

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 16

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 12 January 2024

Catholic Life - This year we are focusing on 'Year of Live Simply'.

Termly Theme: Dignity of Work and Participation

Termly SJW Values – Eloquent and Truthful

This week in afternoon prayer... "We learnt about being **eloquent** and **truthful**. We prayed that we continue to be good people and have a good relationship with God. It is important to be **truthful** because God has asked us to be and so we should be **truthful** every day. Through sharing kind words, we also become **eloquent**. We also prayed for the Baptism of Jesus. Baptism is important because it shows you are a part of God's family. We like Afternoon Prayer because we are able to pray together as a class and a whole school.

By Sachin Kumar 7BRS and Milan Gazi 7HAB



SJW Values



Welcome Back and Happy New Year

Happy New Year, I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break!

We are delighted to welcome several new staff to the Saint John Wall team this term.

Mrs Ratcliffe is our newly appointed School Games Organiser and Lead Teacher for PE & Health. This is an exciting role and will enable the school to support our local network of primary and secondary schools with increasing participation of young people in sport and exercise activities.

Mrs Hewett and Mr Callaghan are two very experienced science teachers who will be a real asset to our science department.

Mr Adedeji had been working temporarily in our Saint Francis Centre, and we are pleased that he will now be a permanent member of staff. Mr Adedeji has already made a positive impact with a number of pupils, and he will continue to develop his role to include offering some enrichment activities alongside inclusion strategies.



Mrs Ratcliffe – School Games Organiser and Lead Teacher of PE

"I am looking forward to meeting all staff, pupils and parents, secondly seeing all pupils fulfil their full potential within PE through the love and enjoyment of sport. I hope to achieve a strong and supportive PE Team, to enable pupils to have the highest quality lessons and hopefully continue to grow their interest of sport/physical activity in and outside of school".



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Mr Callaghan – Science Teacher

"What I am most looking forward to is being a member of a supportive, caring community that makes a difference to the lives of people. My biggest hope is to contribute to the success of our pupils, to help them maximise their individual potential and enable them to move to the next stage of their journey through life".

On a different note, I am very sorry to tell you that Mrs Harms, who retired in the summer, passed away on New Year's Eve. Mrs Harms worked at Saint John Wall for over 17 years and in that time influenced the lives of many generations of pupils. She was a highly-valued colleague within the RE department and school, and a friend to many staff. Mrs Harms will be missed and we send our prayers and love to her family at this sad time.

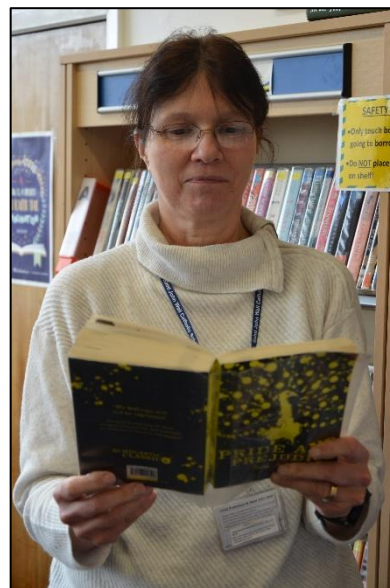
Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen

By Miss Marston



Ms Hewett – Science & Spanish Teacher

I am looking forward to being part of a community where all the beliefs and religions are respected; to help pupils to succeed and share with them experiences that can enrich me and hopefully I can enrich them with my experiences. I hope I can make pupils understand that they all have the ability to do things and hopefully make them to love more Science and Spanish.



Mr Adedeji - Inclusion Mentor

"I am looking forward to working along with the staff and pupils at SJW, as well as leading and putting on various after school clubs like basketball, music production and more. I am hoping to build a positive relationship with the pupils with the hope of changing any negative behaviour while in SFC and within school and their environment. Perhaps change their views of life too in a positive direction with my experiences."





Dates to Note

- **Year 7 and Year 9 Parents' Afternoon**
Thursday 18 January 2024 – 1.30pm to 4pm
- **Year 8 and Year 10 Assessment Week**
Monday 22 January 2024 to Friday 26 January 2024
- **Half Term**
Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024
- **Year 11 Mock 2 Examinations**
Monday 19 February 2024 to Friday 23 February 2024

St Mary's Coffee Club

We've had a lovely first day back at coffee club after the Christmas break. One of the guests hosted a general knowledge quiz which was really quite challenging. Pupils did really well in the maths and spelling rounds, thoroughly enjoying the competition. Sadly, none of our teams won. Next week is bingo, an activity which always tests pupils' skills of concentration and quick response so they've gone away to practise their bingo skills.

By Mrs Clayton

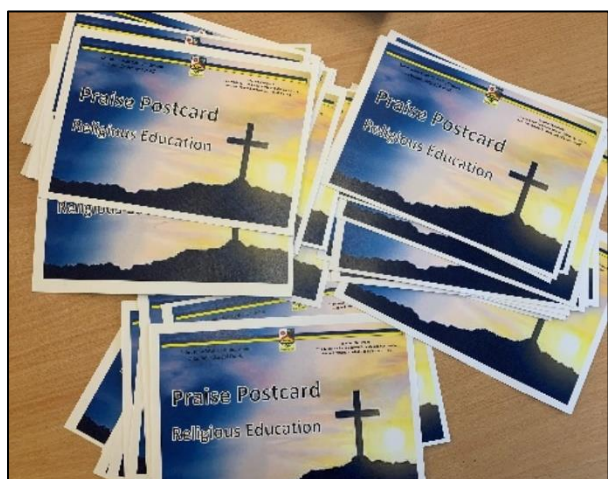
RE Praise Postcards

Congratulations to everyone in Years 9, 10 and 11 that will have received their RE praise postcards! Your RE Teacher has chosen you because of your excellent contributions in class, your wonderful effort and your consistency.

Who will receive this honour in Year 7 and 8 in the coming weeks? To be given the opportunity please show your RE Teacher you deserve the chance.

Thank you and well done!

By Mrs Begum and Mrs Jewell



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Epiphany Mass

On Tuesday, all pupils returned to school, and we celebrated our whole school Epiphany Mass together. Our Priest Chaplain, Father Subba celebrated this Mass with us. Epiphany, also known as Three Kings' Day, is special as it is the day when people celebrate how a star led the Magi (the Three Wise Men) to visit Jesus after he had been born. The Three Wise Men brought gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, gifts that symbolise different aspects of Christ's life. Father Subba reflected on the importance of these gifts and how we can use the gift of love as we begin this new year.

Throughout the Mass, different important moments were spoken about. This meant that all pupils were fully able to participate throughout the Mass. Well done and thank you to our readers Shoaib Ghalib 10RES, Aaphryl Antonio Pereira 9TOW, Rafeh Nawaz 10RES, Teniola Adekunle-Olayiwola 10RES and Alicja Gomes 10RES and to those who helped with the offertory. Thank you also to Mrs Ellis and Mr Lloyd-Price for their help in planning and leading the Mass. Well done to all pupils for their respect during the Mass.

By Mr Lysaght



"The mass was really good and very respectful." **By Seth Holder 7PAL**

"It was very touching, and it emphasised the importance of why we attend a Catholic school." **By Darling Dikoko 9GRE**

"I enjoyed the mass knowing that I received a blessing and learnt more about Epiphany." **By Gloria Osazemwinde 8JAS**

"It was really interesting, and it was nice to see everyone coming together as a community during mass. Father Subba was very kind and positive about the new year." **By Sarah Manu 10MCI**



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TO THE STUDENTS, PARENTS AND STAFF AT
**SAINT JOHN WALL
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**



FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS
FOR OUR CLIENTS AS PART OF
YOUR ADVENT COLLECTION



SIFA
fireside

Thank you for choosing to support people who
are vulnerable in your community.

SIFA Fireside is a charity registered in England & Wales (1049728)



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04 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Measles (MMR) Vaccine Reminder

There is an increasing number of people with measles in Birmingham. Most of these are young children who have not had their MMR (measles) vaccine.

Measles is a highly infectious disease, which can be very serious. Two doses of the MMR vaccine is the best protection against measles. Over 80% of Birmingham children and adults have had the MMR vaccine. We need everyone protected.

The MMR vaccine is safe for every faith. There is a type of MMR vaccine that does not contain pork gelatine, so it can be used for people who do not touch any pork products. This vaccine is available at every GP practice, and it is free.

Please contact your GP to book an appointment for Measles (MMR) vaccine.

Children and adults can catch up on any missed vaccines. Children should have the first dose at 1 year old and the second dose at 3 years and 4 months old. Two doses of the MMR can provide life-long immunity.

Anyone unvaccinated who is exposed to someone with measles may be advised to isolate for 3 weeks. This would disrupt their learning or work and could happen repeatedly.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mary Orhewere MBBS MPH FFPH

Assistant Director, Public Health Division, Birmingham City Council

For more information visit: [Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Use this section to record the date and time of your child's vaccination appointment:

on: ____/____/____ (date) at ____am/pm (time).



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MY VOICE MATTERS

Place2Be's
**CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK**

TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?

This Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, whoever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe – "My Voice Matters".

We visited primary and secondary schools to ask students what they wanted from the week – to help shape the activities we create for schools, the messaging we give to teachers, the tips we give to other children, and the advice we give to parents, carers and families.



LOOKING FOR FREE PRACTICAL ADVICE TO HELP YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour, and act on their views.

[PARENTINGSMART.ORG.UK](https://parentingsmart.org.uk)

Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- ① We don't need to have 'one-off conversations about our mental health' – sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- ② I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- ③ Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling – it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- ④ Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- ⑤ Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- ⑥ Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying – I don't always need answers (or lectures)
- ⑦ Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me – I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- ⑧ If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- ⑨ Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age – my siblings, cousins, friends, younger teachers at school - because they 'get it'.
- ⑩ Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.



WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? CREATIVE VIDEO ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

These wellbeing activities can help children and young people think about and share what matters to them.

For primary children: bit.ly/3PzCGI8

For secondary children: bit.ly/3LBD2wK

CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK



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my VOICE MATTERS



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Some ways to start a conversation with your child about mental health could be...

TELL ME ABOUT
YOUR DAY

WHAT WAS THE BEST
THING ABOUT TODAY?

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST
STRESS / WORRY IN YOUR
LIFE RIGHT NOW?

WHAT'S YOUR
ONLINE LIFE LIKE?

WHO WOULD YOU TALK
TO IF YOU WERE FEELING
WORRIED ABOUT YOUR
MENTAL HEALTH?

WHAT CAN I DO
TO HELP YOU?

CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK



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Get up to 50% off your travel to school, college or university!

As we entered the new term, our Student Season Ticket can be used for travel until 29th March 2024! This special discounted ticket offers students up to 50% savings on travel between two chosen rail stations (evenings, weekends and school holidays included).

Student Season tickets explained

The tickets cover travel for a whole academic term and are priced as follows:

- Students aged 16 or over - 50% discount on the usual adult season ticket price
- Students aged 15 or under – 25% discount on the usual child season ticket price
- Valid evenings, weekends and school holidays: travel when the schools, colleges or universities are closed.
- No need to buy tickets every day. Avoid the queues and travel with peace of mind knowing you already have a ticket to ride.

www.westmidlandsrailway.co.uk/tickets-discounts/discounts/student-season-train-tickets



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