

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 28

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 11 April 2025



Catholic Life Annual Theme: Pilgrims of Hope on the Path of Peace

Termly Theme: 'In our care'

Termly Catholic Social Teaching: The Option for the Poor

Termly SJW Values: Eloquent and Truthful

This week in Weekly Worship...

*"We focused on Praise. A Praise Weekly Worship happens at the end of every term and is a time to celebrate the achievements of those in our year group. This Weekly Worship focused on many things including the importance of attendance and punctuality, stars of the month and class charts. We can be **curious and active** by making sure that we attend school on time and get positive class charts."*

By Priya Kaur 10BRO

This week in Afternoon Prayer...

*"We prayed for Palm Sunday. We thought about how Jesus entered Jerusalem with crowds waving palm branches and shouting Hosanna. This marks the start of Holy Week. We reflected on the trials we have faced recently and times we have felt like we have been carrying something heavy. We can be **loving and compassionate** by understanding that everyone around us will be going through difficult times and therefore we should be kind and understanding."*

By Riya Bains 10ANT

Dates to Note

- **Easter Holidays**
Monday 14 April 2025 to Friday 25 April 2025
- During the Easter Holidays selected Year 11 pupils are invited to attend GCSE and CNAT revision sessions. Pupils have been informed of the details.
- All pupils return to school at the normal time (8.50am start) on Monday 28 April 2025

Happy Easter

As we celebrate this joyous season of renewal and hope, the staff at Saint John Wall Catholic School extend our warmest wishes to you and your families. May the spirit of Easter fill your hearts with peace, love, and happiness.

Let us embrace the promise of new beginnings and the beauty of life's blessings. We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of your child's educational journey and look forward to continuing to support and nurture their growth.

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter!



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Goodbye to Mr Simmons

As we come to the end of the spring term, Mr Simmons will be leaving us. Mr Simmons has worked at Saint John Wall for 12 years, with some of that time as Head of Pankhurst House, then Second in the Maths Department and some as Head of Department. Mr Simmons has had a great impact on many of our pupils, staff and wider community, always enthusiastically engaging with the Catholic life of the school alongside his maths teaching. We wish him all the best in his new role at Albright Education Centre and would like to thank him for his dedicated service and hard work during his time with us.

We also say goodbye to Mr Ojo who returned to work in our EAL Department, and we wish him all the best for the future.

By Miss Marston

"After 12 incredible years at Saint John Wall Catholic School, the time has come for me to say goodbye. From starting out as a Maths teacher to becoming Head of House and later Head of Maths, it's been a journey filled with growth, challenges, and countless rewarding moments. I've been fortunate enough to work alongside some truly amazing colleagues and to teach and learn from so many brilliant pupils over the years.

Throughout my time here, I've had the privilege of learning from countless inspirational role models—staff and students alike—who have shaped the teacher and person I am today. St John Wall has been more than just a workplace – it's been a huge part of my life. The memories, friendships, and experiences I've gained here will stay with me forever, and I'll always look back on my time here with great fondness.

Although I'm moving on to a new role, I'll definitely be keeping an eye on the school from afar and cheering you all on. I'm excited to take everything I've learned here into the next chapter of my career. Thank you for being such a special part of my journey.

And of course—just one final reminder... don't forget to do your Sparx!"

By Mr Simmons



Free After School Enrichment Opportunity – Self Defence Classes

From Thursday 8 May, 'BIRMINGHAM SAYS NO - to serious youth violence' are offering some free self-defence classes for pupils in our school. The sessions will begin on Thursday 8 May, will take place weekly, for 8 weeks, 3.20pm-4.20pm and will be led by a 6 times world kickboxing champion, Wayne Turner.

Below are some of the activities Wayne will aim to cover during the sessions to increase both skill and confidence:

Self-Defence Activities

1. **Situational Awareness:** Teaching participants how to recognise potential threats and avoid dangerous situations before they escalate.
2. **Basic Techniques:** Learning simple but effective moves to defend oneself, such as blocking, striking, and escaping holds or grabs.
3. **De-escalation Tactics:** Strategies to defuse tense situations verbally and avoid physical confrontation whenever possible.
4. **Use of Everyday Objects:** Training on how to use items like keys, bags, or umbrellas for self-defence.
5. **Physical Conditioning:** Exercises to improve strength, agility, and reflexes, which are essential for self-defence.
6. **Scenario-Based Training:** Role-playing real-life situations to practice responses in a controlled environment.
7. **Confidence Building:** Activities to boost self-esteem and reduce fear, helping participants feel more empowered in their daily lives.

Letters will be available for pupils after the Easter break, there are only 20 spaces available, and parents will need to sign and return a reply slip.

By Miss Guest



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Public Health Notice from Birmingham City Council

Due to the ongoing waste and recycling service industrial action, rubbish has continued to accumulate across Birmingham. Residents may be impacted by the industrial action in different ways, however the public health risk associated with household waste can be reduced by taking the following precautions:

Good hygiene is important to reduce risk of becoming ill from bugs, in particular regular hand washing with soap and water.

- Keep food preparation areas clean using a disinfectant, don't leave food on surfaces at home unwrapped, including pet food and use bin lids as accumulated waste can attract flies.
- Use two bin bags, especially when preparing waste for taking outside as this reduces the risk of vermin breaking into bin bags.
- In particular, ensure waste products such as nappies, sanitary towels and condoms are 'double bagged' for example put in a smaller bag first before placing in the household rubbish bin.
- Use gloves if you pick up rubbish that has spilled into your driveway or street.
- Take extra precaution with children who may be playing in areas near where rubbish has accumulated and especially if you notice exposed waste.
- Where possible, keep wheelie bins / outside bins out of direct sunlight to reduce smells and in a place that minimises obstruction to others.
- If you or your child cuts themselves on waste in the street, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and apply a sterile adhesive dressing, such as a plaster. Visit the [NHS website information about how to deal with cuts](#).

If there is a risk the wound could become infected or you think it is already infected call NHS 111 or visit your local walk-in centre, minor injuries unit or GP surgery - or download the free 'Ask NHS' app for advice if you begin to feel unwell.

Special Guest

Martha Harris attended SJW on Thursday 10 April 2025, to discuss her life journey into sport and her sporting career to date.

She shared her barriers to playing football in school, and how physical activity plays a big part in her life now, supporting her mental health in a positive way.

Pupils listened to the assembly and asked really interesting questions at the end of the presentation. Along with the presentation, pupils completed a practical with Mrs Ratcliffe looking at the positives and negatives of sport.

Hopefully, pupils benefited from the AM session, and have a more determined, confident, resilient attitude towards physical education and activity.

By Mrs Ratcliffe



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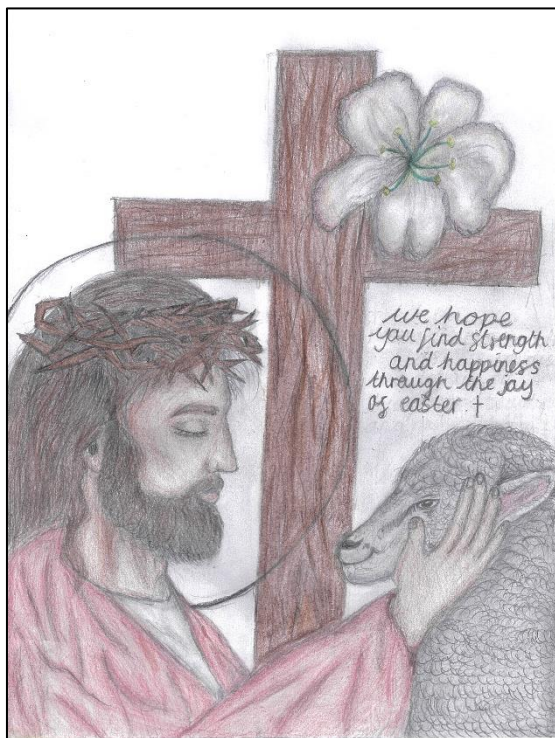
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Cards of Hope

Well done to Priya Chem 10TOW and Amarachi Isife 7PHA for winning the design a Card of Hope competition. Their designs below are wonderful and have been used as our official postcards which were delivered around our local community today. Both pupils will receive 50 house points!



By Priya Chem 10 TOW



By Amarachi Isife 7PHA





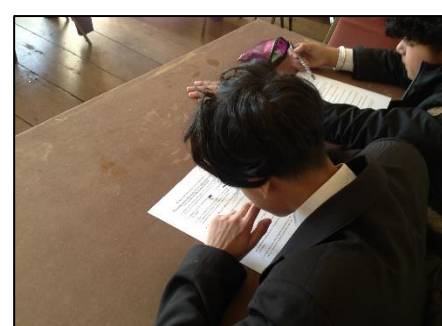
Harvington Hall Pilgrimage of Hope

On Monday, 15 pupils from different year groups visited Harvington Hall in Kidderminster. During the trip, pupils had a guided tour of the hall, the Chapel and St Mary's Catholic Church. They also took part in a debate.

Harvington Hall has a history of Catholic persecution and is well known for its numerous priest hides, which were used to protect Catholic priests during times of religious persecution in England. During this Jubilee Year, we are focusing on the theme of **Pilgrims of Hope on the Path of Peace**. St John Wall is closely linked to Harvington Hall as he served in Worcestershire for many years. He was eventually arrested and killed for his faith. Our pilgrimage on Monday allowed pupils to experience the life of St John Wall, a journey of faith and peace that many Catholics would have faced during that time.

The staff at Harvington Hall were extremely complementary of all our pupils so a big thank you and well done to those pupils that attended. Thank you also to Mr Lloyd-Price and Miss Bryan for their support in planning the trip and to Mrs France for her support in leading the trip with me.

By Mr Lysaght



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Card of Hope Community Delivery

As part of our end of term tradition, we delivered cards to the local community. This time, to celebrate the Jubilee Year, we posted cards of hope to our neighbours and local businesses. We are very grateful for the support from our local community, they work closely with our school to ensure that our pupils remain safe and behave appropriately.

Our cards, designed by Priya Chem Year 10 and Amarachi Isife Year 7, spread a message of hope to remind our pupils that we are all pilgrims of hope on the path of peace.

By Mr Price

The message said:

The pupils and staff at Saint John Wall Catholic School wish you a hopeful and peaceful Easter as we celebrate this Jubilee Year of Hope.

Jubilee Year of Hope - The Jubilee Year 2025 is a special Holy Year marked by the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. This Jubilee Year is a time for Catholics worldwide to renew their faith, seek reconciliation, and embark on spiritual pilgrimages. Pope Francis has emphasised the importance of having a hope that does not fade. Alongside our school theme, this Jubilee Year invites us all to be 'Pilgrims of Hope on the Path of Peace', a year in which we invite our community to experience the joy and strength in coming together as we respond to God's call.

"For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope". Pope Francis

As we celebrate Easter, a time of renewal and hope, may this season remind us of the power of faith, the joy of new beginnings, and the importance of community.



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Country in a Box House Competition

Well done to all the forms who entered this competition, all the entries were fantastic. The top 3 for each year group are as follows...

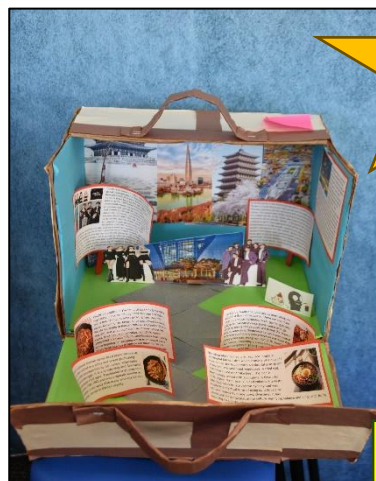


Country in a Box House Competition



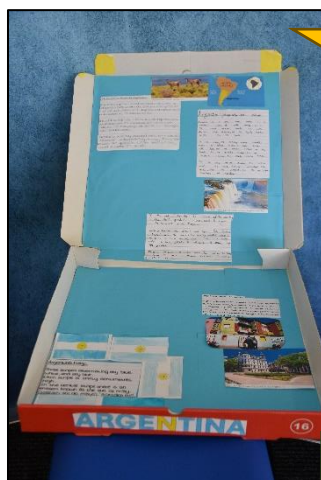
1st

9ILY



1st

10SIM



2nd

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2nd

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9RAH



3rd

10ANT



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Passion Service

On Friday, pupils gathered in the hall for their end of term Passion Service. During this service, pupils reflected on the journey of Jesus from the Last Supper to his crucifixion. Pupils were able to think about the many challenges Jesus faced, reflecting on the Agony in the Garden and the three falls of Jesus. The service also focused on our theme for the year of **'Pilgrims of Hope on the Path of Peace'**, in which pupils were able to think about the different challenges they have experienced in their own lives. Pupils were reminded that with **hope** and faith; we can be like Jesus and can always find the courage to rise again.

Thank you to all those pupils who read and to those who contributed through playing instruments during the service. Thank you also to Mrs Ellis, Mr Lloyd-Price and Miss Antonucci for their hard work and support in planning our Passion Service.

We wish you and your families a Happy and Holy Easter.

By Mr Lysaght



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THE BSN HUB

AFTER SCHOOL DROP-IN

A PLACE TO CHILL, CONNECT AND HAVE FUN

AGES 11-16 YEARS

STARTS WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL

EVERY WEDNESDAY 4 PM - 7 PM

FREE FOOD AND
DRINKS

OUTDOOR SPORTS
GAMING AND MUSIC
ART AND CRAFTS



MORE INFORMATION
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