sure you are having a good night's rest, having breakfast, making sure your uniform and equipment is ready for the day.

Last Thursday the theme for Year 9 on Values@Day was how we can be a Good Samaritan and look after those around us. This included: A session on online safety looking at the difference between banter and bullying. A workshop on sexting and online privacy led by 2020 Dreams. Cinema in education session using TenTen's session on peer pressure. Stand Against Violence led a workshop focusing on Violence Awareness. Saint John Wall staff led a session looking at unhealthy relationships. Pupils were excellent during this day with their behaviour and listening to some very thought-provoking topics.

Last week the pupils took part in Anti-Bullying week and this was started off on Monday by wearing odd socks. Pupils also had a weekly worship about bullying and the affect it can have on others.

As we know it is getting colder and darker at the end of the school day, please can parents ensure that pupils are wearing sensible school shoes coming into school as well as wearing a warm coat. Pupils are reminded to go straight home at the end of the day if they are not part of any afterschool club to ensure they are going home safely.

As always please stay safe and look after each other.

By Mrs Chand

Year 10

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to our year group for the behaviour that you have displayed over the last few weeks. You have shown that you are compassionate and mature leaders.

I would also like to say thank you to everyone for ensuring your uniform is of the highest standard, as mentioned recently in our weekly worship. I know as a year group we are leading the way on uniform, but there are a few pupils in our year that need to remember to tuck their shirt in, but the majority of you are getting it right first time so well done.

You made a strong effort during Remembrance week by being respectful and contributing during form time, and I am proud of the leadership shown by Year 10 pupils.

During this month we had our first Values@ day and our focus was on choices. You were brilliant in your sessions, and showed you were engaged and motivated by asking responsible questions and giving mature answers. It was good to hear all the positive feedback from pupils and staff, and we all look forward to our next Values@ day next term.

Earlier this month you received your assessment results and reports. I am pleased to say a number of pupils were very happy with how they performed but there are others that need to start focusing more on their work. You need to make lifestyle changes going forward in order to help you prepare for exams, this includes sleep patterns, time management plans and revision strategies. It is vitally important that you use the results that you received to motivate you further, this will help indicate what you need to work on for the next set of assessments. Your next set of examination homework booklets will be given out to you from 5 December onwards and your assessment week is at the end of January 2023.

At the end of each school day, it is important that all pupils go straight home as the weather is cold and it is getting dark early - be Safe, Just and Wise.

Finally, we give our best wishes to the England football team - Believe!

By Mr Hussain



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Year 11

Hello Year 11, firstly, I would like to thank both parents and pupils for a fantastic turn out at parents' evening and I hope you found meeting with teachers useful for you to understand your grades and knowing what you need to reach your goals. I enjoyed speaking to you about how we can support you.

We have had some college and 6th form providers in to school, as well as Ms Smith, our careers advisor to help with making the big choice of post-16 education.

Over the past 3 weeks we have had different providers come into school and talk about their post-16 courses. We are going to have many others attend for weekly worship and talk to pupils about what they can offer. We are also looking to take some pupils to these colleges and sixth forms to gain a feel of what it is like there. If you have any questions about this, please come and see me.

I would urge you all now that you have your results to start applying for courses. If you need support on this ask your form tutor, they will be able to help you or see Mr Holder or myself and we can try our best to support, please remember when putting references please put myself down (areynolds@sjw.bham.sch.uk)

It is nice to see that most pupils are still revising. Remember what our visitors have said "start revising early". This is the best advice we can give you.

Some of you may have seen our mental health first aider, Mrs Ellis, as well for parents evening and hopefully she gave you some advice on stress management. Please bear this in mind and if any of you are struggling please come and speak to someone in the pastoral team. We are here to help you.

One of my favourite quotes is below and was advice given to me by a teacher in Year 11. Remember you are in control of your future.

By Miss Reynolds

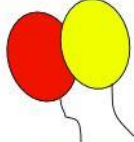


Year 11 Yearbook

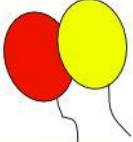
Memories of your time at SJW

Only **£12**

Includes Comments and Photographs



Class of 2023



Payments are now being accepted!

The overall cost of the yearbook is £12

Payment to be made at the school office.

Place your order ASAP to reserve your copy!



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Stars of the Month

History, MFL, EAL, Geography & Travel & Tourism

Kimora Williams 7JAS	for Hard work and effort in history.
Michael John 7ESM	for being learned and wise and taking an active role in lessons.
Alan Adamkowski 7LEV	for being learned and wise and taking an active role in lessons.
Raena Teshome 7REG	for being active and curious by taking an active part in your History lessons.
Hamza Mehmood 7REG	for being hard working and polite.
Crystabel Owusu 11SIM	for putting extra effort in Geography this week.
Yuvraj Sidhu 10WIO	for being learned and wise and producing a good year 10 assessment result.
Eryk Romanowski 9BRK	for being attentive and discerning in Geography by always attempting to do his best.
Yousma Mustafa 9WOO	for being attentive and discerning in Geography by always attempting to do her best.

By Ms Levine

Denzel Okyei 9MCI	for being active and curious by completing History work to a high standard.
Kamron Graham 9MCI	for being active and curious by completing History work to a high standard.
Daniel Pruteanu 9RES	for always willingly offering thoughtful contributions to class discussions.
Ivie Imadonmwinyi 11LAL	for being learned and wise with revision in preparation for mock 1, resulting in an excellent result.
Rachel Ohene-Williams 11SIM	for being learned and wise with revision in preparation for mock 1, resulting in an excellent result.

By Miss Lally

Eryk Romanowski 9BRK	for an excellent essay on the rise and decline of witchcraft accusations.
Tennice Wright 9MCI	for being learned and wise and taking an active role in lessons.
Nonso Molokwu 7ESM	for being attentive and discerning in History lessons.
Jose Malundama 9BRK	for showing great enthusiasm and determination in History lessons.
Krishnoor Singh 7RAH	for showing consistently great knowledge in History lessons.

By Mr McIntosh

Roland Ofori 11BAT	for being learned and wise with his revision in preparation for mock 1, resulting in an excellent result.
Simran Tiwana 11BRE	for being learned and wise with her revision in preparation for mock 1, resulting in an excellent result.
Darin Diako 11LAL	for being learned and wise with his revision in preparation for mock 1, resulting in an excellent result.

By Mr Woodward





Stars of the Month

Sharnie Dennis-Hayes 9MCI
Kyreese Williams 8FOR
Kritika Basra 8GRE

for being faith-filled and hopeful in completing tasks fully and to the best of her ability.
for being intentional and prophetic by always going the extra mile in French lessons.
for constantly being learned and wise by drawing on her previous learning to support her progress in Year 8 Spanish.

Bianca Emuke Lole 11SIM

for being learned and wise in her revision and preparation for mock 1, resulting in great progress being made.

Miradi Pembele 8HAY
Jacobie Baruti 11LAL

for being learned and wise when completing retrieval tasks as accurately as possible.
For being attentive and discerning in his approach to revising for his mock 1 exams in French.

Bindiya Badhan 9BAR

for being curious and active by drawing on her knowledge of Italian to support her knowledge and understanding in Spanish.

Victoria Osayande 7RAH

for being attentive and discerning by applying her knowledge to new vocabulary.

By Mrs Wallace

Darin Diako 11LAL
Jaspar Kumar 8GRE
Nikita Marsden 9BAR
Hardi Pembele 11LAL

for being intentional and prophetic by always going the extra mile in French.
for being hopeful by showing perseverance and excellence in French lessons.
for being intentional and prophetic by always going the extra mile in French lessons.
for being learned and wise with his revision in preparation for mock 1.

By Miss Gosselin

Pavan Kumar 10HAL
Manjot Kaur 11HAR

for showing great progress after mock 1 and his consistency and effort in Spanish lessons.
for showing great progress after mock 1 and her consistency and effort in Spanish lessons.

By Mr Rosellon

Ali Hamad 11BRE

for his excellent commitment and involvement in EAL lessons as well as his continuous effort.

Armando Constantin 7RAH

for his excellent start and involvement in EAL lessons as well as his continuous effort.

By Mr Rosellon and Mrs Kawecka

Interventions

Stefan Dahorea 10 JON, Benjamin Bujor 10 HAL and Muhammad Atif Hussain 10 GOS for excellent effort in Pre-Teach Vocabulary.

Hazem Omar Rahma Ashrafani 8HAY, Hussain Ahmedzai 8FOR, Valentina Opoku 8HAY, Cion Corbett 9RES, Siya Aziz 9RES and Arashjit Singh 8HAY for making significant progress in Lexia. Good attitude to homework.

Ashtaz Islam 7REG and Valentina Opoku 8HAY for excellent effort in Reciprocal Reading.

By Ms France





Stars of the Month

Science

Year 7

Lydia Binyam 7ESM
Lamario Wright-Ashley 7ESM

for being very enthusiastic in lessons.
for having perfect presentation in his class book.

Year 8

Rihanna Guesh 8FOR
Hamzah Arshad 8SFC
Ishmael Clarke 8FOR
Borys Morawski 8PAW
Dylan Sabharwal 8AHM
Arjan Badhan 8GRE

for always trying her hardest in lessons.
for settling into science lessons well.
outstanding behaviour, book work and effort in class.
excellent book work, great effort.
very intentional, learned and wise.
completes all work, very attentive and wise.

Year 9

Nikita Marsden 9BAR
Salah Alameen 9RES
Deborah Fadola 9BAR
Kai Nguyen 9MCI
Halima Ali 9MCI
Sheraz Muhammed 9WOO

for always trying her hardest in lessons.
for completing his examination homework to a high standard.
outstanding behaviour, book work and effort in class.
very wise and curious, willing to answer questions.
hard working, good book work.
always participating in class discussions, hard working.

Year 10

Jakub Borawski 10GOS
Natalia Budna 10GOS
Rohit Din 10HAL
Tanvir Ridwan 10JON
Kameron Chem 10HEA
Kyra Mills 10HAL

for always being a role model pupil in lessons.
for always completing her work to the highest standard.
good WSA mark, excellent behaviour in class.
excellent motivation and initiative in lessons.
excellent participation in lessons and homework completion, fantastic book work.
excellent effort in lessons to complete all tasks.

Year 11

Meerab Hussain 11BAT
Gruia-Beniamin Pruteanu 11HIR
Darin Diako 11LAL
Rachel Ohene-Williams 11SIM
Jarhle Ingram 11LAL
Dominik Ostrowski 11HAR
Jannat Begum 11BRE
Roland Ofori 11BAT
Brajesh Lal 11 HIR
Ravjot Singh 11 HAR

always putting in 100% effort in lesson.
for making a big change in his effort in lessons in recently.
great Assessment result, Well done!
great Assessment result, Well done!
improvement in motivation and good WSA mark.
excellent effort and a positive attitude to learning.
for achievement, Learned and Wise Science Mock 1 exam.
for achievement, Learned and Wise Science Mock 1 exam.
for achievement, Learned and Wise Science Mock 1 exam.
for achievement, Learned and Wise Science Mock 1 exam.





Book Reviews

Sweetly by Jackson Pearce

"This book is about two children who run away from their old town to start fresh somewhere else. The car breaks down, so they're stuck in a town that they've never heard of and end up at a sweet shop. They go inside and befriend the person in there, which leads to her offering them a place to stay at. While staying there the main character meets a boy while in the woods. Throughout the rest of the book the lead character learns to shoot a gun and discovers secrets about the town which leads her to the answer to a question she's had for years. I enjoyed this book because it had many twists and was able to add in some romance. Overall, it was a good book."

By Nathalia Campbell-Bennett 9RES

Summoner - The Outcast by Taran Matharu

"This book is definitely one of the best books I have read. It's about a young man named Arcturus, a commoner, who could summon demons. It was believed that only nobles could have these abilities, to then use them against man-eating monsters called orcs. As he faced the king, he thought he would be done for, as a commoner being able to summon these beings would cause an uproar, but he is surprised when instead he sent him to Vocans, a school for young summoners, for them to train the ability to summon demons."

By Sarah Manu 9MCI

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

"I read this book called Jane Eyre it was very interesting. I would recommend it to people who like mysterious things and adventures. It was about a girl who was mistreated by her aunt and was sent off to school and became a governess. In the end she found love and had a child."

By Deborah Fadola 9BAR

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

"The book is about a girl who follows a white rabbit into a hole and she meets different animals and sometimes offends them. Throughout the book she turns different sizes and shapes. She meets new people such as the mock turtle and the Queen of Hearts. In the end she realized that it was just a dream."

By Deborah Fadola 9BAR

Staff Book Reviews

'Educated' by Tara Westover (non-fiction)

"Educated' is the autobiographical story of Tara Westover's upbringing in a Mormon survivalist home in Idaho. As fundamental Mormons, Tara's parents deliberately kept her out of formal education, believing that schooling would corrupt her. The book charts a complicated and toxic family dynamic, whereby Tara, her brothers and her mother are controlled by a charismatic and forceful father figure. Although this sounds bleak on the surface, the story is incredibly hopeful. Despite her family's mistrust of education, Tara grows up with a yearning to learn. She has to secretly fulfil this vocation- educating herself through whatever means she finds, until she is able, through her academic success, to find freedom from the restrictions of her childhood. Although many of us might find it difficult at times to get up for school, 'Educated' is a reminder of how precious education is; it is a gift which we should be thankful for, especially when considering those who have to fight for their right to pursue it. As well as portraying this important message, Westover's writing is poetic and lyrical; despite her complicated relationship with her parents, she expresses a deep love for the rural environment she grows up in and she describes it beautifully. I would recommend this book to anyone!

******* 5 stars."**

By Miss Lake

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J K Rowling

"The book is about an orphan boy (Harry Potter) who is brought up by his aunt and uncle after his parents died when he was a baby. Harry, who feels unloved by his aunt and uncle, suffers hardship growing up. He is then invited to attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, where he discovers his talents as a young wizard. During his time at his school, Harry finds himself unravelling many secrets and mysteries. One of which is the Philosopher's Stone."

What I particularly like about this book is the twists and turns that the story takes. One-minute Harry is studying in school, and then the next minute he's trying to calm down a three-headed dog. The story has been written in a way that hooks you in, and makes you want to read on. I don't particularly like reading about how Harry is treated by his aunt and uncle, however, knowing that he has his friends around him makes me feel a lot better."

Overall, this is a must-read book and has many series to keep you going for a while. I would rate this book a 9 out of 10 for its creativity."

By Mr Ahmed



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Reading Club

Everyday during break time and lunch time, the Library is open to pupils to read their Accelerated reading books. Pupils really enjoy reading and have regularly used this time to improve their understanding of texts.

By Mr Mull



Choosing New Books for the Library

"I got the opportunity to stay after school to choose some books that I found interesting enough for the school to purchase. I picked loads of books that fit many different themes, from books that talk about football champions, to fiction books and historic ones! Thank you for choosing me to do it :)"

By Year 9 Pupil



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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.

By Mr Woodward

House News

This half term we have launched our Saint John Wall Christmas house competition. Pupils have been working hard to brainstorm and create their entries and I have had some great feedback from form tutors about the brilliant efforts and inspiration pupils are having in creating the following:

Year 7 - Creating a nativity

Year 8 - Jesse Tree Years

Year 9 and 10 - Advent calendars

I spent an evening collecting resources to create resource packs for each form from what they requested they would need in order to complete their entry. The school has supplied cotton wool balls, fabric sheets, coloured card, glitter, tinsel and kitchen roll tubes and I have seen some amazing and creative ideas – I am looking forward to judging each form's entry in the upcoming weeks! Photographs of the entries will be published in December's newsletter.

Our house leader board is as follows:

1. Pankhurst
2. Gandhi
3. John Paul
4. Mandela
5. Luther King

Upcoming competitions

When you come back from a lovely Christmas break, I will be working with various departments to create competitions around each subject at school. Last year Miss Cummings and the Science Department ran a successful rocket competition where forms created a rocket and with the help of the Science Department launched it into the air on the playground. This will be our first competition in January. PE will also be launching a rowing competition which pupils can take part in during lunch times. Keep an eye out for more information next term!

Finally, again I would like to say a massive thank you to our Year 10 House Captains who have done a brilliant job in help organising and promoting competitions by delivering resource packs and encouraging pupils in their house!



By Miss Young



Cyberbullying conversation starters

internet
matters.org

Talking to 11-13 year olds



Before you start the conversation



Think about when and where is the best to talk
- in the car or a neutral place where they feel safe



Jot down what you want to say to focus your mind and make the conversation relevant to them



Be open and encouraging to make them feel supported



Have a few bite sized conversations to give them time to process

What you need to know

Typically 11-13 year olds will:



Have access to a smartphone or tablet



Use the internet to play games



Do homework online



Watch videos on YouTube or socialise with friends



There has been a rapid growth in the number of 11-13 years olds using social media - often with accounts on multiple social networks



Children as young as 11 post an average of 26 times a day, attract 100 followers to every one of their profiles



Over two thirds of 11-12 year olds have a Facebook profile despite requiring users to be a minimum age of 13



Bullying is a learnt behaviour - so it's important to set a good example and regularly reinforce how to be a good digital citizen



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Tips to prevent cyberbullying



Set parental controls on devices your child can access - see our parental controls guide



Talk to your child about what it means to have friends and followers online. Are they real friends? Can they trust them?



Be aware that your child might start exploring romantic relationships. Talk about what they can safely share and who to trust



Encourage your child to be kind to others and think about the impact that words and actions can have



Talk to your child about what bullying is (hurting someone on purpose/several times over) and how people might bully others online



Encourage your child to tell you if they see or experience cyberbullying



Talk to your child about how they use the internet and what they enjoy



Tell your child that if they can't talk to you they should talk to a teacher at school or contact organisations like Childline

Tips to deal with cyberbullying



Don't jump to conclusions. Gently explore with your child what has gone on before the message or the post



Stay calm if you find out your child is experiencing cyberbullying or cyberbullying others



Be aware that cyberbullying can be a continuation of, or a response to bullying already happening at school or elsewhere



Don't encourage your child to retaliate in any way that is angry, offensive or threatening



Be aware that all forms of bullying can make you feel very sad, afraid and alone. Reassure your child that together you will sort it out



Think carefully before taking away your child's access to their phone or tablet (this can increase loneliness)



Help your child to report any offensive content to the social media provider



Encourage your child to broaden their network of friends and to take part in activities that make them feel good about themselves




Seek help. You could talk to your child's school or if your child feels harassed or threatened, the police. There are also charities like Kidscape that can give advice

WANT MORE HELP?

For more information visit: internetmatters.org/issues/cyberbullying

 InternetMatters

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recre8
TO CREATE & REHABILITATE

The Christmas Gift

www.recre8now.co.uk

A performance created,
scripted & directed by Year 8 pupils
from St. John Wall Catholic School.

A FREE EVENT
2pm PROMPT START
4.12.2022
At the Hexagon Theatre MAC
Cannon Hill Park
B12 9QH

contact: daniela@recre8now.co.uk to reserve your place



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