

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 9 February 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 weekly worship... *"We focused on Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. 'My Voice Matters' because it means I am able to speak up and make changes. This links to our theme of the **dignity of work and participation** because we should always encourage others to speak up and follow their dreams. What matters most to me is helping my friends and family".*

By Yahnniyi Smith 7HAB

This week in afternoon prayer... *"We prayed that we always treat each other like brothers and sisters. This is because in the Bible it says that we should **love** our neighbours.*

We should try to do this everyday. We also prayed for Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. As part of this week, we recognise it is important to take care of ourselves. One thing I do is listen to music which calms me down. I like Afternoon Prayer because it is a time where we can reflect".

By Lovepreet Guru 9GRE - Liturgy Team

Class Mass

"The Mass was great and was a very peaceful environment. Fr Subba said that when we are upset or angry, we should remember to pray to God, especially if we need any help. He also spoke about how Jesus died for our sins and that Jesus is there to protect us."

By Nathan Elue 7HAB

Message from Chair of Governors

"We create a past to reminisce about".

Anybody involved with Birmingham schools twenty-five or so years ago will have been saddened to learn of the death, just before Christmas, of Professor Tim Brighouse. During his time as the city's Chief Education Officer Tim inspired many with his compassion and thoughtfulness. His overriding conviction was that every teacher could improve further by looking for methods that worked elsewhere and adapting them for his or her own circumstances. After he left Birmingham Tim worked in London before retiring. If he'd had the opportunity to visit Saint John Wall today, he would have seen the philosophy of education he held and encouraged in so many others being put into practice.

A report from the Centre for Social Justice found that 28% of the parents surveyed agreed "that the Covid pandemic has shown it is not essential for children to attend school every day". This poses such a problem that the current Education Secretary has made tackling attendance her "number one priority". As governors we are fully behind the steps Mrs Crooks and all the staff are taking to support parents in encouraging their children to attend school. It is vital to be in school every single day particularly for our Year 11 pupils as public exams approach. She informed us that pupil attendance at Saint John Wall is far higher than it is nationally. In fact, over 300 pupils have a 100% attendance record. Congratulations to them. Attendance is the key to a successful future.



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An idea the government has proposed to help improve attendance is to offer young people more sporting activities after school. It is very timely, therefore, that Mrs Ratcliffe has taken up the role of School Games Organiser as well as Lead Teacher for PE and Health. She will be working hard to increase the participation of pupils in sport and exercise activities throughout our local primary and secondary schools.

You will be aware from the news of the measles epidemic in the West Midlands. I recently attended a presentation for governors on what a highly infectious disease measles is and how its effects can be extremely serious. The importance of having two doses of the MMR Vaccine for protection was emphasised. I would encourage parents to look again at the school newsletter of 12 January in which Miss Marston published detailed information.

We regularly hear government announcements that record funding is being made in education. I have to admit it doesn't feel like it. Ahead of the new financial year in April governors recently attended a meeting where we went through the school budget section by section and line by line. Thanks to the expertise of Mr Holden and Mrs Whitehouse everything possible is being done to ensure all money goes to offering our pupils the best quality of education possible. Speaking of which Miss Marston has informed me that regarding the exam performance of pupils from disadvantaged circumstances Saint John Wall is ranked an astonishing 33rd out of the three and a half thousand or so secondary schools in the whole of England! Tim Brighthouse would certainly have agreed that is an outstanding performance although I'm less sure about Ofsted!

At a recent governors' meeting Mr Lloyd-Price updated us on the Catholic Life of the school. This year's focus is the 'Year of Live Simply' with the school striving to be awarded CAFOD's Live Simply Award. His very comprehensive report stressed how pupils are willingly taking leadership roles with the school's chaplaincy provision. Outreach work has involved class Masses at St Augustine's Primary School, weekly visits to St Mary's senior citizen group as well as monthly visits to St Chad's Sanctuary. Next week sees Ash Wednesday marking the start of Lent. Many more activities are planned to celebrate this most Holy of seasons. To keep up to date with all aspects of school life please remember to look every Friday at the school newsletter brilliantly put together by Mr Mull. Following a visit to the school Mr Smith, an RE adviser from the Archdiocese, wrote in his report that:

'The school newsletter is just one explicit example of how the school celebrates its Catholic identity and of being a Catholic school for all with 'Christ at the heart'.'

Friday marks the end of what has been a very short half-term. Pupils return on Monday 19 February for what is another very short half-term. It sees the start of the final build-up to the summer exams for Year 11s beginning in May.

The past weeks, however, have been overshadowed by the very sad news of the death, on New Year's Eve, of Helen Harms. Before retiring last summer Helen set a wonderful example of what it is to be a teacher of Religious Education in a Catholic school. At a recent parents' evening a parent wrote in their feedback that: **"Saint John Wall Catholic School's core values include a spiritual framework and moral guidance... with an emphasis on human dignity and Good consciousness."** Helen embodied such qualities both in and out of the classroom and indeed inside and outside of school. Her deeply held faith and the care she demonstrated for others affected all who knew her. I am sure it was consoling to her family and friends to witness the presence of so many Saint John Wall staff, both past and present, at Helen's Service of Committal and Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. Tim Brighthouse once said of those of us who have the privilege of working in schools that "we create a past to reminisce about". Helen's memory will remain with us all.

Until the next time I'll end with this prayer for Helen and for Tim Brighthouse:

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Saint John Wall, pray for us.

By Martin Jones - Chair of Governors



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Dates to Note

- **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
- **Year 10 Parents' Afternoon & Targeted Year 7, 8 & 9 Pupils**
Wednesday 28 February 2024 – 2pm to 4pm
- **Birmingham Civil Justice Court Trip (25 Year 9/10 Pupils)**
Friday 8 March 2024 – 9am to 1pm
- **World Book Day**
Thursday 7 March 2024
- **International Women's Day**
Friday 8 March 2024

Goodbye to Staff

We say goodbye and good luck to Ms Turner and Mr Hartley who are leaving us for pastures new. Ms Turner and Mr Hartley have been valuable members of the English and RE departments, and we wish them the best of luck for the future.

Year 11 Mock 2 Examinations

Year 11 Mock 2 examinations will begin the first week back after half term. A copy of the timetable is displayed later in this newsletter.

Oracy Parent Session

Mr McIntosh will be running an Oracy Parent session on Wednesday 28 February.

Session 1 will start at 12.30pm Open to Year 7, 8, 9 & 11 only.

Session 2 will start at 2.30pm for Year 10 only.

Proposed Changes to the Travel Assistance Policy

We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed changes to the Travel Assistance Policy

Birmingham City Council is undertaking a review of its Travel Assistance Policy and as part of this review we want to consult with students, parents, carers, and all other stakeholders on the changes to the policy that are being considered. These changes would come into effect for the 2024/25 academic year (September 2024 onwards).

Please visit the [Birmingham Be Heard website](#) to find out more about this consultation.

The consultation will be open for five and a half weeks, beginning on **Wednesday 7 February** and closing on **Friday 15 March 2024**.

The Children & Young People's Travel Service will be hosting webinars for parents and carers on **Thursday 15th February at 10.30am** and on **Thursday 7th March at 5.30pm**, so that representatives from the service can explain the proposed policy changes and talk through the Council's consultation process.

If you would like to attend one of these webinars, please complete a [webinar registration form](#).

Visit to St Mary's Coffee Club

On Thursday there was a visitor to deliver a talk about scams. Pupils were able to share their own experiences and the experiences of their friends and families. What became apparent is that scammers target all age groups, social backgrounds and communities and that there are new scams developing all the time. The following link provides further information and support about protection from scams.

[Check if something might be a scam - Citizens Advice](#)

By Mrs Clayton



CBSO Orchestra

On Thursday the whole of Year 7 went on a trip to Symphony Hall to watch the CBSO orchestra. This was a unique opportunity for pupils to see professional musicians perform in a professional concert hall. Pupils were amazed to see the big stage, thousands of seats and to hear the beautiful sounds of the orchestra. Not only this, but pupils were able to learn more about the instruments used in the orchestra and join in with the performance. This gave Year 7 a real taste of music in a professional setting and shows them the array of careers music has to offer.

By Miss Antonucci

Pupil Comments

"The trip was very exciting and beautiful. There was at least 30 people playing different instruments and other schools were there as well. The bus trip was pretty long but it was all worth it".

By Anmole Singh Rajwal 7HEA

"I enjoyed the trip because the hall was really big and beautiful, and the music was very different to what I listen to".

By Mellisa Tchorek 7HEA

"I loved the Symphony Hall because they played good music and because they made us stand up and dance, which was really fun".

By Princess-Precious Jones 7HAB





House Rewards

As part of our school's house and rewards system, pupils can purchase prizes for demonstrating excellent behaviour earning positive points on class charts. Pupils have been emailed their class charts personal login code where parents and pupils can log in to see what positive and negative points they have earned and purchase prizes to collect on rewards week! For rewards week 6 pupils have been able to purchase:



Reward: week 6
5th-9th February

- Felt tip Pens — 30pts
- Hot Chocolate Stirrer — 40pts
- Tennis Ball — 40pts
- Lip Balm — 70pts
- Black Gloves — 80pts
- Eco Stationery set — 80pts
- Playing cards — 80pts
- Brick puzzle cube — 100pts
- Colouring book — 100pts
- Finger football game — 100pts
- Break time snack pass — 100pts
- Mini connect four game — 100pts
- Football — 150pts
- One for all voucher (£10) - 250pts

Keep earning positive points and demonstrating our SJW values to purchase these fantastic prizes!

By Miss Young

Uniform Changes

You can purchase our new V Neck Navy Blue Sweatshirt. If you already have a grey or navy woollen jumper this is still acceptable, but if you want to purchase a new jumper, please buy the V neck one as pictured. Our uniform is available from Gogna's and the Uniform Hub on Soho Road.

By Mrs Crooks



Football Match

On Saturday Diamond Academy U15 are taking part in a fundraising match with our football club Diamond Academy. During the match the U15 team and U16 team will battle against each other, all money raised will benefit Diamond Academy Players and will go towards their end of season gala held at Aston Villa (red carpet event). Minimum £1 sponsor must be handed in on Saturday.

Diamond Academy U15 players are:

- Zephaniah Lebert 10WIO
- O'Mari Harvey 10HAS
- David Ejiofor 10HAS
- Salah Alameen 10RES
- Jakub Letowski 10RES

Kick-off is at 12pm, match ends at 1.30pm at Handsworth Grammar School Old Boys FC, Romilly Avenue Handsworth Wood.

By Zephaniah Lebert 10WIO





Year 11 Mock 2 Examinations

Monday 19 February to Thursday 29 February

Week 1

Period	Monday 19 February	Tuesday 20 February	Wednesday 21 February	Thursday 22 February	Friday 23 February
Form and Period 1 9:00 Start	Music and Drama Day	Maths 1 Non Calculator 1 hour 30 Mins	Business 1 hour 15 mins	Science - Biology 1 Hour 10 Mins	Geography 1 Physical 1 Hour 30 Mins
Break		Break			
Period 2 and 3 10:50 Start		RE 1 Theology 1 Hour 30 mins	English Language 1 hour 45 mins	Computer Science 1 hour 30 mins	Science - Chemistry 1 Hour 10 Mins
Lunch		Lunch			
Period 4 13:50 Start		Health and Social Care 1 Hour 15 Mins	French Reading 1 Hour	History 1 1 Hour 15 Mins	French Writing 1 Hour 15 Mins
			Spanish Reading 1 Hour		Spanish Writing 1 Hour 15 Mins
				GCSE PE 1 1 Hour	SScience Chemistry 1 Hour 45 Mins





Week 2

Period	Monday 26 February	Tuesday 27 February	Wednesday 28 February	Thursday 29 February
Form and Period 1	Maths 2 Calculator 1 hour 30 Mins	Maths 3 Calculator 1 hour 30 Mins	Sport 1 Hour 15 Mins	Engineering Design 1 Hour 15 Mins
9:00 Start			GCSE PE 2 1 Hour	Hospitality 1 Hour 20 Mins
Break	Break			
Period 2 and 3	History 2 EEE/SP 1 Hour 45 Mins	Geography 2 Human 1 Hour 30 Mins	Science Physics 1 Hour 10 Mins	IT 1 Hour 30 Mins
10:50 Start		Spanish Listening 45 Mins	Single Science Physics 1 Hour 45 Mins	Single Science Biology R 1 Hour 45 Mins
Lunch	Lunch			
Period 4 13:50 Start	English Lit 1 hour	RE 2 Judaism 1 Hour		French Listening 45 Mins





Exciting News! School Hall to be refurbished into a working theatre.

Over the past 18 months Saint John Wall has taken part in a process of writing a bid to have our school hall refurbished into a working theatre space. We are absolutely thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a sum of money from the Wolfson Foundation that means our pupils will benefit from much needed improvements to the facilities. This should include improvements to the lighting, sound system and dressing of the stage. The work will take place over the summer holidays ready for teaching in September 2024. As part of this development, we are excited to be able to offer GCSE Drama from September for the first time. Our current Year 8 pupils will be able to consider this when making their pathway choices in the coming weeks. After the success of our Christmas Pantomime, we are very much looking forward to seeing our next show enhanced by our new facilities.

Paul Ramsbottom, chief executive of the Wolfson Foundation, said: *"We are very pleased to support Saint John Wall in creating these wonderful new facilities for their students. We hope that the working theatre space will help inspire students as well as provide an elegant space for enhanced teaching and learning."*

The Wolfson*
Foundation



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Birmingham Police & Schools Panel

Saint John Wall Catholic School is committed to keeping our students safe, both in school and the wider community. As part of our safeguarding arrangements, we have a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are also active members of our local constituency Police & Schools Panel.

The agreement is compliant with Crime & Disorder Act 1998, Data Protection Act 2018 – 2021 Update and United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulation (UK-GDPR); and focuses on preventing young people from becoming involved, or further involved, in crime and anti-social behaviour (as either a victim or offender) or those who have been reported as missing that may be vulnerable as a result.

We also work with the Police on matters to do with prohibited items in school such as vapes and illegal substances. If you are concerned about any of these areas please contact school or the Police using 101.

This joint approach helps us to intervene early; provide additional support and share up-to-date safety messages with students and their families/carers. If you have any queries about this partnership work, please contact Mrs S Crooks (Senior Assistant Headteacher/DSL/SENDCO).





PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2024



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
From Mon 12th - Fri 23rd February 2024

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

GREENE KING PUBS

Kids Eat Free all-day with the purchase of an adult's meal. Deal, Monday-Friday, between Mon 12th - Friday 23rd February 2024

TRAVELODGE & 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.

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase a full priced adult's main meal (App needed)

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

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

YO! SUSHI

From Mon 12th - Fri 23rd February 2024 kids eat free with every £10 adult spend

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

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

At Dobbies, for every adult breakfast or lunch purchase, kids eat for FREE. Every Day!

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

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

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STREET

Warwickshire
Cricket Foundation



FREE STREET CRICKET

SPARKHILL YOUNG ADULTS

WEEKLY SESSIONS
6-A-SIDE STREET CRICKET

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME
FUN, FAST, TAPE BALL GAMES



CONTACT

MOHAMMED ARIF
07500 920707

DAY & TIMES

SUNDAY
4.00pm to 6.00pm

LOCATION

KE HANDSWORTH GIRLS
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
HALL ROAD ENTRANCE
BIRMINGHAM B20 2BQ



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