

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 8

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 25 October 2024



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

Termly Theme: 'Each and every unique child'

Termly Catholic Social Teaching: Dignity

Termly SJW Values: Curious and Active

This week in Weekly Worship...

"This week in Weekly Worship, we focused on House. At the beginning of our Weekly Worship, we listened to a piece of scripture. This told us about being servants to God and to all people around us. This links to House because if we serve others through being kind, we will be rewarded. This motivates us because we can buy things with our points and shows that we can be a role model to others. We were also told about the importance of house points, positive points and having good attitude and attendance. We like house competitions because they are fun to take part in and we get to see our hard work in the things we create. We like Weekly Worship because it is a time we can all connect together".

This week in Afternoon Prayer...

"This week in Afternoon Prayer we prayed for Pope Saint John Paul II. As part of this prayer, we prayed for all the staff and pupils in this House, that we all have hope in our everyday lives, especially during times of difficulty and reflection. We also prayed for our termly values. This term we are focusing on being curious and active. An example of being active is when we ask questions in the classroom. An example of being curious is always taking in your surroundings and thinking about what you see. We like Afternoon Prayer because we can reflect with others in our class".

By Year 7 Chaplaincy Team

Message from Chair of Governors

"All the leaves are brown and the sky is grey"

It has been a really soggy start to the new school year with schools, including some in Birmingham, having to close due to leaky roofs causing flooding. No such calamity has faced Saint John Wall School, I'm relieved to report, so our new Year 7 pupils and colleagues joining the school for the first time have settled in well.

As governors we are obliged by the government at our first meeting to undertake safeguarding training. This year it was led by Miss Timmins who took us through the updated Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) guidance. You may remember Ofsted reported that **"Safeguarding is a strength of the school."** This I'm delighted to report continues under the stewardship of Miss Timmins supported by all members of staff. A concern that did attract our attention as governors but also with implications for staff and of course parents remains children's involvement in on-line activities especially messages sent within peer groups. For further help on this very serious issue and other safeguarding information please look on our superb website.

On a related topic we heard that staff are being trained in using Artificial Intelligence (AI). Much has been written about how the sinister manipulation of AI can cause huge problems for governments and other global and national organisations. AI also brings great advantages, however. Our teachers have been shown how it can help create lessons and be employed to assess pupils' learning. In addition and to enable the continued smooth running of the school, support staff have also received training on the use of AI to help with administrative tasks. This is exciting news and only the beginning as AI plays an increasingly prominent role in all our lives.



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Another of the observations Ofsted made during their inspection was the importance of sequencing. This requires organising the curriculum being taught so teachers build on a solid foundation of prior learning. Each lesson recaps the previous one helping to reinforce pupils' knowledge and understanding before they move onto new learning. The careful planning undertaken by Ms Hanson and Miss Guest and shared with all staff has enabled sequencing to be rolled out already to our Year 7 and Year 9 pupils. It can only help them advance their learning even further although as you can see below pupils at Saint John Wall are already making substantial progress - however it is measured.

The summer results achieved by our leavers 2024 show once again how the school continues to excel. Mr Holder provided governors with a detailed explanation informing us that our provisional 2024 Progress 8 (P8) score is +0.82. Just to remind everyone, a school's P8 score is the measure the government uses to track the progress pupils have made since starting in Year 7. A P8 of 0.0 means pupils have achieved what is expected of them. A P8 of +0.82 is truly astonishing as it means our pupils achieved over **4/5ths of a GCSE grade higher** in every subject compared to pupils nationally. Unquestionably Saint John Wall will be seen to be one of the best among schools not only in the city of Birmingham but across the entire Archdiocese. We eagerly await the official data to be published in November.

Many congratulations to these pupils and good luck to them as they have now moved on to the next stage of their post-16 education or training. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Miss Marston and her brilliant team of staff for their selflessness in leaving no stone unturned when encouraging our pupils to achieve their best. Already staff are preparing our current Year 11 pupils for next summer's exams. Last but not least a big thank you to parents for supporting the school. By the way as the present Year 11 pupils did not sit any SATs when they were in Year 6 it won't be possible for schools to publish P8 figures for the foreseeable future.

As the summer term ended work began on refurbishing the school hall – for the first time, I believe, since the school was built in 1961! We are really grateful to the Wolfson Foundation for their generosity in supporting the successful bid submitted by Mrs Breslin. She helped secure substantial funding for the main hall, allowing state-of-the-art lighting and sound equipment to be installed, new curtains to be hung and the redecoration of the stage area. The pupils love it especially those studying GCSE Drama with rehearsals for next summer's production of Aladdin well underway.

Other building activity has included works to enhance the electricity supply across the whole school thus making it more sustainable. This will continue for at least two years and again is the result of a successful bid for a very significant amount of funding.

Thank you to Mr Holden, Mrs Whitehouse and Mr Uddin for all their hard work and expertise in this field. It has provided improved girls' toilets facilities and the creation of a new office. Lastly following a survey, and unlike some other schools, no RAAC has been found on the school site – thankfully!

I've regularly mentioned that the Archbishop of Birmingham has encouraged all Catholic schools to join a Multi Academy Company (MAC). Of the 37 secondary schools in the Birmingham Archdiocese we are one of only six that currently exist outside a MAC. As part of Archbishop Bernard's vision for education our governing body is being encouraged to reach out to the St Teresa of Calcutta MAC which is located in Acocks Green. More news on developments as they unfold.

Please do get in touch should you require more detail about anything I've written.

Before I finish, I wish all the staff and our pupils a relaxing, and dry, half-term break. As Pope Francis has designated 2024 a Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee and with 2025 fast approaching, and until the next time, I'll end with this prayer:

Almighty God, we are people from many places and with many talents. Our faces show our history of pain and joy, of challenge and hope. We dream of a civilisation of love where people can experience justice, solidarity and peace. Guided by your love and wisdom we place all of our potential at the service of life and hope. We believe in the strength of dialogue, of truth and justice, of sharing and union. Grant us the creativity to live in a spirit of celebration and hope. So that, together, we are able to transform our world and create a new heaven and a new earth. *Amen.*

Saint John Wall, pray for us.

Martin Jones, Chair of Governors

Dates to Note

- **INSET Day – School Closed to all Pupils**
Friday 25 October 2024
- **Half Term**
Monday 28 October 2024 to Friday 1 November 2024
- **Year 11 Mock 1 Examinations**
Monday 4 November 2024 – Wednesday 13 November 2024
- **Values@Day**
Friday 22 November 2024
- **History Trip to National Justice Museum – Year 10**
Friday 22 November 2024 – 8.30am to 3.40pm
- **Year 7 and Year 9 Assessment Week**
Monday 25 November 2024 to Friday 29 November 2024



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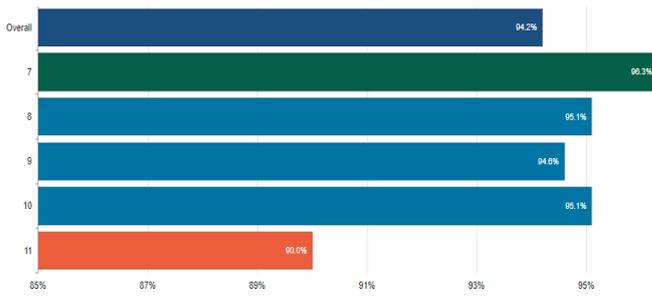
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Attendance

Thank you to parents and carers for supporting their child's attendance to school this half term. Pupils who have 100% attendance and punctuality (no lates) received a certificate to reward them in weekly worship this week.

Overall school attendance for this half term is **94.2%**



As Year 11 go into their mock exam week after half term, it is imperative that they are in school every day on time to ensure they can sit their assessments. Your child may be feeling anxious at this time due to the additional exam pressure and revision required. It is important that both parents/carers and school can identify any signs of school avoidance and be able to address them in a supportive way which improves the attendance of pupils.

Please see the poster for some ideas and strategies.

By Miss Lally

Poppy Appeal 2024

The Poppy Appeal is an important way to remember those who have served and sacrificed in the Armed Forces. By wearing a poppy, we show our respect and help raise funds to provide support for veterans, serving personnel, and their families in times of need.

Last year, thanks to your support we were able to raise £71.33 for veterans in need.

This year, we are once again proud to support the Poppy Appeal, with poppies available to pupils for a small donation from Monday 4th November. House Captains will be visiting forms and selling Poppies during break and lunch time. Your donation, however small, makes a difference and helps ensure that those who have given so much receive the care they deserve. If you would like your child to buy a poppy, please send them into school with a donation. Thank you once again for your support.

By Mr McIntosh

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

School avoidance refers to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. In 2022-23, more than one in five children in England were found to be absent from school over 10% of the time. This guide focuses on school avoidance with an emotional basis, offering expert mental health advice. However, it's important to remember that school avoidance is a hugely subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

REASONS FOR ABSENCE
School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school, a child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics, bullying and friendship difficulties at school, pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams, or moving from primary school to secondary school.

PATTERNS OF ABSENCE
You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress – such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS
There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include tummy aches, headaches, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes of illness.

IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE
School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT
The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES
Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity making them anxious – increasing their desire to stay at home.

CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Advice for Parents & Educators

WORK TOGETHER
If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a point of support or intervention. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

MANAGE OVERWHELMING FEELINGS
Acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss coping strategies together to help them manage difficulties. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk. This helps them understand that you are working together towards a common goal and that these strategies can be used when bigger feelings arise.

FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES
Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and spent away from screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timetable routine for the child's school day, if required.

RECOGNISE POSITIVE STEPS
Drawing attention to a child's successes – be they big or small – can help to give them some much-needed confidence and motivation. Celebrate these daily victories – such as getting out of bed on time or completing school work – and don't hesitate to let the child know when you're impressed or proud of them. Such an approach can go a long way.

Meet Our Expert
With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bortman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.05.2024

Behaviour and Uniform

During the last week of this half term, we took the opportunity to remind pupils of our standards for behaviour and uniform. There was a particular focus on the behaviour of Year 8 & 9. Year 8 & 9 lined up before school, after break and after lunch to help remind them of our high standards. Any pupils who fell below the expected standard were removed from the line ups and issued a detention with the Headteacher, Miss Marston.

Pupils will be reminded again of our high standards on the first day back. All year groups will line up on their playground and attend a weekly worship on expectations. It is vital that all pupils behave appropriately in school to ensure that pupils are able to be safe and learn effectively. Parents, please take a moment during the half term holiday to ensure your child has the correct uniform and equipment, and attends school ready to learn. **By Mr Price**



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Catholic Life

Class Mass

Throughout October, we have continued to celebrate weekly Class Mass at St Augustine's Catholic Church on a Thursday morning. As always, thank you to all pupils for their excellent behaviour for being **faith-filled** individuals. Thank you to class teachers for being supportive throughout the Mass and to Fr Subba for celebrating with us.



Chaplaincy Teams

Little Way Week

At the beginning of October, our Chaplaincy teams focused on Little Way Week as we celebrated the feast day of St Therese of Lisieux. Pupils found out about the life of St Therese and thought about why it is important to carry out small acts of kindness with great **love**. Pupils thought about how they could be **active** around school by carrying out small acts of kindness.



Great Big Live Assembly

Last week, some of our pupils came together to join the Sanctuary Foundation and watched their Great Big Live Assembly. This was one of the ways that we celebrated Black History Month as a school. This assembly enabled our pupils to celebrate the month and to also think about ensuring that all people feel safe and welcome in their communities. Thank you to the pupils who took part in this assembly for being so reverent and respectful.



World Mental Health Day

During October, we celebrated World Mental Health Day. As part of this day, pupils in our Chaplaincy teams thought about what mental health is and why it is important to talk about it. We focused on important aspects such as active listening and why it is always important to listen to others. We also thought about our wear Yellow Day, why it is important that we shine brighter together for Mental Health and what makes us feel happy! Well done to the pupils for being compassionate and loving with their discussions.



Liturgy Team

This month, our Liturgy Team members came together to think about some of the different roles that they can do within the team. Some of the members helped to pick items for their Weekly Worship Altar display, whilst others gave some pupil voice on our Weekly Worship, Afternoon Prayer and Class Mass. Thank you to our Liturgy Team members for wanting to be so **active** this half term.





As part of World Mental Health Day, pupils visiting the Chapel were also able to take part in different activities such as Mental Health wordsearches and 'wear it loud' colouring sheets.



By Mr Lysaght

Anti-Bullying Week

When we return after the half term, we will be focusing on Anti-Bullying Week, which is taking place in November. Pupils began to plan for this week and thought about what Anti-Bullying is. The theme for this year is 'Choose Respect' and so pupils thought about why respect is important and how they can ensure that they are always respecting the dignity of all individuals.



Visit to St Mary's Coffee Club

Today we were treated to a pop up choir with a wide selection of songs to join in with. Pupils were also kept busy helping out with tea and coffee orders, putting chairs away and helping organise music sheets. One of the chorists commented on how invaluable pupils help had been. Well done!

By Mrs Clayton

Year 7 Welcome Mass

On Thursday we officially welcomed Year 7 with a welcome Mass at St Augustine's Catholic Church. Parents of Year 7s and some primary school headteachers were also invited and joined us for the celebration. Thank you to Fr Subba for celebrating the Mass and also to our readers Brian Borawski 7PHA, Happiness Matondo 7BRK, Favour Ifeosame 7PHA, Liyah Rani 7RES, Chevonne Jolayemi 7BRK and Meera Badhan 7RES. Thank you also to Mrs Ellis, Mrs Crooks, Miss Antonucci, and Mr Price for their help and support for preparing the Mass.

Mission Together

Pupils in our Chaplaincy Teams also focused on the work of Mission Together. This is an official Children's Charity for Overseas Mission. As part of this, pupils thought about what mission is and found out about some examples of overseas missionaries. Pupils were able to explore Catholic Social Teachings in action and were able to see how charities such as Mission Together make a difference, through prayer and action, to the live of individuals overseas. Pupils thought about the Catholic Social Teachings of **Dignity** and **Option for the Poor**.





Black History Month Performing Arts

This week in Performing Arts we have been looking at songwriting. Pupils have been discussing famous songwriters and this year we focused on the famous rapper Tupac Shakur.

Tupac was known to be one of the best songwriters and rappers of all time. Only alive for 25 years he was able to make a significant stamp on the music industry and his music lives on forever, being passed on from generation to generation. Tupac's lyrics focused on many issues to do with race and the pressures he felt being a coloured man in America, in the 80s and 90s. The way Tupac wrote about his troubles was very well thought out and creative which is what inspires our songwriters today.

Year 8 pupils are currently writing their own songs taking inspiration from Tupac by writing creatively and thinking outside of the box, writing songs with a purpose.

By Miss Antonucci

FAMOUS SONGWRITER- TUPAC SHAKUR

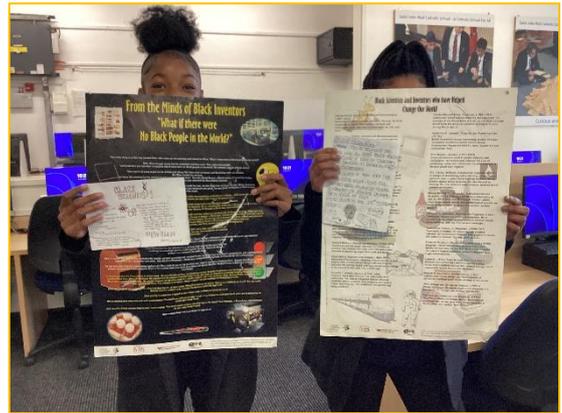


- Born in New York in 1974.
- Tupac is known to be one of the best songwriters in the world for his rap lyrics.
- His lyrics discuss the political issues Such as racism and the emotions of the people in his area. This made people start to pay attention to these issues.
- He rose to fame when he released his debut album '2pacalypse Now' in 1991.
- In 1996 Tupac was sadly shot and killed by men in an unknown vehicle. He was only 25 years old. His memory still lives on in his music today

Black History Month Science

As we celebrate Black History Month, pupils were able to research and recognise the significant contributions of Black scientists and innovators who have shaped the field of science. This month we offered pupils an excellent opportunity to explore their achievements and the impact they've had on our understanding of the world.

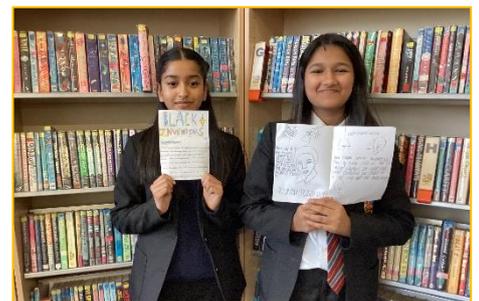
By Ms Forbes



As we celebrate Black History Month, let's take a moment to reflect on the incredible contributions of Black individuals throughout history. Their achievements in various fields—science, art, politics, and social justice have not only shaped our world but continue to inspire us today.

This month is an opportunity for pupils to learn about black scientists and inventors past and present.

By Ms Forbes

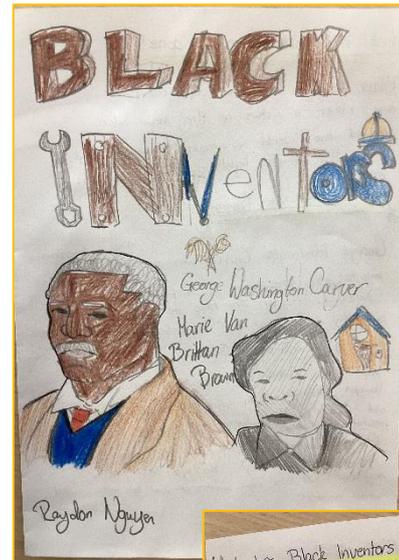


Black History Month

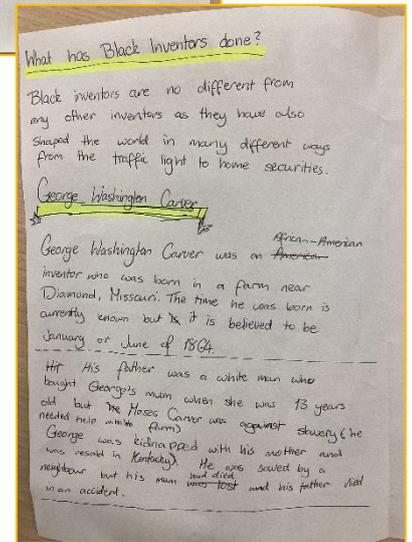
Science

Year 8 pupils looked at black history in science, highlighting the achievements of Black individuals to enrich the curriculum and celebrate cultural diversity. Pupils were given the opportunity to understand the experiences and perspectives of Black people, fostering empathy and reducing prejudice.

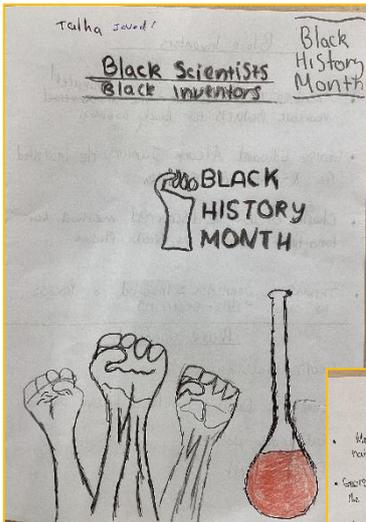
By Ms Forbes



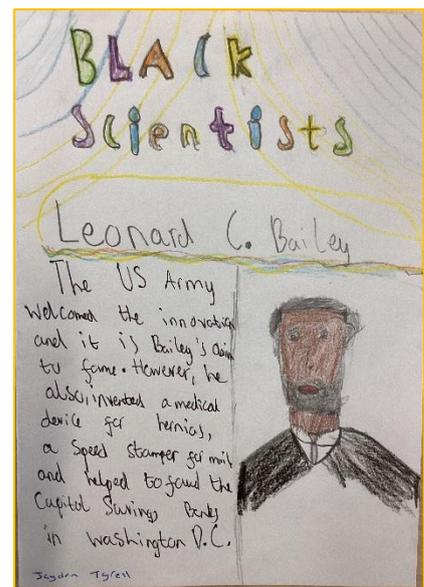
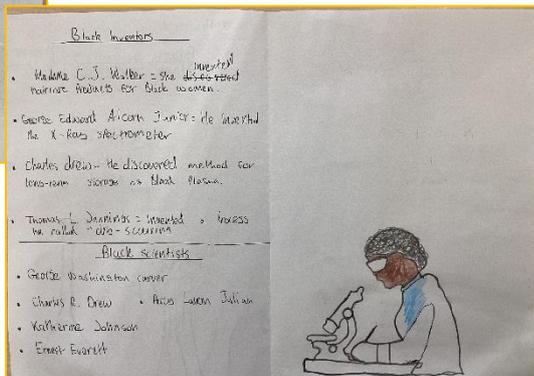
By Raydon Nguyen
8HAB



By Sarah Omenma 8HAB



By Talha Javed 8HEW



By Jayden Tyrell 8HEA



Black History Month IT

Black History Month Geography

Year 9 IT Pupils Watch 'Hidden Figures' for Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month, our Year 9 Information Technology pupils watched *Hidden Figures*, a film that highlights the achievements of three African-American women at NASA in the 1960's — Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson. Despite facing discrimination, they used their mathematical and computing skills to help launch astronaut John Glenn into space.

After the film, pupils discussed key themes, including Dorothy Vaughan's role in early computing, the introduction of IBM computers, and the challenges the women faced working in a segregated environment. The movie sparked conversations about resilience, self-learning, and breaking barriers in STEM, leaving pupils inspired by the women's groundbreaking contributions.

By Mr Rathbone

"Skills can help overcome challenges". By James Doyle 9RAH

"Showed how to apply maths to the real world".

By Maninderdeep Sidhu 9RAH



In Geography, we regularly look at the issues created by deforestation. For Black History Month Year 10 discovered the determination that one woman had in influencing local Kenyan women and the Kenyan government to replant trees across the whole of the country.

Year 10 saw the relevance of Wangari Maathai's story in their topics of desertification and reforestation.

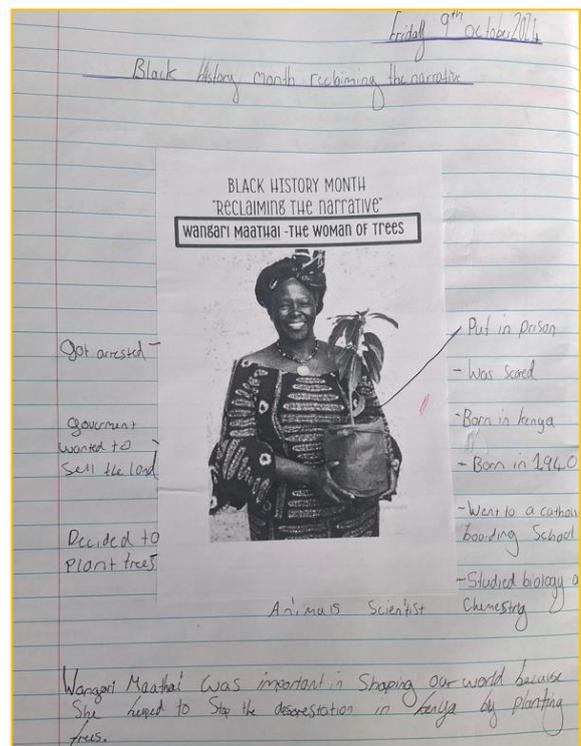
By Ms Levine

"Wangari believed in helping her country out of poverty despite being put in prison. She worked hard and never gave up".

By Krzysztof Daszkiewicz 10BRO

"Wangari Maathai was important in shaping our world because she helped to stop the desertification in Kenya by getting people to plant trees".

By Nigel Mthinsi 10BAK



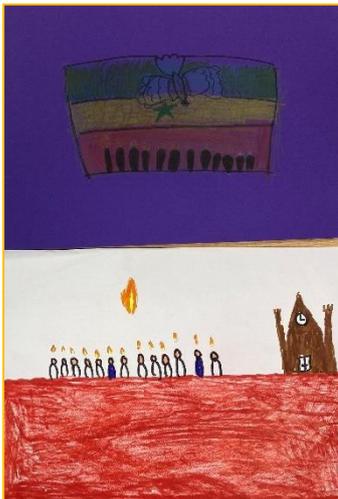
Black History Month

RE

In RE Year 8 pupils have been learning about Pentecost, the birthday of the Church.

Pupils spent some time looking into the artwork of the Mafa Christian community in Northern Cameroon, Africa. They studied how the artwork reflected the culture of the Mafa Christian community, from how the disciples and Mary were depicted in traditional dress, to the setting in a communal meeting space. From there, pupils were tasked in creating their own artwork on the theme of Pentecost, expressing their own cultures. Well done to all pupils who produced fabulous work!

By Mrs Ellis



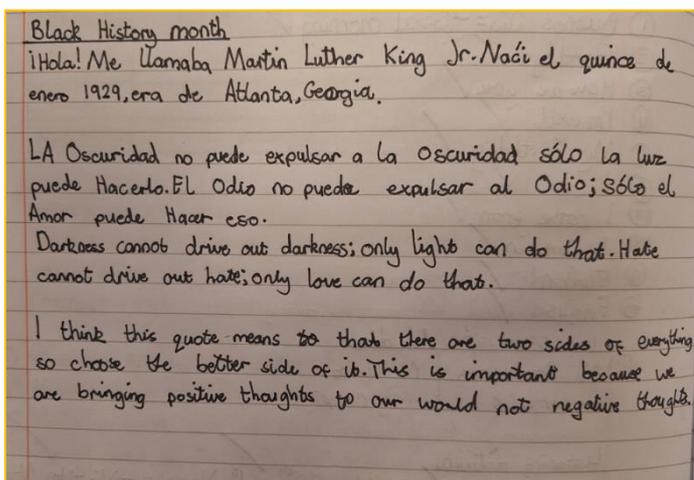


Black History Month

MFL

I started by asking pupils if they knew who Martin Luther King Jr. was, and a few of them managed to give details about his life and even the fact that he won a Nobel Peace Prize. Then we moved to analyse a brief introduction about Martin Luther King Jr. in Spanish where I asked pupils to identify words they know and say the date when he was born, his nationality. Pupils looked at one of his quotations in Spanish and afterwards in English. Pupils reflected on the quotation, its relevance and importance in our lives. They then wrote a comment about it in their book.

By Mr Di Mattia

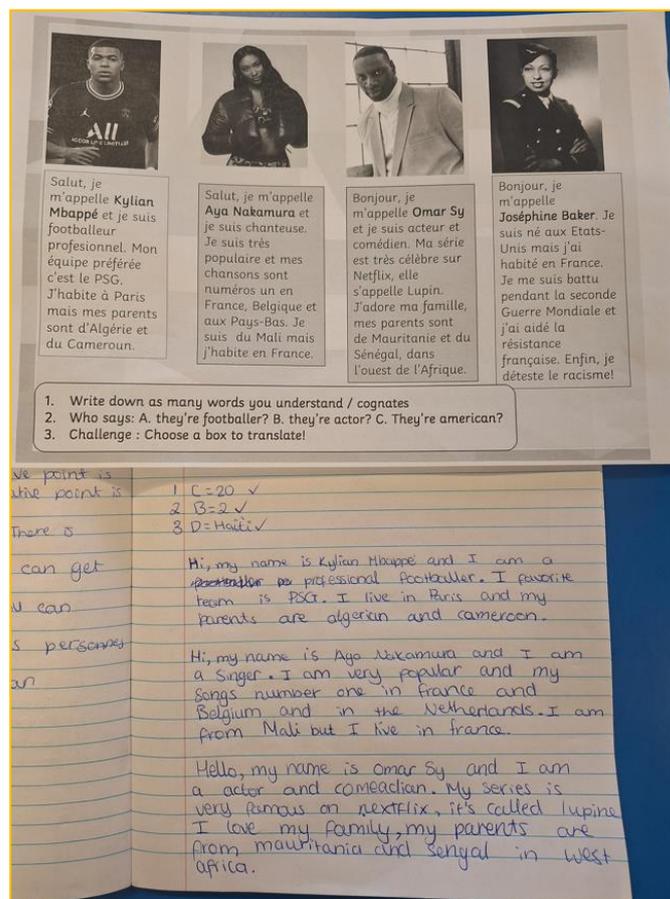


By Kaylan Phu 7PHA

In French we looked at four very different famous people with stories to tell.

Pupils enjoyed reading and discussing the stories. We discussed how they had contributed to our lives and their importance. Finally, pupils chose a story to translate into English.

By Mr Nsengiyumva



By Princess Jones 8HAB





Black History Month History

In History this term Year 7 pupils have been looking at the History of Migration to Britain, from the Anglo-Saxons right up until the present day. For Black History Months pupils looked at the story of the creation of the Notting Hill Carnival. The carnival was founded by Claudia Jones as a response to the racist murder of Kelso Cochrane in 1959 as a way to bring the local community together. This story is an example of how migrants to Britain throughout History have overcome challenges and reclaimed narratives to bring about positive change which is the theme for BHM 2024.

Pupils responded well to the story and made interesting comments about what they had learnt.

By Mr McIntosh

"I have learnt what Caribbean people went through and how hard it was for them in the 1950s. I think it's important that we learn about their experiences"

By Luka Leleviciute 7MAV

"It is important we learn about this story because it shows how black people suffered and how they stayed strong and changed the world in good ways and appreciated their culture and heritage"

By Samadhi Fernando 7MAV

"It is important that we learn about this story because it shows how Claudia Jones turned something negative and racist, to something positive"

By Davis Asu 7BRK

B:M 2024 **RECLAIMING NARRATIVES** **B:M 2024**

The Story of the Notting Hill Carnival

In the 1950s, many people from the Caribbean moved to the UK to help rebuild the country after World War II. They settled in places like Notting Hill, but they faced racism and discrimination. One night in 1959, a young man named Kelso Cochrane was walking home when he was attacked and killed in a racist attack. His murder shocked the Black community, but no one was ever arrested for it.

During this difficult time, a woman named Claudia Jones stood up. She was from Trinidad and believed that even though people were hurting, they could find strength in their culture. She knew the Caribbean people had rich traditions of music, dancing, and joy, and she wanted to bring everyone together to celebrate that. So, she helped organize the first indoor Caribbean carnival in 1959, which later inspired the creation of the Notting Hill Carnival.

The Notting Hill Carnival became a way for the Black community to stand proud and show their culture to the world, while also fighting against racism. Today, it's one of the biggest street festivals in Europe, and it celebrates Caribbean music, dance, food, and unity. It reminds us how important it is to remember our history, honour those like Kelso Cochrane, and reclaim the stories of our strength and culture.

Highlight
Information about Kelso Cochrane
Challenges the Caribbean community faced in Notting Hill.

Define
Discrimination: Not wanting to do something because of what you believe or look like. (and race)
Carnival: A happy event where people have fun, dance, play music & celebrate something, etc.

Respond
Who was Claudia Jones, and how did she help create the Notting Hill Carnival?
She knew Caribbean culture included lots of dance, music & joy & decided to celebrate that in a carnival.
Why is the Notting Hill Carnival important today? What does it celebrate?
It celebrates reclaiming our strength & culture & to honour those like Kelso Cochrane that faced it.
How does the creation of the Notting Hill Carnival help reclaim the narrative of the Black community in the UK?
It celebrates those who faced racism & discrimination around that time because of their race.

By Oliwier Lutrzykowski 7BRK

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Information about Kelso Cochrane.
Challenges the Caribbean community faced in Notting Hill.

Define
Discrimination: Is people being judged by where they come from.
Carnival: A place where people have fun and play games.

Respond
Who was Claudia Jones, and how did she help create the Notting Hill Carnival?
Claudia is from Trinidad and she believed people can come together to find strength and find it through their culture. She organized the first indoor Caribbean carnival.
Why is the Notting Hill Carnival important today? What does it celebrate?
It is important because everyone can celebrate it and because of it people come together from different cultures to have fun.
How does the creation of the Notting Hill Carnival help reclaim the narrative of the Black community in the UK?
It helps reclaim narrative by reclaiming the stories of their strength and culture.

By Gurjot Singh 7BRK



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House Trip – Inflata nation

Monday 21 October 2024

On Monday pupils in Years 8 to 11 in Gandhi house attended Inflata Nation as a reward for their fantastic efforts last year in all house events and earning the most house points, therefore becoming the House winners for 2023 to 2024. Pupils represented the school fantastically and had an amazing time on the inflatables.

By Miss Young



"It was so much fun to play a big game of hide and seek on the inflatables and include the younger year groups getting to know other pupils in my house". By Emmanuel Erikowa 11JON



"I challenged Miss Young on the big Red inflatable balls to see who could get across first, like you see on the TV show total wipeout, I beat Miss Young and she fell off! It was so much fun and I appreciated having this reward for all our hard work last year and winning sports day".

By Caleb Buck 8HAB



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Orienteering Workshop

Monday 21 October 2024

On Monday pupils completed an orienteering session during their PE/Lifestyle lesson. Pupils had to work together in teams to find the different control points around the SJW outside area. Completing both a numeracy and literacy challenge. This is a new physical activity introduced at SJW, and pupils had to develop and work on their communication, teamwork, confidence with working with others and problem-solving skills.

By Mrs Ratcliffe



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Year 11 Sports Studies Kayaking Trip Monday 21 October 2024

This week, our Year 11 Sports Studies class embarked on an exciting kayaking session at Ackers Adventure. The trip was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to step out of their comfort zones, learn new skills, and enjoy the great outdoors.

The day was filled with enthusiasm and energy as the students eagerly took to the water. Under the guidance of experienced instructors, they learnt essential kayaking techniques, including paddling, steering and safety measures. It was wonderful to see the pupils working together, encouraging one another, and building their confidence on the water.

A special mention goes to Abdi, who truly stood out with his bravery and confidence. He was the first to volunteer to get into the kayak and demonstrated great composure throughout the session. His positive attitude and willingness to take on challenges were inspiring to all.

Overall, the trip was a resounding success. The pupils not only had a great time but also developed valuable skills that will serve them well in future outdoor activities. As a school, we look forward to more such outdoor and adventurous training that promote teamwork, resilience, and a love for physical activity.

By Mr Rathbone

"I had a lot of fun Kayaking! I also had a race with my friend. We should do this again!" By Abdihakiim Yusuf 11JEL



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Cultural Heritage Day

Thursday 24 October 2024

Today we held our annual cultural heritage day where pupils had the opportunity to wear clothes from their culture. During lunch time today, Miss Young arranged a cultural Heritage Day fashion show where pupils could showcase their cultural outfits walking down the 'runway' to their choice of music. It was amazing to see pupils proud of their heritage and celebrate our diverse school community.

By Miss Young



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Head of Year News

Head of Year 11

As we are finishing our term we reflect on upcoming events that will be impacting Year 11 pupils. Pupils have been spending the majority of this term revising for their upcoming Mock exams. They have been working extremely hard completing set work that will support them during this period. I am really proud of what I have seen so far with the level of maturity that they have been using throughout this term.

A reminder that the Yearbook is available for pupils to buy - this is a fantastic opportunity to look back at their five years at this school. They will be receiving this in August when they come to get their GCSE results.

As you are aware pupils have been busy looking at post 16 choices to support them - they have been having 1-1 sessions with our careers advisor. We have also had colleges and sixth form providers coming into school to deliver weekly workshops to support pupils with understanding the process, what they provide and grades required. Pupils have been active and curious by asking lots of questions that will support them.

This will continue after their mock exams. Open day dates are shared on our weekly newsletter.

Please use your half term not only to revise but rest and look after yourselves.

By Mrs Chand

What's on during October and November!

In School:

- 28 October - 1 November - Half Term
- 4 November - 13 November – Year 11 Mock 1
- 15 November – Year 10 Reports to parents
- 22 November - Values @ Day 1
- 25 - 29 November - Year 7 & Year 9 Assessment Week

Outside of School:

- Scarefest at Alton Towers - 11 October until 3 November.
- The Wild Hunt Lantern Workshop @ St Marys Guildhall 6 until 29 October. (between £1-£5)
- Gandeys Halloween Spooktacular Merry Hill - 23 October until 3 November.
- Coco Screening and Halloween Disco @ Millennium Point on 26 October.
- Paddington Visits Birmingham - 9 October until 6 January.
- Aston Hall: Gruesome Tour - 27 October.

- Free Halloween Activities at Birmingham Resorts World:
 - The Addams Family - Monday 28 October & Thursday 31 October.
 - Circus Skills Show - Tuesday 29 October & Wednesday 30 October.

- Halloween Spooktacular - Solihull town centre on 26 and 27 October 2024!
- Haunted house at Bullring (free) - 25 October - 3 November.

By Miss Cummings





100% Attendance and Punctuality

Congratulations and well done to the following pupils who have been in school every day since the start of the academic year (September 2024) with no lates!

A special thank you to all the parents and carers for these pupils who ensure that your children are coming to school not only every day but on time. We will be monitoring attendance throughout the year and hope to see more pupils on the list for next month.

Attendance to school is vital for every child's education and any missed days lead to missed learning and missed opportunities. A reminder to everyone that all our pupils need to be in school by 8.50am.

By Mr Hussain

Daniel Aleksejevs	7PHA
Davis Asu	7BRK
Solihome Atobrhan	7BRK
Meera Badhan	7RES
Aftanna Bargil	7BRK
Eline Behane	7BRK
Amrit Bhopal	7RES
Chikaima Bosah	7PHA
Georgiana Cantaragiu	7MAV
Taniqua Carter	7BRK
Karan Chohhan	7BRK
Isharma Chowfen	7MAV
Arsham Dolagh	7PHA
Samadhi Fernando	7MAV
Tia Grimmitt	7BRK
Saida-Stefania Grozavu	7MAV
Naiemah Handley-Lawrence	7HAS
Tamoya Hare	7BRK
Hamza Hussain	7RES
Favour Ifeosame	7PHA
Amarachi Isife	7PHA
Saara Islam	7RES
Mohammed Izaan	7PHA
Luka Leleviciute	7MAV
Manthan Marok	7MAV
Zion Matondo	7RES
Happiness Matondo	7BRK

Tanzeela Miah	7PHA
Alexcia Rea Moesson	7PHA
Akram Morisho	7HAS
Saniaya Munoz	7HAS
Sara Musat	7HAS
Roberto Nguyen	7BRK
Josaiiah Owusu Nana	7MAV
Michael Trieu Hai Pham	7HAS
Jennifer Pham	7MAV
Kaylan Phu	7PHA
Sana Rani	7BRK
Ayat Rani	7PHA
Jaspreet Sheemar	7BRK
Zara Sheikh	7MAV
Gurjot Singh	7BRK
Mankirat Singh	7PHA
Edward Sylva	7MAV
Kirandeep Taal	7BRK
Faith Tameray	7RES
Seim Teklesenbet	7MAV
Mickey Thompson	7HAS
Kaillan Dinh Tran	7RES
Mikel Usoro	7MAV
Essey Yohannes	7RES
Nadia Adams	8HEA
Adunoluwa Adesola	8HEW
Christian Adjei	8PAL
Nabil Ahmed	8HAB
Safah Akhtar	8HAB
Dawood Arshad	8HEW
Sunny Atobrhan	8HEA
Nardev Chumber	8HEW
Christopher Doyle	8HEW
Valerie Ejianreh	8PAL
Praise Ejiofor	8HAB
Georgia Goring	8HEW
Sofanit Guesh	8HEA
Seth Holder	8PAL
Redan Hussain	8HAB
Chinomso Isife	8PAL
Umar Islam	8HEW
Khizar Ismail	HUB
Ibraheem Jagun	8HEA
Tanaka Johwa	8HEA
David Kadzik	8BRS





Sachin Kumar	8BRS
Jennifer Masih	HUB
Josue Matthews	8HAB
Sulayman Miah	8HAB
Injacio Mjeda	8HEW
Ridhwan Mohamed	8BRS
Christina Morisho	8HEA
Hussein Muhumed	8HEA
Aaiza Mukhtar	8PAL
Dieudonne Nah	8PAL
Raydon Nguyen	8HAB
Esther Okunade	8PAL
Goldlyn Omali-Onkonkwo	8PAL
Aisha Omar	HUB
Sarah Omenma	8HAB
David Oye	8HEA
Kushi Patel	8HAB
Kelly Pham	8BRS
Fatima Qasim	8PAL
Raya Raju	8HAB
Anmole Rajwal	8HEA
Malachi Scarlett	8HAB
Jayden Tyrell	8HEA
Edward Ung	8HEA
Ksawery Winczura	8HAB
Maja Zdunkiewicz	8BRS
Alan Adamkowski	9CAL
Aangelinah Antonio Pereira	9LEV
Sara Antony	9ESM
Aaliyah Bains	9CAL
Hafija Begum	HUB
Lydia Binyam	9ESM
Ernesto Breton Johnson	9CAL
Natnael Desta	9ESM
James Doyle	9RAH
Isaiah Foster	9CAL
Rana Hassan	9RAH
Demi-Lee Hulme	9RAH
Ashtaz Islam	9LEV
Amina Jahanzeb	9CAL
Michael John	9ESM
Julia Kaza	9LEV
Hairan Kimba Musah	9CAL
Oskar Krzeminski	9LEV
Zakariya Malik	9ILY
Isaac Masamuna	9LEV

Gabriel Mendoza	9LEV
Elaine Mensah	9CAL
Adonay Meresie	9ILY
Joshua Michael Berhe	9LEV
Ethan Mthinsi	9ESM
Kody Nguyen	9ILY
Trae Nguyen	9RAH
Arielle Elise Njike Yomi	9ILY
Victoria Osayande	9RAH
Ameliah Raj-Sawyers	9RAH
Akhil Ram	9ILY
Sidia Saidy	9CAL
Kavishnan Sanker	9ESM
Krishnoor Singh	9RAH
Parampreet Singh	9ILY
Sartaj Singh	9CAL
Sehaj Singh	9RAH
Alexandru-Ionut Sultana	9ILY
Raena Teshome	9LEV
Wendy Thompson	9CAL
Zakir Waqas	9LEV
Kimora Williams	9ILY
Hubert Wolant	9RAH
Lamario Wright-Ashley	9ESM
Deborah Agbolade	10TOW
Aaphryl Antonio Pereira	10TOW
Arjan Badhan	10SIM
Riya Bains	10ANT
Kritika Basra	10SIM
Sham Behane	10BRO
Yakob Binyam	10BRO
Andrei-Felix Cantaragiu	10BRO
Priya Chem	10TOW
Carlisle Co	10TOW
Ibrahim Doumbia	10SIM
Erica Fosua Agyemang	10ANT
Africa Beauty Garcia George	10BRO
Feven Ghebrezghi	10BAK
Isabella Gill	10SIM
Kailen Graham	10BRO
Rihana Guesh	10ANT
Lovepreet Guru	10SIM
Mudazir Hassan	10TOW
Anna Horvathova	10SIM
Precious Illori	10SIM





Calum Kainth	10ANT
Priya Kaur	10BRO
Sandra Lutrzykowska	10TOW
Ellie Mai	10BAK
Daiana Mancescu	10TOW
Alina Mathews	10TOW
Sarah MonThomas	10TOW
Silvia Nah	10SIM
Chisom Nwaichi	10SIM
Godson Omenma	10ANT
Richard Oye	10TOW
Noah Paul	10TOW
Duy Anh Phan	10SIM
Ella Prescott-Hopkins	10SIM
Sunnah Rafiq	10TOW
Jaskirat Sahota	10ANT
Harrum Sajid	10SIM
Nikodem Siatkowski	10TOW
Bhagwant Singh	10BAK
Mateusz Teterycz	10SIM
Maria Tibuleac	10BRO
Damaris Tofei	10TOW
Kayden Tran	10SIM
Dylan Tura	10ANT
Rehmid Wright	10ANT
Salah Alameen	11JON
Sheingrwa Behane	11MUH
Nathalia Campbell-Bennett	11MCI
Diya Chana	11MUH
David Ejiofor	11KIY
Deborah Fadola	11MCI
Precious Franklyn-Uloh	11MUH
Jeremiah Gill	11JON
Krish Harjiv	11MCI
Zaakir Hussain	11JON
Francisca Idemudia	11MCI
Zara Khan	11MUH
Marwan Khan	11JEL
Ritvik Lal	11JON
Jamie Van Le Ashford	11JEL
Jose Malundama	11JON
Miya Mardenborough Taggart	11JEL
Nicola Matusik	11MCI
Shania-Anne McDermott	11JEL
Kobi Mensah	11KIY
Christel Mjeda	11MCI

Rafeh Nawaz	11MUH
Kai Nguyen	11JEL
Daniel Oji	11MCI
Denzel Okyei	11MCI
Muhammed Sheraz Rafaqat Begum	11JON
Qasim Rehman	11KIY
Esa Shah	11JON
Shanae Warner	11MUH

Birmingham Young Carer's Service

This is provided for all young people in Birmingham who look after a member of their family in some capacity due to illness or social and emotional mental health concerns.

How We Support You:

We understand that caring for someone can sometimes feel like a lot to handle. That's why we're here to help you find balance and make time for yourself. Our service offers:

- **Group Support:** Meet other Young Carers, share what you're going through, and make friends with people who really understand.
- **Emotional Well-Being Activities:** Take part in activities that help you relax, de-stress, and feel good about yourself.
- **Fun Breaks and Activities:** Get away from your responsibilities with fun day trips, workshops, and activities just for you!



What is the Birmingham Young Carers Service?

We're here to make sure that if you're under 18 and looking after someone at home, you get the support you need. Whether you're helping care for a family member with physical or mental health issues, disabilities, or other challenges, our service is all about helping you manage school, life, and caring.

What You Can Expect:

- **Personalised Support:** We'll work with you to make sure you get the right support to help you in your caring role. That might mean help with school, or just someone to talk to when things feel tough.
- **Working with your School:** We'll work with your teachers to help them understand what you're dealing with at home and make sure you're getting the right support.
- **Involving Your Family:** We don't just support you—we work with your family too, helping everyone get the help they need so that you don't have to do everything on your own.

For more information regarding this service, please speak to a member of the Pastoral Team in school, or visit [Young Carers - Birmingham Carers Hub](#)

By Mrs Ellis





Stars of the Month

Music

Kobi Mensah 11KIY - For consistent high-quality work in music.
Africa Beauty Garcia George 10BRO - For consistent work hard in music.
Raheem Nadeem 9CAL - For dedication to music inside and outside of lesson.
Amira Akhtar 8HEA - For progress and dedication to music.
Kaiden Mowatt 7HAS - For progress and dedication to music.

By Miss Antonucci

Drama

Rakeem Douglas 7MAV - excellence in Drama and being a team player.
Har Sahib Singh 8BRS - excellence in Drama and being a team player.
Andrei-Ionut Neagu 8HEA - excellence in Drama and being a team player.
Sebastien Kaso 9ESM - team leader and excellent use of performance skills in recent performance.
Khushdeep Nagra 10SIM - Excellent use of performance skills in recent assessment.
Mercedes Johnson 11KIY - Excellence in Performing Arts in both practical coursework.

By Miss Cummings

English

Nilasha Kanna 11JEL - Well done for going above and beyond in your English revision by attending non compulsory English sessions and completing work to an impeccable standard.
Zephaniah Lebert 11JEL - Excellent contributions in lessons and holding yourself to a high standard.
Jose Malundama 11JON - Growth and development within English as well as attendance to none compulsory English-Well done Jose!
Kyh-Shayn Douglas 10BRO - Fantastic attainment in recent assessments and 100% effort every single lesson.
Kyrese Williams 10ANT - Fantastic and thoughtful contributions every lessons-setting a high standard for both yourself and also the class.
Kritika Basra 10SIM - Excellence and attainment in A Christmas Carol assessment as well as being an English advocate this half term. Well done Kritika!

By Miss Jones

Kaillian Dinh 7RES - Kaillian is worthy of this award! He has remained focused producing work of a great level and contributing to class discussion at the correct time. He has settled well, and he is doing very well. Keep it up!

Dieudonne Nah 8PAL - Dieudonne is a very polite young man who is willing to help when needed. He remains focused during lesson and produces work of a high standards. His contribution to class discussion shows his understanding of what is being taught and the depth of his thinking. Well done!

Ryan Jeerh 9ILY - Such a successful term Ryan has had! He has produced some very successful work this term and his contribution to class discussion shows great understanding beyond class teaching! Keep it up!

By Mrs Pitman

Deborah Fadola 11MCI - For outstanding dedication and excellence in all areas of work in English. For persistence and excellent effort, for being always well-prepared and keen to help peers, and offering thoughtful support.

By Mrs Wieremiewicz

Akram Morisho 7HAS - For his attention to detail in lessons, along with his eloquence when speaking and voices his opinions. Well done Akram!

By Mrs Ellis





Stars of the Month

Simranpreet Kaur 7RES - Simranpreet has shown great commitment to all aspects of our English lessons and has consistently produced work that reflects her best ability. She approaches tasks with determination and takes pride in completing assignments to a high standard. All of this is highly commendable.

By Mrs Mavrogenis

Business, Computing and IT

Dylan Sabharwal 10BAK - For effort and achievement within Enterprise and Marketing coursework

Kodi Brown 10BRO - For achievement within Enterprise and Marketing assessment

Mateusz Teterycz 10SIM - For Excellent Achievement within the computer science assessment and progress within python programming. By Mr Esmaili

Maths

Umar Islam 8HEW - Excellent effort and good contributions in Maths lessons.

Alysha Gabor 8HEW - Good start of year and pushing herself hard in Maths lessons.

Jennifer Pham 7MAV - Hard working and helping others.

Ansh Kumar 7PHA - Always trying hard in Maths lessons.

By Mrs Gandhi

Health and Social Care

Lilly-May Harrison 9ILY - Wonderful contribution and focus during lessons.

Richard Oye 10TOW - Fantastic dedication to revision and working hard in lesson shown in an amazing assessment result.

Shanae Warner 11MUH - Amazing examination homework with quality revision evident.

By Miss Reynolds

Science

Amunra Tameray 9CAL - For being learned, wise and making good progress in science.

Isaac Masamuna 9LEV - For working independently and participating in class discussions.

Jalal Aziz 11MUH - For always participating in lessons and for his continuous enthusiasm and effort towards learning.

By Ms Forbes

Amritpal Khela 9ILY - For reading around his subjects to ensure he understands the content well.

Princess Precious-Jones 8HAB - For a really positive change over the last few weeks in her work ethic and attitude to learning.

Muhammed Sheraz Begum 11JON - For excellent work ethic and consistency in his revision.

Sofia Masih 8HAB - For always working well in Science.

Esther Okunade 8PAL - For excellent attitude to learning and for always being polite.

By Mrs Ilyas





Stars of the Month

Muhammed Huzaifah Zafar 7MAV - Outstanding attitude and behaviour in class.

Ciara Onodyova, 7MAV - Excellent attitude in class.

Jenifer Demetrova 7RES - Learned and wise.

Kaylan Phu 7PHA - Intentional and prophetic in lessons.

Ayub Gul 11JEL - Outstanding attitude to learning.

Chinzam Okeke 11JEL - Excellent behaviour and work effort in class.

By Mr Rahman

Yusuf Ali 11JON - Excellent attitude to learning.

Mercedes Johnson 11KIY - Always trying her best during lessons.

Hashir Nadeem 11JON - Making great progress in Science.

Sara Yemane 10BRO - Excellent attitude to learning.

Amelia Stolarska 9CAL - Working well independently and always trying her best.

Ashtaz Islam 9LEV - Always trying his best.

By Miss Kiyani

PE

Caleb Buck 8HAB - Maturity levels within PE have really improved, fantastic leadership skills, supporting others within the group and learning to work outside of friendship group. Very polite and supportive within the lesson always volunteering to complete tasks above expected.

By Mrs Ratcliffe

Abdihakiim Yusuf 11JEL - for displaying bravery and leadership by volunteering to be the first to Kayak at Ackers.

Abdulhannan Chaudhry 8BRS - for scoring 12.1 on the Beep test during lesson 1 of Health-Related Fitness.

By Mr Patel

Tobias Krosocen 8HAB - Excellent effort in Handball club.

Rako Hussain 10BAK - great demonstration during fitness for core PE.

By Mr Bakshi

Finn Kozakiewicz 9ESM - Activity participating in class discussions for sports studies.

Simran Gill 11MCI - for hard work during coursework and revision sessions in Health and Social Care.

Meera Badhan 7RES – for raising the confidence of pupils in her dance team during core PE.

By Miss Young

Humanities and MFL

Deborah Habteab 11JON - Great focus in lessons and excellent start to revision for mock 1.

Z'Neah Williams 8HEW - Showing great enthusiasm and focus in her History lessons.

Christina Morisho 8HEA - Showing great enthusiasm and always working hard in her History lessons.

Raydon Nguyen 8HAB - Showing great enthusiasm and always working hard in his History lessons.

By Miss Lally





Stars of the Month

Shanae Warner 11MUH - Great work and focus in lessons and excellent start to revision for mock 1 exams.

Bhagwant Singh 10BAK - Excellent code breaking skills in History.

Rana Hassan 9RAH - Excellent effort with examination homework.

Lamario Wright-Ashley 9ESM - An excellent start to GCSE History. Learned and wise in lessons, fantastic attitude to learning.

By Miss Guest

Zakir Waqas 9LEV - For excellent work and attitude in lessons.

Awais Ahmed Khan 10TOW - For showing fantastic knowledge and understanding in lessons.

Ellie Mai 10BAK - For achieving a fantastic result on her recent Y10 assessment.

Riccardo-Mario Sfeta 10ANT - For achieving a fantastic result on his recent Y10 assessment.

By Mr McIntosh

Chevonne Jolayemi 7BRK - For being learned and wise and demonstrating fantastic focus in History lessons.

Ayat Rani 7PHA - For being learned and wise and giving great verbal contributions within History lessons.

Kaillan Dinh Tran 7RES - For being active and curious in his History lessons, answering verbal questions and producing great written work.

Chevonne Jolayemi 7BRK - For being focused in her History lessons, answering verbal questions and producing great written work.

Tanzeela Miah 7PHA - For showing excellent attitude to geography and also completing development homework- Well done!

Abi Brown 11MUH - For maintaining a high level of engagement and producing great work in Year 11 geography.

Kodi Brown 10BRO - Well done on a positive result in your geography assessment.

Kimora Williams 9ILY - For showing great resilience and determination in her Geography lessons.

By Ms Levine

Eline Behane 7BRK - For an organised and purposeful start to the year in your History lessons - well done!

Aftanna Bargil 7BRK - For being brave and reading out loud in History.

Rakeem Douglas 7MAV - For being kind and patient when helping another student in History - thank you and well done!

Tanzeela Miah 7PHA - For being focused in her History lessons.

Jasmine London 11MUH - Real evidence of good work outside class in Geography - well done!

Isaac Masamuna 9LEV - For being brave and answering questions in Geography.

Kayden Tran 10SIM - well done on your excellent Geography assessment result.

Carlisle Co 10TOW - For being attentive and discerning in your Geography lessons.

By Mr Brayshaw

Humanities and MFL

Hairan Kimba 9CAL - For excellent start to Year 9 French.

Seth Holder 8PAL - For always showing excellent attitude and completing fantastic work in French.

Aaphryl Antonio Pereira 10TOW - Excellent results in your speaking and listening assessments.

Michel Frimpong 11MCI - For excellent work and attitude in lessons.

By Mr Nsengiyumva



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Stars of the Month

Denzel Okyei 11MCI - For being attentive and discerning. Well done for your hard work and focus in the Spanish classes.

Andrei-Ionut Neagu 8HEA - For being learned and wise and demonstrating great focusing in Spanish lessons.

Ayat Rani 7PHA - Fantastic attitude to learning.

Ritvik Lal 11JON - Great work and focus in lessons.

By Mr Di Mattia

Liliana Chroma - For showing a good attitude to work in English and being attentive and discerning.

Mohamed Elsdiiig - For being always engaged and ready to learn.

Alin-Andrei Constantinescu - Great work and focus in lessons -well done!

By EAL Department

GCSE Drama

Dilianna Levande 9LEV - for her perseverance and depth of thinking.

Ariella Njike Yomi 9ILY - for a great start to GCSE Drama.

Oyinkansola Olayiwola 9ILY - for her commitment to her studies and support her peers with drive and passion.

Marlon Rochards 9ESM - for his effort to make improvements.

By Mrs Breslin

1:1 Reading - Alzbeta Kalokova 8HEW - Actively coming to her reading intervention on time and is curious with her learning.

By Miss Sangar

Lexia

Mudazir Hassan 10TOW - for his perseverance and commitment towards Lexia.

Connor Khan 10TOW - for his positive attitude and progress.

Valentina Opoku 10BRO - for her enthusiasm and commitment.

By Miss Lastun

Reciprocal Reading

Isharma Chowfen 7MAV - being curious and active in our lesson. Keen on learning new information.

Mohammed Yussuf 7RES - Attentive and discerning displaying excellent participation during his reading intervention.

Malachi Scarlett 8HAB - Learned and wise by being a group leader throughout his reading sessions.

Melissa Tchorek 8HEA - generous and grateful supporting her peers during reading intervention.

By Mrs Chand

Dyslexia Gold

Serafein Khan 7BRK, Jayda Corbett- Brooks 7PHA, Isharma Chowfen 7MAV - for a great start and commitment to Dyslexia Gold.

Dilpreet Sandhu 11MUH, Siya Aziz 11JON and Kimora Williams 9ILY - for excellent attendance and always starting with a smile.

By Mrs France

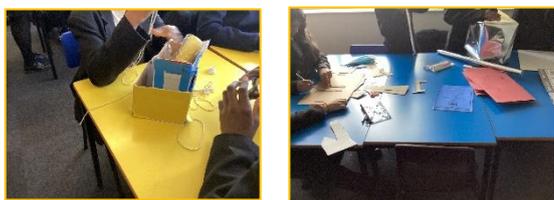




House News

House Activity: Building a Robot Competition

This term, our house activity time was filled with excitement and innovation as pupils participated in a "Building a Robot" competition. Using recyclable materials, pupils worked together to design and build creative robots, showcasing their curiosity and active engagement — both of which are the key values we are focusing on this term. The competition was judged by our very own House captains Arjan and Veer, both from Year 10, who assessed the entries on two categories: "Best Design" and "Best Built Robot." The enthusiasm in the room was contagious, and it was wonderful to see how inventive and collaborative everyone was in their approach!



Weekly Worship: Celebrating House Award Winners

During this week's Weekly worship, we took the opportunity to congratulate the outstanding pupils from each of our five houses for their hard work and dedication during house activities this half term. These pupils have been role models of effort and participation, and we are so proud of what they've achieved. The House Award winners are:

Gandhi

Baljeet Bharaj 7HAS
Raya Raju 8HAB
Ernesto Breton Johnson 9CAL
Kyreese Williams 10ANT

John Paul

Chikaima Bosah 7PHA
Dawood Arshad 8HEW
Jessica Dinu 9RAH
Ellie Mai 10BAK

Mandela

Meera Badhan 7RES
Christian Adjei 8PAL
Kody Nguyen 9ILY
Rayna Jassal 10SIM

Congratulations to all the winners—keep up the amazing work! We are excited to see even more participation and house spirit next term.

Luther King

Tamoya Hare 7BRK
Amira Akhtar 8HEA
Shayaan Miah 9LEV
Alina Mathews 10TOW

Pankhurst

David Ohiobor 7MAV
Kyle Khan 8BRS
Finn Kozakiewicz 9ESM
Sara Yemane 10BRO

Thank You to Our House Captains

A special thank you goes to our incredible house captains, who have been instrumental in leading their houses throughout the half term. They visited forms, supported pupils, and encouraged creativity during the robot-building activity. Your dedication and leadership have truly made a difference in your houses' success! Thank you for contributing to our whole school Weekly Worship this week.

Upcoming Competitions: Get Ready for a Creative Christmas!

As we look ahead to the festive season, our pupils will soon be taking part in an exciting competition that will celebrate creativity and tradition in Catholic life. Each year group has a unique task:

- **Year 7** will build a **Nativity Scene**, a representation of the birth of Jesus Christ, reminding us of the humility and love at the heart of the Christmas story.
- **Year 8** will create a **Jesse Tree**, a symbol of Jesus' ancestry, connecting key figures in the Bible leading up to his birth.
- **Year 9** will design an **Advent Calendar**, which counts down the days of Advent and helps us prepare spiritually for Christmas, each day revealing a message of hope or a small reflection.
- **Year 10** will be challenged to build a **Sustainable Christmas Tree**, blending the tradition of Christmas decorations with environmental consciousness, reflecting our duty as stewards of God's creation.

These activities are a great opportunity for pupils to learn more about these meaningful symbols in Catholic life while working together to bring their creative ideas to life. We can't wait to see the beautiful projects they come up with!

Let's make this upcoming festive season one full of creativity, reflection, and teamwork.

1st - Mandela 22,913 points

2nd - Gandhi 21,843 points

3rd- Luther King 21,739 points

4th - John Paul 19,298 points

5th – Pankhurst 18,916 points

By Miss Young



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Robot House competition winners

Congratulations to all form groups for your fantastic entries. This was an extremely hard competition to judge. Thank you to Y10 house captains Veer Kaura and Arjan Badhan for assisting with the judging. Remember this competition is worth **DOUBLE POINTS!**

Best Design



7PHA
John Paul

Best Design



9RAH
John Paul



Best Built



Best Built

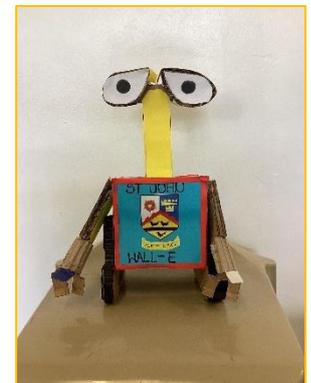


7HAS
Gandhi

9ILY
Mandela



Best Design



Best Design



8BRS
Pankhurst

10ANT
Gandhi



Best Built



Best Built



8HEA
Luther King

10BRO
Pankhurst





School Games

September Newsletter

Football National Conference



Barclays Girls' Football School Partnerships (BGFSP) supports the ambition to provide girls with equal access to play football in school. St Jphn Wall have become the host site for Mrs Ratcliffe – strategic lead for North West Birmingham. My aim will be to develop girls football in both secondary and primary schools within the area to ensure girls are being given equal access.

In March 2019, Barclays announced the biggest ever investment in UK women's sport by a brand. As part of this commitment, we've been supporting the Barclays Girls' Football School Partnerships (BGFSP), established to solely focus on ensuring girls in England have equal access to football in schools by 2024. In 2021 we also became lead partner of Barclays Game On, a programme developed by the Youth Sport Trust that is delivered in secondary schools across England, using football as the tool to develop and teach key life skills to young girls.

As our national game, Barclays believes in the power of football and its ability to speak to the nation and create confidence and opportunities for young people. For example, 80% of girls show more confident behaviour having played football. Yet we know historically the opportunities to access the game haven't been equal; 76% of men said they played football in PE lessons at school, yet only 19% of women said they had the chance to play. That is something we wanted to change.

The BGFSP kicked-off with a committed network of 100 specialist hubs and has now grown to over 300 - each delivering girls' football programmes in PE or Games lessons, supporting teachers in primary schools with training and resources. After seeing great success, with the number of participating schools rising from 3,000 in 2019 to 20,000 in 2024, our partnership with The FA has been extended until 2028 and will deepen its focus on secondary schools, where it's known 64% of girls will drop sports by the time they finish puberty. A new programme will identify pupils who show potential from within schools, connect the pathway between education and football, and provide critical support to talented players and their families.

A standout Barclays Girls Football School Partnerships event is the Biggest Ever Football Session, a collaboration between Barclays and the FA as part of The FA's Let Girls Play campaign. The annual event launched with 90,000 girls all playing football on the same day in 2022. In 2024, 465,000 girls all played football at schools on the same day, garnering national media coverage, and demonstrating success of the BGFSP to date.



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The Barclays Game On programme provides training and support for secondary school teachers to engage girls in physical education through football, and in addition aims to support and develop young female leaders through its leadership training module. From coaches to marketeers – they run, organise, and deliver sessions for their classmates, not only introducing more girls to football, but also developing themselves for the future.

KS2 Girls Football Yr3+Yr4 at SJW



We hosted a Yr3+4 girls only football festival!

It was a massive success with 7 primary schools attending! All children completed a warm up, a short skills session and some friendly matches to showcase their skills! Staff supported from the side line and all children cheered each other on.

The event was an 'engage' event, with an aim to create a warm and welcoming environment with a focus on giving children a positive experience in accessible, non-competitive sport and physical activity.

Thank you to the following primaries for attending:

1. Barford Primary
2. Nelson Junior
3. Oasis Boulton
4. St James CofE Primary
5. St Marks Catholic School
6. St Patricks/St Edmunds
7. St Teresa's Catholic School

Active in Mind



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Active in Mind is designed to improve and prevent mental health issues in adolescence. It uses the evidence of what works to address stress and anxiety in young people, helps them build personal strategies for resilience and uses the power of peer mentoring through a trauma-informed approach.

Both St John Wall partnership and King Edwards Partnership work together with the secondary school to provide opportunities like above to support the young minds of the future.

Active in mind has now joined forces with Sport Birmingham to ensure all secondary schools are provided with the opportunity to access the program.

Thank you to the following schools for their involvement so far:

1. Aston Manor
2. Windsor Olympus
3. Holte

Ackers Taster Day



Ackers Taster day is an inspire event for secondary schools within the SJW and King Edwards partnerships. Inspire events aim to raise the aspirations of young people. They have a focus on engagement, competition or a blend of both. We want young people to feel inspired and enthused and ready to make the most of the opportunities around them.

Students who took full advantage of the day:

- Chinomso
- Tobias
- Dieudonne
- David
- Dean
- Yahnni
- Jayden
- Ksawery
- Joseu

Thank you to the following schools for taking part, we hope the students enjoyed it as much as we did watching 😊



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George Dixon Academy – Canoeing & climbing

St John Wall – Canoeing and skiing

St Pauls Girls – Tubing and skiing

Holyhead – Climbing

Holte – Climbing

Aston Manor – Canoeing

SEND Move Now Festival

Through the MoveNow Program we have, together with the International Olympic Committee, commissioned an independent research study to identify young people's engagement with sports and physical activity.

We surveyed five thousand youths between 12 and 24 years and two thousand parents across 10 countries. What we found out: while the majority of parents and young people recognize the benefits of playing sport, the level of engagement remains insufficient.

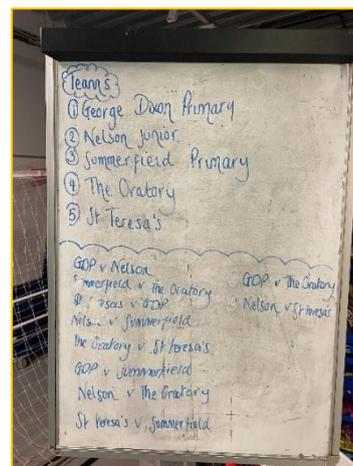
SJW students took part in a number of different activities including blind football, archery, boccia and adapted basketball.

“Really enjoyed that miss, when can we do it again” positive feedback received by students 😊

Thank you to those that came along with me and made the most of the experience:

- Isharma
- Amelia Louise
- Mohammed
- Ansh
- Nathan
- Christopher
- Daniels
- Ian

Yr5+Yr6 Girls Football at George Dixon Academy



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I also had the opportunity to work with Yr7 and Yr8 GDA girls football team, working on their leadership skills to help support the Yr5+Yr6 girls football event. The leaders were fantastic, very supportive to the primary children and knowledgeable on their football skills.

Thank you to the following schools for attending:

1. George Dixon Primary
2. Nelson Junior
3. Summerfield Primary
4. The Oratory
5. St Teresa's Catholic School

Up and coming events

Primary

Thursday 24th October – KS2 (Yr5) Mixed Netball Festival @St Pauls 9am-12:30pm) 5 school limit.

Monday 18th November 2024 - Yr4+Yr5 (mixed gender) Inspire Event - Indoor Cricket at Hamstead Hall 9:30am-12:30pm

MAX 6 schools (8 students per school) Please can we have a real focus on PP students being selected for this event.

Thursday 21st November 2024 - Yr3+4 SEND Multi Skills Engage Event - at St John Wall 12:30pm-2:30pm

MAX 5 schools (5 students per school)

Tuesday 26th November 2024 - Yr5+6 Inspire Event - Basketball Festival at Windsor Olympus - 9:30am-12:30pm

MAX 8 schools (8 students per school) Please can we have a real focus on PP students being selected for this event.

Still TBC - Spikeball and Cross Country (December date)

Secondary

Future Prospects Training – Tuesday 22nd October

Girls Basketball League (on going)

Boys Football League (on going)

Girls Football Tournament –

Yr9 at Holyhead Wednesday 23rd October 4pm start

Yr8 at Holyhead Thursday 7th November 4pm start

Yr7 at Holyhead Wednesday 13th November 4pm start

Sport Birmingham Leadership Day at Alexander Stadium – 13th November 930am-2pm

Steps to Success at Neachells Well-Being Centre – 14th November 930am-2pm

Saint John Wall Catholic School
A Catholic School For All



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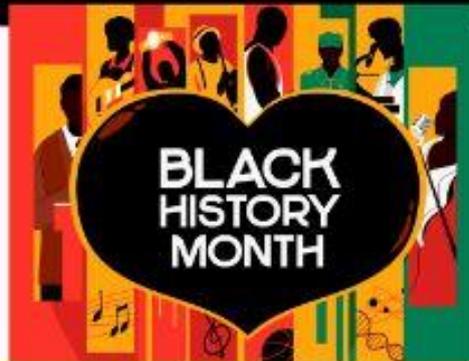
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October House Competition



To celebrate Black History Month we would like you to:

- 1 Read and write book reviews written by black authors.
- 2 Write a poem celebrating black history month.
- 3 Write a speech about the importance of Black History Month.
- 4 Create a poster celebrating why this month is important.

- All Book reviews and poems must be emailed to Miss Young or Mr Mull.
- Posters on A4 or A3 paper sent to the Library.
- All entries will receive 20 house points.
- The winners will receive 50 house points!

Deadline: Monday 4 November 2024

Launch Date: Tuesday 8 October 2024



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West Midlands
POLICE



This is a message from West Midlands Police for parents, carers, and older brothers or sisters.

Police and schools across the West Midlands are committed to working together to protect our young people from becoming victims of robbery and violent crime, but to do this we need your help.

As we head into October half term, we are urging everyone to talk to their child about increasing their phone security and their safety during Halloween and Bonfire Night.

We have seen an increase in criminals targeting young people who carry iPhones or iPads. Thieves are forcing young people to log out of their iCloud to prevent the phone being tracked after it's stolen. By enabling two-factor authentication on iCloud or your child's phone, can make thief loose interest in taking their phone.

Increasing the security on your child's iPhone and iPad:

1. Firstly, talk to your child about enabling two-factor authentication on their devices to help keep them, and their phones, safe from theft and exploitation.
2. Reassure them that turning on location and enabling better privacy settings allows them to communicate with their friends and family safely and securely.
3. Turn on two-factor authentication for your child's Apple Account: On your iPhone or iPad: Go to Settings > [your name] > Sign-In & Security. Tap Turn On Two-Factor Authentication. Then tap Continue and follow the onscreen instructions.
4. Discuss with your child who they would like to add to their 'trusted contact list' and encourage them to save these numbers in their emergency contacts list in case they get into trouble.
5. Add your child's devices to your 'Family' by heading to your Apple ID settings and adding the devices.
6. Make sure all the latest software is updated across the devices you're adding
7. From the 'Family' group you can enable content and privacy restrictions and two-factor authentication, as well as location sharing.

For further information about parental controls and privacy guidance please visit: [Use parental controls on your child's iPhone and iPad - Apple Support](#)

Please note, if your child has an Android phone there are additional security settings you can put in place to make sure the location of their phone and data is secure. Visit your phone provider website for further crime prevention advice.

Reducing antisocial behaviour and keeping young people safe:

We want everyone to go out and enjoy the festivities of Halloween and Bonfire Night, but this can be a worrying time for those most vulnerable in our communities. Before your child heads out with their mates, be sure to talk to them about how to respect others and how to get help if they find themselves in trouble.

Your schools' officer will be able to provide you with a parent's guide to Halloween and firework safety but here are some top tips:

1. Plan a safe and familiar route and stick with friends
2. Make sure phones are charged, location on, and kept out of sight
3. Wear high-visibility clothing or something recognisable so friends and family can spot you in a crowd



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4. Attend a public firework display when you can and never allow children to handle fireworks
5. Organise a meet-up place in case you lose each other
6. Talk to your child about the dangers of pointing fireworks at people, animals, and roads.
7. Tell them that police can arrest and prosecute anyone using fireworks dangerously
8. If someone has a 'no trick or treating' card in their window do not approach the property or ring the bell.

What to do if you are concerned about your child or a young person you know:

Talk to them in a safe and quiet location that feels comfortable for both of you.

You may wish to contact a member of the Pastoral Team at school if you feel your child isn't listening or is at risk. You can reach out your school's officers to seek advice. They can talk through your concerns and plan a way forward together.

If you or your child has been a victim of crime or their life is in danger, call 999 immediately. Alternatively, you can call 101 if the crime has happened and you want to report this to the police.

You can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Thank you, **West Midlands Police.**



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Don't get spooked this Halloween



A parent's guide to keeping children and teenagers safe

Trick-or-Treating Safety Tips:

-  **Supervision:** Accompany young children while trick-or-treating and set a return-home-time for older kids.
-  **Stranger Danger:** Talk to your child about staying with their friends and never going into a property they do not know.
-  **Safe Routes:** Plan a safe route in familiar neighbourhoods, use pelican and zebra crossings, and stick to well-lit streets
-  **Use Reflective Accessories:** Add reflective tape to costumes and carry flashlights or glow sticks.
-  **Visible and Well-Fitting Costumes:** Ensure your child's costume is easy to see in the dark and fits properly to prevent tripping.
-  **Mobile phones:** Make sure phones are charged, have location apps turned on, and keep it out of sight when they are not using it
-  **Pets:** Keep dogs on a lead and purchase a reflective collar if taking your dog with you
-  **Lights On:** Keep a light on in your home to help welcome your children home and prevent burglars

It is always best to check any sweets, gifts, or toys children have been given while trick-or-treating.

We ask that children and teenagers do not visit homes that display a 'no trick-or-treating' sign as this time of year can be unsettling for many. You can download a copy on our trick-or-treat posters on our website.

If you want to report something suspicious call **101** or **999** in an emergency.

For more information about West Midlands Police are helping keep you safe this Halloween, search '**WMP Darker Nights**'.

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Celebrating with fireworks safely

Keeping you and your family safe around firework displays and bonfire night

Fireworks and Bonfire Safety Tips:

It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess a firework, flare or smoke bomb.

-  **Professional Displays:** Attend a public firework display rather than handling fireworks at home. Never allow children to handle fireworks or sparklers without supervision.
-  **Anti-social Behaviour:** Talk to your children about the danger of pointing fireworks at people or buildings. Police can prosecute for dangerous use of fireworks.
-  **Stay Visible:** Wear high-vis jackets, glow sticks, or give a torch to your children.
-  **Safe Place:** Before visiting a bonfire or firework display talk to your child about a safe meeting place or a time to regroup after the event
-  **Bonfires:** It's never a good idea to make your bonfire. Attend a professional display or event where the fire can be properly contained and monitored.
-  **Dispose Properly:** After fireworks have cooled, dispose of them in a metal container filled with water.
-  **Ask Them:** What are your child's plans? How are they going to enjoy fireworks and bonfire night safely?

If you see anti-social use of fireworks, flares, or smoke bombs in your local area, please call **101** or **999** in an emergency.

If you would like to report a trader for selling to underage persons, contact Citizens Advice consumer helpline on **0808 223 1133**

Learn more about when and where you are allowed to let off fireworks by searching **'WMP darker nights'**

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