

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 25

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 22 March 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

Message from Chair of Governors

"And the people bowed and prayed"

One of the wettest winters ever has finally passed and spring is upon us. Although this has been an unusually short half-term a lot has happened since last I wrote to you. On our impressive website you'll find extensive coverage of all that's gone on including important up-to-date information, You can also follow school events on twitter: @SAINT_JOHN_WALL.

Last month, and just a few days before the half-term break, three inspectors from the Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) visited the school. They carried out a thorough inspection of the Catholic Life and Mission of the school, our provision for Collective Worship and of our Religious Studies Department. They judged us to be **Outstanding** in 6 of 9 areas inspected and exceptionally **Good** in the remaining 3. The lead inspector was fulsome in her praise for what she'd witnessed. In particular she stated that: **"the school's Catholic identity underpins every aspect of school life and that every young person is welcome, provided for, and not just included but celebrated."** She confirmed what a unique Catholic school Saint John Wall is. If you haven't already seen the full report it can be found on our website. Many congratulations to Miss Marston, Mr Lloyd-Price, all their colleagues and to our pupils on achieving such a wonderful outcome.

So popular has the school become that despite putting further pressure on our accommodation we are having to increase the number of pupils seeking admission into Year 7 from September. We recently had a visit from Ms Guest, the Diocesan representative responsible for school property.

While not promising any money to extend our premises she was highly complimentary regarding the condition of the building. In particular she was very impressed with our new PE facilities. Many thanks are due to Mr Uddin and his staff for all their hard work in keeping on top of things. By the way thanks to Mrs Breslin we have obtained substantial funding from the Wolfson Foundation, an organisation that awards grants to support and promote excellence in education, to refurbish our school hall. More news to follow.

Still on the topic of money, a recent report on school funding stated that since 2010 cuts to the school budget of Saint John Wall have amounted to £868,406 (!) being denied to us. Just imagine what we could have done if we'd received that funding. Anyway, back to the present day. At a recent governors' finance meeting and despite higher staffing costs, a rise in fuel charges and increased prices of materials we were able to set a legal budget for the new financial year starting in April. With money so tight it is not an easy task as many schools are finding. The governors wish to express their gratitude to Mr Holden, Mrs Whitehouse and Mr Kaila for their astute financial management.

You will have heard on the news that pupil attendance at school continues to be a national problem. Not only are young people missing out on their education but time spent out of school presents safeguarding issues that can have implications detrimental to their futures. Mrs Crooks recently explained to governors what she and colleagues are doing to reduce the number of pupils missing school and in particular those who are persistently absent. The support we offer our parents has been recognised by us featuring in the top 25% of similar FFT secondary schools in England showing good attendance. Many thanks to Mrs Crooks and all staff for their hard work in this most important of areas.



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The lasting effect of the pandemic, compounded by the turbulent times we live in and the influence of social media, upsets many of us. In particular youngsters in their formative years have become unsettled. Miss Timmins recently gave governors a detailed report on how pupils are coping and how they are conducting themselves while in school. A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of being given a tour of the school. I was so impressed at the variety of activities I witnessed and seeing the learning going on in classrooms and the positive interaction between pupils and their teachers – and this was at the end of the school day! In last summer's Ofsted report pupil behaviour at Saint John Wall was judged **Outstanding**. It was reassuring to hear from her and to see for myself that thanks to the commitment of staff standards haven't dropped.

My visit coincided with Year 11 pupils busy preparing for their Mock Exams. At our last governors' meeting Mr Holder outlined how they are progressing in meeting the targets set for their summer exams and assessments. He described that to help them extra daily sessions are put on after school, and also before school, with others scheduled during the forthcoming Easter holidays and also on Saturdays. Governors are indebted to the staff for their selfless efforts in providing our pupils with the very best preparation. As Vince Lombardi, the famous American Football coach, once said: **“the only place success comes before work is in a dictionary.”**

For many years governors have been discussing school academisation. It involves joining with other secondary and indeed primary schools in forming what is called a Multi Academy Company or MAC. The Archdiocese of Birmingham currently has 16 such MACs. There are still however 83 Voluntary Aided (VA) schools which are yet to join a MAC. Saint John Wall is one such school. The plan the Diocese proposes is that in the future there will be fewer but much larger MACs and that all VA schools will become part of one. There is a consultation procedure to be followed which I will keep you informed about.

Friday sees the start of the Easter holiday with this weekend being Palm Sunday marking the beginning of Holy Week. In the meantime I hope Miss Marston, staff, pupils, their parents and all families enjoy a happy, joyful and peaceful Easter. Let's hope we have some better weather to cheer us all up. Until the next time I'll end with this prayer:

Lord God, our light and our salvation we praise you for your gifts of life and faith. We thank you for the desire that you have planted in our hearts: our yearning to see your face. Help us to meet you in prayer, to walk in your ways, and to speak to others of our joy and consolation in your presence. Give us faithfulness in this present life so that we may come to know and praise your beauty, with all our brothers and sisters in the life to come. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Saint John Wall, pray for us

By Martin Jones - Chair of Governors

Goodbye to Member of Staff

We are sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Pawlowska who is leaving to work at a school closer to home. Mrs Pawlowska has worked at Saint John Wall for 12 years. She began as an EAL assistant supporting pupils new to the country to learn the English language. Mrs Pawlowska then progressed to become a maths teacher, and her recent role was as second in the maths department. We are very grateful to Mrs Pawlowska for her years of service at the school, and for her contributions not just to the maths department, but also the wider life of the school - especially numeracy ninjas! We wish her all the best for the future in her new school.

It has been a busy Lent here and you will have seen over the last few newsletters the range of enrichment and extra-curricular trips and visits that have taken place. Thankyou to all staff who have planned and led activities, we are ready for a break.

Don't forget though, that Year 11 pupils are invited to attend revision sessions during the Easter holidays - identified pupils have been informed. And thankyou to staff who are giving up some of their holiday time to run these sessions.

I hope you all enjoy a Happy Easter.

By Miss Marston



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Biggest Ever Football Session Photograph Competition

Saint John Wall has won the Biggest Ever Football Session Photograph competition. We are now eligible to receive 8 pupil and 2 adult tickets to an Aston Villa Women's game of our choice at Villa Park.

By Mrs Ratcliffe

Basketball

The KS4 boys won a fixture on Wednesday against George Dixon Academy. They won 16-14 & played excellently. I am incredibly proud of the way the pupils played and they showed compassion for their peers who lost.

By Mr Bakshi

Lexia

Throughout the year specific pupils have been using Lexia to improve their literacy skills. Lexia develops reading skills in six areas: phonological awareness, phonics, structural analysis, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

The following pupils have progressed considerably since the beginning of the year, and have shown that they are learned, wise, curious, and active whilst using Lexia:

Malachi Scarlet 7HAB
Bnar Kemal 7HAL
Sikander Mohammed Nouman 7HEA
Christian Adjei 7PAL
Andrzej Kozakiewicz 7BRS
Lidia Mehari 7BRS
T-Arjhaae Holder 7HEA
Maja Zdunkiewicz 7BRS
Kamalpreet Kaur 8LEV
Natnael Desta 8ESM
Asim Zaman 8ESM
Elaine Mensah 8LEV
Vivien Pulkova 8RAH
Allenjot Dhaliwal 8JAS
Demi-Lee Hulme 8RAH
Sehaj Singh 8RAH
Valentina Opoku 9MAN
Catherine Onodyova 9MAN
Andrei-Felix Cantaragui 9MAN
Maria Tibuleac 9MAN
Connor Khan 9TOW

By Miss Lastun

Event for Year 11s

Aston University Sixth Form are hosting a workshop next week for Year 11 students who may be interested in a career within the Jewellery sector.

Get into Jewellery workshop on Thursday 28th March 2024, 10am.

This is an opportunity for students who are currently in Year 11 to find out more about the T Level in Jewellery with Business Management.

T Levels are equivalent to 3 A levels, apprenticeships, and other 16-19 courses. Featuring a 45 day industry placement, placement in Birmingham's famous Jewellery Quarter with one or more of our prestigious partners. With an 80% classroom focus on skills and development and 20% industry placement for practical application.

We are offering 12 spaces for Jewellery T level which includes Business Management from September 2024.

To find out more and book your place at this workshop contact admissions@aeua.co.uk

Booking is essential.

Thank you.
Aston University Sixth Form

Dates to Note

- **France Trip - 38 pupils from Years 8 & 9**
Monday 18 March to Friday 22 March
Leaving at: 1.00am - Returning at 8.00pm
- **Easter Holidays**
Monday 25 March 2024 to Friday 5 April 2024
- **Awards Evening – Year 7 & Year 8**
Wednesday 24 April 2024 – 5pm to 6pm
- **Awards Evening – Years 9, 10 & 11**
Thursday 25 April 2024 – 5pm to 6pm



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Safeguarding

The school has several experienced staff who are trained in safeguarding and Prevent. As part of our safeguarding arrangements, we have a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police and are active members of the local Police and Schools Panel. We also work closely with Children's services and other agencies to keep children safe. The school has CCTV in operation for the safety of pupils and staff. To ensure the safety of our staff and pupils, it may be necessary to conduct a search. Searches are completed in-line with the DFE guidance.

If a pupil is found in possession of an item that is perceived to be a weapon, it will be reported to the Police and the Police may decide that it is necessary that the individual is arrested.

By Miss Timmins

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Uniform

The Saint John Wall Catholic School Uniform shows that pupils are part of an organisation. Wearing it says "we're all in this together" and part of team Saint John Wall. If you wear your uniform with pride, it means you are half way there to being respectful and buying into what the organisation is all about. Uniform gives us a sense of belonging and creates an identity for the school in the community.

Haircut suitable for school, **NO** patterns, lines or colours.

Plain white school shirt, fastened at the neck and tucked in.
Clip on school tie.

Haircut suitable for school, **NO** patterns, lines, extreme bleaching or colours plaited into hair.

Small plain stud in the ear lobe.

Plain grey 'V' neck school jumper/cardigan.

Plain stud earrings. **NO** nose studs or makeup allowed.

Sensible black school shoes = **NO** trainers, canvas style shoes or boots.

Plain black traditional blazer with school badge.

NO nail varnish or false nails.

Suitable plain black bag for carrying books and equipment. **NO** pouches.

NO rings or bracelets.

Sensible, low heeled black shoes = **NO** trainers, canvas style shoes or boots.

Examples of permitted outdoor coats.

Examples of sensible shoes.

Examples of clothing, footwear and accessories that are **NOT** permitted.

Hoodies, caps, trainers, boots and pouches are **not** part of the Saint John Wall uniform policy.



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France Trip

From Monday 18 March to Friday 22 March, some Year 8 and Year 9 pupils took part in a trip to France. Below is the breakdown of the week.

On Tuesday, we travelled by coach and visited different monuments linked with the First World War – Newfoundland Memorial Park, Ulster Memorial Tower and Thiepval Memorial. Pupils were curious and active by asking various questions about the Great War and made a lot of connections with what they have been studying in History.

On Wednesday, we spent the day in Paris. We went on a boat ride on the Parisian “Bateaux Mouche” and went up the Eiffel Tower. We then finished the day with a bus tour and pupils had the chance to see and learn interesting facts about famous Parisian landmarks. Pupils have enjoyed the views and nice weather.

On Friday, the pupils spent the day in Disneyland Paris. They were able to go around the park, try different rides and enjoyed spending times in the shops. Pupils loved their experience at the park and all left Disneyland with a big smile.

Throughout the week, pupils have enjoyed spending time at the Chateau where they could spend some free time. Pupils were able to play table tennis, basketball, tennis and football and enjoyed the evening entertainments organised by the centre. Pupils made crepes, played “Ambush”, had good fun during a silent disco and played “Money Drop”.

By Miss Gosselin



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France Trip



"We woke up early to go visit some memorial and trenches used in the First World War. I was particularly interested in how people from age fifteen and beyond go to the army and volunteers. I wondered how strong the effects of propaganda were and if it was used today of how it could have impacted the lives of children and teenagers by motivating them to learn new things and respond to what God calls them to be."
By Nathanael Byfield 9ESM



"I enjoyed Disneyland so much and there was so much to do. I also enjoyed my birthday in Disneyland and had so much fun. We enjoyed taking pictures with Disney characters and watching the Disney parade. We also went into the Disney Castle and it looked beautiful from the inside as the windows had Disney characters on it."
By Riya Bains 9ANT



"I really enjoyed the boat ride around Paris and how I saw different landmarks. I also enjoyed the views from the Eiffel Tower". **By Rayna Jassal 9GRE**

"I really enjoyed the experience I had today. The views from the Eiffel Tower were beautiful and the tour that was given to us on the coach really made me see how incredible Paris is".
By Imogen Babalola 9ANT



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France Trip



"I enjoyed my time in France very much. The Chateau was also very nice since we could play various sports. We were also able to do fun activities – for example, we made crêpes on one of the nights. One of the main things I liked was the pool table which I did not lose on once because I am too good". **By Arjun Singh 9ANT**

"I loved my time in France a lot. We spent each night in the Chateau doing different activities. My favourite one was the silent disco. Me and friends enjoyed the different variety of songs and enjoyed dancing to them. We also had a lot of fun playing "Ambush" with Bucky and Mr Lysaght. We learnt about the history of crêpes and how to make them from scratch. It was so fun! All the staff of SJW took care of us a lot and also joined in with us. Thank you to SJW and all the teachers that came with us!". **By Kritika Basra 9GRE**



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Alton Castle Residential

30 pupils from Year 7 & 8 had a great time this week joining the Kenelm Youth Trust for our annual trip to Alton Castle. This year's theme was "Come Close and Listen to the Story" which explored the power of storytelling and the Easter Story. Outside of our daily prayer sessions, the group also got involved in Biking, Trekking, Low Ropes and Crates which challenged the pupils to not only try new things but at times step outside their comfort zone and get a bit muddy! The pupils really enjoyed this trip and got involved in every aspect and opportunity the Castle Team offered them. It was even more lovely to return to school (not just for a good night sleep) but to pass on what we had learnt during our Lenten Reflection Day. Thank you to Miss Cummings, Mr Lloyd-Price and Miss Lastun for planning and leading the trip.



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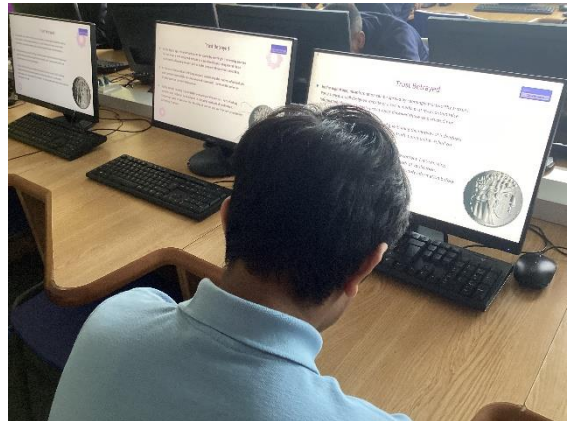
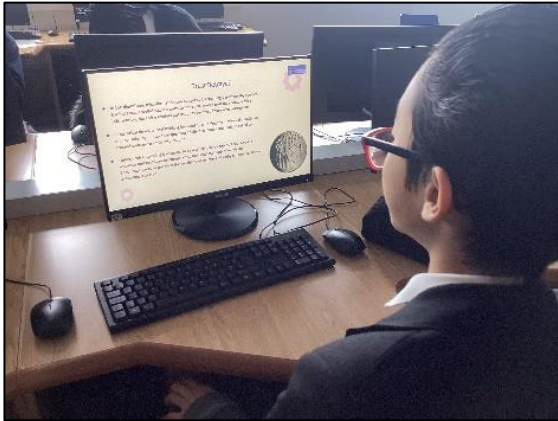
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Lenten Reflection Day – Computing

Computing: Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday.

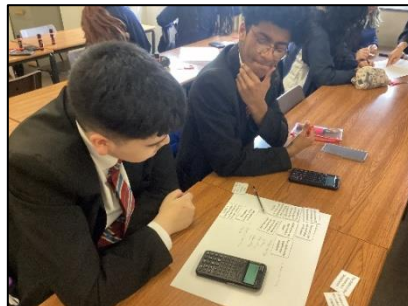
We explored the journey from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday, drawing parallels with the spread of fake news. How did Jesus go from riding into Jerusalem to cries of 'Hosanna', to shouts by Friday of 'Crucify him'? Pupil took part in a session that helped them to understand the dynamics of misinformation and its implications on online safety, and how easy it still is in today's world, for fake news and misinformation to spread.



Lenten Reflection Day – Maths

Maths: 30 pieces of silver

In Maths we set pupils the challenge of working out how much 30 pieces of silver was worth in today's money. We then considered the question... was this enough for you to betray your friend? Pupils learned more about the price of friendship, and the role Judas Iscariot played in the final few days of the life of Jesus.



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Lenten Reflection Day – Performing Arts

Performing Arts- In the Garden

As we all know, the Bible accounts are well documented as to what happened during the last few days of Jesus' earthly life. So pupils were invited to consider and perform a piece from the perspective of two of Jesus' Disciples, Peter and Judas. Whilst Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter was sleeping, unable to keep watch, and Judas was busy with the guards, getting ready for his betrayal. Pupils gathered together to perform these dramatic interpretations of what the Disciples may have felt in our prayer garden.



Lenten Reflection Day – RE

RE: The Last Supper

We got our hands all dirty when we considered all the things that we have done wrong recently. When looking at our hands after coming into contact with the soil, pupils were asked 'Would you still sin so often if you could physically see how unclean you are?', all agreed that it would make them think twice before doing wrong. Pupil then washed their hands as a symbol of reconciliation, and heard how Jesus washed the Disciples feet, asking us to serve others, not be served. Then pupils uncovered what fills their 'cup', and all the wonderful people who pour their love into them, as Jesus poured his love out during the Last Supper. Pupils then reflected on how the Disciples all had a place at the Last Supper as they were part of a team. They were invited to come forward to write on the tablecloth, what they brought to our table as a member of our St. John Wall family.



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Lenten Reflection Day – English

English- The Trial of Jesus

Pupils took part in an oracy debate, considering whether Pontius Pilate was right to let the crowds decide the fate of Jesus and Barrabas. After learning more about the trial of Jesus, we looked at how debates are organised in Parliament, with speakers taking turn to argue their points in an eloquent manner. Pupils were then unleashed to take part in this debate, with many changing sides and important points were made.



Lenten Reflection Day – PE

PE- Jesus bears his cross

The image of Jesus carrying the cross is a powerful symbol of endurance, sacrifice, and resilience. From a physical perspective, carrying the cross would have been an incredibly demanding task. Crucifixion was a brutal form of execution, and the cross would have been heavy, likely weighing around 100 pounds or more, depending on its size and construction. Moreover, Jesus would have been weakened by the beatings and mistreatment he endured leading up to this point. Pupils took up their own 'cross' during this session, completing endurance tasks, and considering if they would have the strength to walk in the shoes of Jesus.



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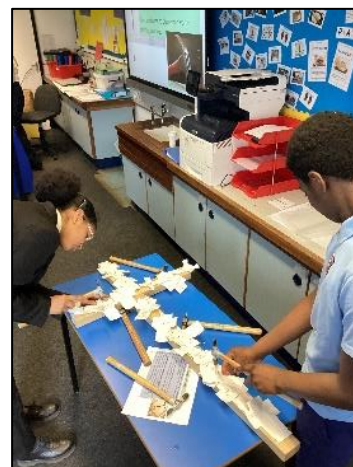
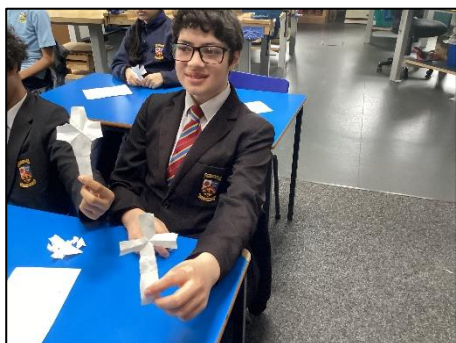
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Lenten Reflection Day – Art and Design

Art and Design-The Crucifixion of Jesus

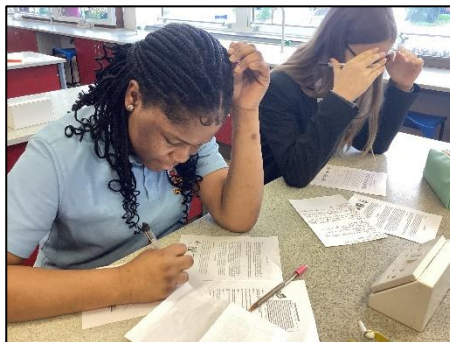
Pupils discussed the crucifixion of Jesus from the point of view of the Roman soldiers. They reflected on mental health and wellbeing, considering how the soldier's would have felt having to participate in and witness these events as part of their job. Pupils later tore their own cross out of paper and wrote down anything that they were struggling with. They then nailed their worries to a wooden cross using a hammer.



Lenten Reflection Day – Science

Science- The Resurrection

Our science department created a problem-solving mystery for pupils, looking for clues about what happened to the body of Jesus after his burial. Even St. Thomas has his doubts! Pupils looked at evidence and had long discussions about their own beliefs about the resurrection of Jesus.



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Lenten Reflection Day – Humanities and Languages

Humanities and Languages- Easter Sunday

We went around the world in 35 minutes during the Lenten reflection day, with each group considering how Easter is celebrated around the world today, how it has been celebrated in the past, and traditional foods that people eat on this day.



Easter Card Deliveries

Pupils ventured out into the community on our last day of term to pass on our Easter wishes to our neighbours. In form groups, pupils were allocated to an area of the neighbourhood to deliver cards to. These walks also completed our 200km for CAFOD Big Lenten Walk



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House Competition – Book Reviews for World Book Day and International Women's Day

During the month of March, pupils from Years 7 to 10 took part in a house competition all about World Book Day and International Women's Day. Pupils were encouraged to pick up a book and write a book review. We had so many entries, see below. Winners will be announced after Easter. Look out for the next reading event shortly.

By Mr Mull

Dirty Bertie Crackers by Alan Macdonald

"I like this book because it was very interesting and it's about horror and Christmas all in one, all the things I like. I didn't like the title because the book is all about horror and Christmas".

By Princess Jones 7HAB

Matilda By Roald Dahl

"Matilda is a girl who was born into a family who disliked girls and adores their son. All three of them dislike her and treat her differently. Matilda's mother is a bingo obsessed woman, and her father was a mechanic who liked to over price his sales. Matilda found a passion for reading and would visit her local library from a very young age. She really wanted to go to school, when she started school she had a horrible headteacher who was called Mrs Trenchball."

By Praise Ejiofor 7HAB

Can you get a Jellyfish in Space? By Liz Kay

"This book is about how they are trying to send jellyfish into space. They have already sent tiny fruit flies, cats, mice and speedy tortoises".

By Caleb Buck 7HAB

How to Dork your Diary By Russell Renee Rachel

"I am currently reading this book for 4 days and I got it from the SJW Library. I like this book it has images to understand the scenes better. I would rate it a 4/5 stars".

By Iman Buttran 7HAB

War Boy by Michael Foreman

"I read War Boy some time ago and it was a really good book. This book taught me important facts about the war and what life was like back then. The book is all about the war and how they had to evacuate and how risky life was".

By Muhammad Sulayman Miah 7HAB

Tangshan Tigers: The Stolen Jade

"This book is about a group of 4 students who are in China training for a tournament that consists of many different types of Martial Arts including: Kung Fu, Tae kwon-do and many more. This tournament makes these 4 students go against other students who have a similar or different fighting style. The reason for this being, to see which fighting technique is the most effective. The 4 teens mentioned are Matt, Catarina, Olivier and Shawn and they all have different fighting techniques. Throughout the book they practise with their Master Chang using their own fighting styles. Before they would practise they get put into a group with another boy called Carl. Carl is sort of like a bully but doesn't show superiority to anyone else but the group. The characters in this book are extremely well developed and have their own unique characteristics which build this whole story.

Overall, the book is amazing and has a wonderful story, hence making the ending worth it. 9/10".

By Kavishnan Sanker 8ESM

JESSICA ENNIS

"A girl called Jessica had a dream. She was inspired to become a world class athlete.

This is the story of Jessica's early years and the key events that led up to her becoming a world champion and winning heptathlon gold at the London 2012 Olympic games".

By Abdulhaadi Chaudhry 8ESM

Mind Writer by Steve Cole

*"The author of is called Steve Cole and it's about someone called Luke and he called read minds. Luke thinks it's a horrible gift because someone called Samira is a mind writer and she uses it in bad ways and threatens Luke in bad ways. Luke was taken to an old man that had no thoughts so Luke had to dig deeper in his mind that found disturbing words like *she is the demon*Run away**

Luke realised that Samira was acting this way because she had a demon in her and Luke remembered that he was told that you might not be able to find Samira's thoughts but you can read your own.

After a lot of struggling Luke got the Demon out of Samira. I loved this book and would recommend it to others".

By Awet Tecli 8ESM



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Goosebumps HorrorLand - My friends call me a monster by R.L Stine

"This book is all about three naughty kids and one is called a monster. This is a story about Michael Munroe who is learning new lessons in school never trusted a teacher who believes in monsters. He goes to a monster filled theme park and he discovers new about HorrorLand theme park".

By Darius Chiriac 8ESM

Young Dracula by Michael Lawrence

"This book was an okay book. This was a book about a young boy who inherits his father's title and becomes a vampire but prefers fresh milk to fresh blood. This was an interesting book as it has loads surprises".

By Diya Sheemar 8ESM

Time Switch by Steve Barlow\Steve Skimore

"Time switch is a humorous play set in Tudor times with parts for six people. When Bev and friends go to audition at the globe theatre, they don't expect to be spirited back to the year 1600. Plague is sweeping London and Shakespeare's company needs young actors. But is Tim a good choice to play Juliete? And can Bev and Haley prevent murder most foul as a jealous rival plots his revenge?"

By Ethan Mthinsi 8ESM

Dawn of the Daves by Tim Collins

"The book is about Andy Sarah and Dave they are very concerned about Dave because he was acting strange recently this book is very interesting and has some kind of drama in it".

By Finn Kozakiewicz

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

"I like the Harry Potter book series because they're mysterious and exciting to read, every section of the books always surprises me and amazes me. I've recently read the book.

I enjoy J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series because they're always mysterious and her style of writing makes it easy for me to understand the story and what's going on.

The reason I like this book is because it's about a boy that goes to a wizard school and learns how to cast magic spells. This interests me because you don't really see a book about magic often. What also interests me is the plot.

Harry Potter and the philosopher stone is the first book of the Harry Potter series and I have two copies of this book at home and I've read them both".

By Sara Antony 8ESM

All Star high Bad by Helen Chapman

"This book was good because 2 children thought of a way to get money to go and a trip. It shows their independence and how they can do things without an adult. The children were compassionate and creative and were able to raise money for the trip they couldn't afford. From the book I learnt that if you work hard enough you can achieve anything if your dedicated to it. Since the two children only had enough for one of them to go on the trip the teachers and the other students helped to make them both go".

By Tia Mattis 8ESM

The Extraordinary Life of Serena Williams

"This is a great book which tells us all about her life and the struggles she went through as a woman. This book tells us about her early stages of her life from a 4 year old playing on a dangerous court to being the best female Olympic Champion. Serena is an inspiring person who teaches us how to keep going through tough times and how to be unique, when she was on the tennis court she wore braids and beads and wore dresses. In the book it says, 'I looked different, I sound different, I dressed different, I served differently but when I stepped onto the court I could compete with anyone'. She is telling us to be strong, confident and brave".

By Erica Agyemang Fosua 9ANT

Runners by Ann Kelly

"Runners is a book about a brother and his little sister who are on the run in a dystopian future due to the harsh affects of global warming. The reader gets to explore and spectate how Sid and his little sister, Lo, survived this new reality. This book is dramatic, it leaves you on the edge of your seat in anticipation".

By Krista Liedeskrastina 9ANT

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

"Greg Heffley is a relatable character and fairly wise. This book by Jeff Kinney is not only a great book, it is very entertaining. Greg Heffley is a pre-teen starting high school (secondary school) and is given a diary that he calls a journal about his day-to-day experiences. This book is 5 stars as it is entertaining and relatable".

By Taylor Milligan 9ANT



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Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

"This is a book about a person who can change his identity just by drinking a potion he made. I think this book is quite an interesting book to read".

By Rihana Guesh 9ANT

Dork Diaries by Rachel Renée Russell

"I found it very entertaining and fun. I would love to read them again now that I am older and I definitely recommend it".

By Rehmid Wright 9ANT

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

"I think Oliver Twist is a very good book. It is a book about a boy who escaped from a workhouse. He found someone called Dodger, who taught him how to pick pocket people. I think that the book would be good for people who don't know a lot about Oliver Twist, and I recommend it to everyone".

By Calum Kainth 9ANT

Rainbow Six Siege: Beginners Guide by Tom Clancy

"It gives tips on how to get better at Rainbow Six Siege and professionals recommend it. It helped me improve and use basic words, so anyone understands".

By Dylan Tura 9ANT

Really Scary Stories by Michael Dahl

"The book is good as it's about scary stories. The book showed how scary things can be and how scary the world is with lots of cliffhangers. The book had a variety of different stories. I would recommend people read this book and I rate it 10/10".

By Armaan Ali 9MAN

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Carroll Lewis

"Alice in Wonderland is about a little girl called Alice adventuring through a dream-like realm called Wonderland. She goes through many adventures meeting extraordinary characters like a talking rabbit. This all culminates in a trial with the queen of hearts.

I thought that the story was a well structured adventure book that weaved together a story of adventures curiosity and unimaginable creatures. It will leave you with a sense of awe and wonder for this world and the world around you".

By Sara Yemane 9MAN

Doomsday Date by Faridah Abike-Iyimide

"It was an amazing book that had me constantly turning the page with multiple different stages where slowly the main character is able to express his freedom into a wholesome ending. I'd recommend this book to those who are struggling with finding themselves or finding freedom".

By Miradi Pembele 9MAN

Once by Morris Gleitzman

"It is a book on a boy who always sees the good side off things and tries to find one if there isn't one. In the time of the war, jews were transported to death camps and killed or just killed. Felix is a boy in an orphanage who was put there by his parents and they left but he believed they would come back for him. He was very intelligent as he read books. He managed to save a girl from a burning building. He also got involved with the nazis. and escaped. Read more to find out".

By Awais Ahmed Khan 9TOW

Danger is everywhere

"Doctor yeah not doctor. Doctor Noel zone who is a danger-ologist. A danger ologist is a person who studies danger and avoids all dangerous but he is the only one in this profession. He uses lots of unethical ways of avoiding danger like sleeping in a bathtub to not fall out of bed to even having a pet stone to have him have no danger of getting hurt. Read more to see the ways in which he protects himself from danger and fears the randomist of things".

By Awais Ahmed Khan 9TOW

The Doomsday Date by Faridah Àbiké-Íyímídé

"On the day before the world is meant to end, Sanjeet dyes his hair pink because he is determined to not die without having really lived, so he decides to come up with a doomsday list. He wrote down ten things to do before dying, but Sola, who is a good friend of Sanjeet doesn't believe that the world is going to end, and she knows that the world is not going anywhere. My favourite character- I like Sola because she looks not bothered at all about the sky coming crashing down. The best part of the book-when Sanjeet colours his hair pink".

By Sarah MonThomas 9TOW

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

"This book "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" by Jeff Kinney is just a wonderful book. Always found it entertaining, it really speaks to me. I am a very experienced reader of many books and novels I have read almost all sorts of books, however I always come back to this one".

By Alisha Khokhar 9TOW





Wolf Children: Survival is not a game. 1945: Berlin has fallen

“Hitler’s Third Reich has finally surrendered, leaving Germany’s capital in ruins. Sixteen-year-old Otto is living on the edge of survival with his brother and friends in a desperate, bombed-out city.

The war may be over, but danger lurks in the shadows of the wreckage. Caught between invading armies, ruthless gangs and the constant threat of starvation, Otto and his friends must learn to stay alive.

But the Nazi regime left psychological wounds that are slow to heal: rifts arise in their little group and terrible secrets surface when a singer figure emerges from the darkness...”

By Maja Karwanska 9TOW

The extraordinary life of Malala Yousafzai

“This is a great book which tells us all about her life. She was born in the swat valley in Pakistan spending all her life playing and learning. Until one day the Taliban came on her school bus to shoot her... they thought she will stop speaking up against her rights, she made an amazing recovery and made a blog describe her experience to the BBC news. She won a noble prize and donated her money to charities, she even set her own female project for charity. With the rest of the money she built schools around the world. This book teaches us to speak up for what is right and not give up”.

By Erica Fosua Agyemang 9ANT

Jacqueline Wilson

“I think Jacqueline Wilson is a good author. Tracy Beaker is one of my favourite books by her as I feel as though I can see myself through her troubles. It also shows the struggles of many children that go through foster care. I also feel as though it was a childhood comfort show/book that many looked forward to when coming home from school. I think she is a powerful writer and have sparked a lot of children’s lives with her books and shows”.

By Alicja Gomes 10RES

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

“This is a really interesting book because it shows the journey of Scrooge from being a lonely, rude, greedy man to a lovely, friendly, joyful man. As well as that it showed the different ways Scrooge dealt with the ghosts and how he learned from his mistakes from the past”.

By Jakub Letowski 10RES

The Diary of Anne Frank

“A diary written by a young girl who was hiding with her family for two and a half years during the Nazi occupation. Her story can teach us how to be grateful for the things that we take for granted and to understand how privileged we are in our lives. The diary helped us to understand how horrible the genocide was and how her story is inspiring for us”.

By Bindiya Badhan 10WIO

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

“The story follows the March sisters, Jo, Amy, Meg, and Beth, through their childhood and into adulthood. One of my favourite things about this book was how wholesome it was. The bond depicted between the March sisters will have anyone reminiscing about the purity of childhood friendships. Alcott perfectly depicts the innocence of childhood, and all the ups and downs of the journey into adulthood. The main idea, or message, of Little Women is that family is important in life and that we can handle any problem or tragedy with the support of family. There is also a message portrayed through the character of Jo, that women can be competent, successful, and still be feminine and have a family. Alcott’s writing is insightful, touching, and humorous; she draws the reader in emotionally and offers her wisdom generously. Little Women is an important narrative of ordinary life which both amuses and grieves, and should be read by all teens. Not only does it put life into perspective; it also relates to teenagers today despite being written nearly two-hundred years ago. Any audience will be able to connect with at least one of the March sisters-- especially young women. Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy become as dear to readers as family throughout their journey to adulthood. If you enjoy heartwarming stories and historical fiction, this book is for you!”

By Simran Gill 10MCI





20 March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Measles (MMR) Vaccine Reminder

There remains an increasing number of people with measles in Birmingham. Most of these are young children who have not had their MMR (measles) vaccine, although the numbers of adults getting measles is also increasing now too.

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.

Up to a third to half of those with measles have been very ill and had to be admitted to hospital - this disrupts learning or work, and some people will suffer long-term effects from getting measles. Please ensure you and your loved ones are vaccinated this, Easter.

Yours sincerely,

Humera Sultan

Consultant in Public Health, Public Health Division, Birmingham City Council

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

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

on: ___/___/___ (date) at _____am/pm (time).

