

# 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 23

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 7 March 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 International Women's Day. The theme this year is "accelerate action", allowing us to think about achieving gender equality. We listened to a piece of scripture that reminded us about having a good character, being a good influence and being a source of goodness. We can be **loving and compassionate** this International Women's Day by always being a good influence to those around us - by saying hello or by opening the door".

By Princess-Precious Jones 8HAB

### This week in Afternoon Prayer...

"We prayed for Pope Francis. We prayed that Pope Francis feels better soon as he is currently in hospital. We also prayed for Ash Wednesday. On Wednesday, we celebrated Ash Wednesday with a service in the hall. We either received ashes on our foreheads or a blessing, symbolising the start of Lent. We also prayed for World Book Day. We are **grateful** for having an education that provides resources that allows us to read and were **curious and active** in thinking about our favourite books".

By Adonay Meresie 9ILY

### Dates to Note

- **Year 9 trip to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre – 15 pupils**  
Thursday 20 March 2025 – 12.30pm to 6.30pm
- **Year 11 Parents' Evening**  
Wednesday 2 April 2025 – 4pm to 6pm
- **Easter Holidays**  
Monday 14 April 2025 to Friday 25 April 2025

### Up-to-Date Information

Please let the school know if you change any details i.e.

- contact number,
- change of contact,
- any new medical condition/s your child has been diagnosed with.

If you change your address you will need to provide school with proof of your new address i.e. utility bill, council tax bill. It is very important that the school has been notified of any new medical conditions your child has straight away so that if any emergency arises, we are aware on how to deal with it.

As always thank you for your support.



Oxhill Road  
Handsworth  
Birmingham  
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk  
www.sjw.bham.sch.uk



## Visit to St Mary's Coffee Club

Pupils have been busy supporting guests to fill in questionnaires this morning which will help choose future activities for the club. There was lots of discussion about physical activity and how important it is! Next week is a visit from a Ukelele band which is always lots of fun!

By Mrs Clayton



## Promoting safety at school

At our school, staff are committed to maintaining a safe and supportive environment. This includes the ability to search pupils with their consent for banned items such as weapons, drugs, cigarettes, and vapes. In certain cases, pupils may be searched without consent if there are reasonable grounds for suspicion. Pupils may also be screened using metal detectors to further ensure safety.

Additionally, the school may use drug search dogs as a tool not only to ensure a drug-free environment but also to educate students about the risks of drug use and raise awareness of related issues. The presence of these dogs can also highlight potential job opportunities in the field of law enforcement and animal training.

Any prohibited or banned items found will be confiscated and disposed of, depending on the nature of the item. We follow strict guidelines to ensure searches are respectful and fair, with pupil wellbeing at the heart of what we do.

Searches – whether whole school/year group/individual are not carried out in the hope of finding a banned item. We hope that for the safety of our school community, pupils actively choose not to bring any items in that they should not have.



Oxhill Road  
Handsworth  
Birmingham  
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk  
www.sjw.bham.sch.uk





## Ash Wednesday Service

This week, we celebrated Ash Wednesday as our school community came together for a service to mark the beginning of Lent. This is a 40-day period of reflection, fasting and preparation leading up to Easter. Pupils and staff gathered in the hall to participate in the service, in which they received ashes on their foreheads or a blessing. The service was a reminder for us to acknowledge our mistakes, seek forgiveness and promote positive change. Pupils also reflected on how they can be a source of hope for others and themselves this Lent. Thank you to all pupils for their respectful participation and to Mr Lloyd-Price and Mrs Ellis for helping to plan and lead the service and to the Year 9 and 10 readers.

By Mr Lysaght



Oxhill Road  
Handsworth  
Birmingham  
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk  
www.sjw.bham.sch.uk

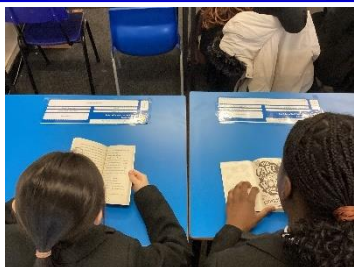




## World Book Day – Free Books For All

On Wednesday every pupil received a free book for world book day, Year 7, 8 and 9 received either, 'The Fart that Broke World Book Day' by Stephen Mangan, 'The Soccer Diaries' by Tom Palmer or 'The Wolf Trials' by Kiran Millwood Hargrave. Year 10 and Year 11 received, 'This Story is a Lie' by Benjamin Dean. A small number of books, 'The Magic Balloon' by Carl Anka and 'All Poems Aloud' by Joseph Coelho were also distributed to our pupils. Thank you to Ms Hanson and Miss Jones for organising the logistics so that all pupils will benefit from receiving these free books! **By Mr Mull**

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Year 10 pupils for their effective and proactive efforts in distributing reading books to all the pupils across the school. Your teamwork and organisational skills were evident as you managed the distribution process smoothly and efficiently. This initiative, especially in celebration of World Book Day, not only highlights your commitment to supporting your peers but also sets a wonderful example for the entire school community. **By Mr Hussain**



Oxhill Road  
Handsworth  
Birmingham  
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



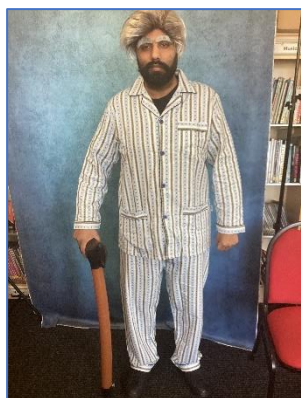
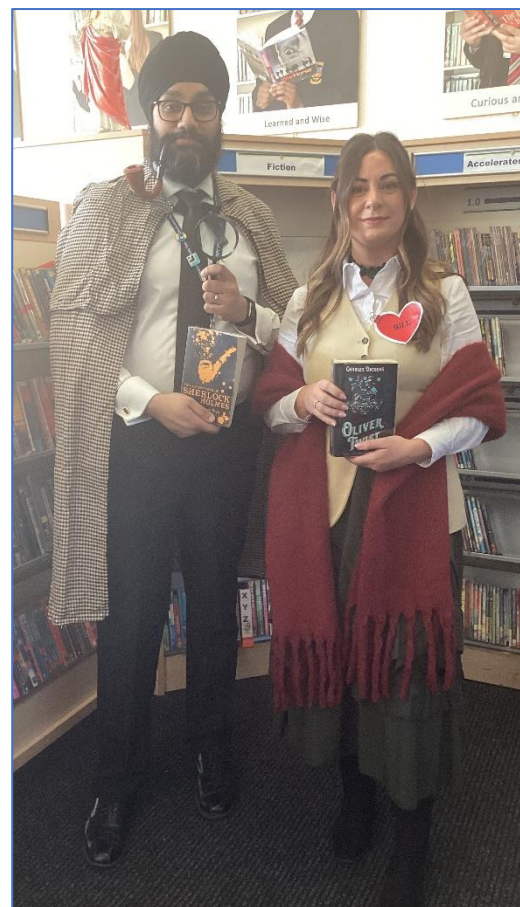
enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk  
www.sjw.bham.sch.uk



## World Book Day Staff Costumes

To celebrate World Book Day, staff at SJW dressed up in some of their favourite costumes to promote world book day and their love of reading. Can you guess who they have dressed up as?

Well done to the staff!



Oxhill Road  
Handsworth  
Birmingham  
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk  
www.sjw.bham.sch.uk



## Book Reviews

Well done to the pupils below who have written book reviews.

**By Mr Mull**

### **The Midnight Picnic by Lauren St John**

*"This book was about a girl called Laura, who won this writing competition and had got to choose the trip to go to. She chose a midnight picnic in Bodmin Moor which is said to be hunted by a creature. Overall, the story was great and there was a perfect amount of writhing to read in the book".*

**By Z'neah Williams 8HEW**

### **Labyrinth by Melanie Joyce**

*"This book was about two children who entered a computer lab and saw those VR headsets and wanted to try it so they both sat on the chairs and put on the headset. They were in a game where everything felt real. There were monsters chasing them and dragging them until they made it at the end where they won £20,000.*

*I loved the book it was so adventurous!"*

**By Nadia Adams 8HEA**

### **Hitlers Daughter by Jackie French**

*"Hitlers Daughter by Jackie French, told a story through a young girl Anna. In this mysterious tale it tells us about Hitlers fictional daughter who was oblivious to the Outside world. This book shows how Heidi (Hitler's daughter) is raised in secret with only a few people knowing her secret. She was Hitler's daughter. Heidi is kind and caring whereas her father who has not yet called her daughter or any other name is a raging dictator who is an antisemitic (somebody who discriminates Jews) but this is not known by Heidi as it is told to her that her father is a good man. Overall, Hitlers Daughter is an intriguing story authored from many views. In my understanding, this is a book for lovers of history and mystery. I would really recommend this book to anybody that needs a new book".*

**By Hamza Hussain 7RES**

### **Star Struck by Kelly McKain**

*"Star struck is about three friends who love acting, and they go and act in a performance. One of the girls got kicked out, her name is Lucy but Lucy also loves fashion. So, Lucy designs a jacket that one of the star performers actually wear in the show. I rate it a 5/5"*

**By Meera Badhan 7RES**

### **Boy Band Blues by Kelly Mckain**

*"This is a book about a girl who styles a boy band for a battle of the bands although she finds out she likes one of the boys but he pretended to like her because she had told him that her dad was a DJ at a famous radio station (this was actually a lie) but in the end makes her own band to enter the competition.*

*Great book really interesting and I would recommend it for just reading to yourself".*

**By Chevonne Oluwadamilola Jolayemi 7BRK**

### **The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes (14+)**

*"I would rate it about a 4/5 stars because it was an interesting book, and it ends on a plot twist and covers a lot of genres like romance, mystery and thriller all while not making it overwhelming or underwhelming. The only reason I didn't give it a full 5 starts is because I feel like at some points it did get somewhat boring but then it would pick back up and become equally or even more interesting than before".*

**By Deborah Fadola 11MCI**

### **Shifting shelves by Michael Dahl**

*"It was about a cursed book in a bookcase that was built by a wizard that protected his stolen books more than 1000 years ago and the librarian came into the library and see a red glow on the book and sees a boy waving his arms for help and the librarian didn't know he stole a book that belonged to the wizard. And later they returned the stolen books. Good book".*

**By Roxana Karzan-Naser 8HEW**

### **Young Dracula by Michael Lawrence**

*"The book is about a young vampire named Wilfred, who is the son of Count Dracula. After he is called a 'wampire' he wants to prove he is a real vampire. He goes out to the woods and sees someone roasting a dead squirrel. He then realises he CAN be a true vampire".*

**By James Doyle 9RAH**



Oxhill Road  
Handsworth  
Birmingham  
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk  
www.sjw.bham.sch.uk





## Reading Club – Shakespeare's Plays

Well done to Year 7 pupils who give up their lunchtimes to take part in Shakespeare's plays in the Library. Since September 2024, pupils have taken part in:

- Twelfth Night or what you will
- The Taming of the Shrew
- As you like it
- Romeo and Juliet
- A Midsummer Night's Dream
- Two Gentlemen of Verona
- All is well, that ends well

We regularly choose and perform new plays and if anyone is interested in joining, see me in the library.

**By Mr Mull**

### Pupil Comments

*"During lunchtime, every day, the acting group and I have been taking part in Shakespeare's plays. It's very fun and one of them I have been in was 'The taming of the Shrew' and 'The Two Gentlemen of Verona'. I enjoyed it because it was about teamwork and it kind of builds my confidence in acting. I'll also recommend someone else trying this, if you're the kind of person who doesn't like playing outside".*

**By Akram Morisho 7HAS**

*"Every day from September, we've been going to the library & taking part in plays by Shakespeare. It's been amazing, fun & a great way to pass time and make new friends.*

*The plays I've been in are:*

- A Midsummer Night's Dream
- Romeo & Juliet
- All is Well That Ends Well

*There are many available roles and just in general great fun! We hope you join!"*

**By Jenifer Demeterova 7RES**

*"Every day from September, we've been doing Shakespeare's Plays, all the plays I've been in are:*

*Twelfth Night, or What You Will what as Olivia.*

- The Taming of the Shrew as Bianca.
- As You Like It as Celia.
- Romeo and Juliet as Juliet.
- A Midsummer Night's Dream as Hermia.
- Two Gentlemen of Verona as Julia.

*I enjoyed the amount of teamwork we had to include, and it made my confidence even better".*

**By Liyah Nadeem Rani 7RES**

*"Every day since September, we have performed various plays made by Shakespeare. It has been an amazing experience; it has been both fun and a fast way to pass time. It has also helped me meet new people that are now my friends. I overall recommend this to everyone. Mr Mull came up with this brilliant idea and it has helped me in drama with my performances as well as acting in general.*

*The plays I have been in are The Twelfth Night or What You Will in which I played Orsino. I have also played in All is Well, That Ends Well and I played Lafeu in it.*

*We hope you join us in this amazing Shakespeare journey where we act, perform and have fun".*

**By Meghan Dhamija 7RES**

*"I started doing these plays when my friend Dora told me about them. Some of the plays I have really enjoyed for this past year are: 'The Two Gentlemen of Verona' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.*

*Acting in these plays have really opened me up and have really showed me the strengths of my drama.*

*Since September, acting has really improved my skills and have helped me to become one of the best in my drama class which have made me feel very positive about them.*

*I really hope they continue because I really have liked them and would definitely recommend to others."*

**By Hamza Burrah 7HAS**



*"When I came to the library, I was not that confident and now I'm 100% confident and now that I do plays, I met new people and now I always participate in plays which is now so much fun!"*

**By Ayat Rani 7PHA**

*"I played some understudy roles in 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' and I'm playing Diana in 'All is well, that ends well'.*

*I think it was really good because I learned about teamwork and how to communicate with each other."*

**By Divya Dhariwal 7MAV**

*"I took part in a lot of plays like Romeo and Juliet, if you want to be in fun plays like this come to the library at lunch there are more plays, I also took part in:"*

- Twelfth night or what you will
- The taming of the shrew
- As you like it
- A midsummer night's dream

**By Dora-Efe Karaahmetoglu 7HAS**

*"I was in the play called Twelfth Night or What You Will, and I played Feste it was quite fun and intriguing even though I had no lines I also did a play called the Taming of the Shrew and I was Katherine it was really fun too and I enjoyed acting it out. I also did As You Like It, and I played the role of Jacques, which was a bit corny, but it was good. In Romeo and Juliet, I played the nurse, which was quite nice and finally, I was in A Midsummer Night's Dream, and I played Titania it was also fun".*

**By Favour Ifeosame 7PHA**



## Book Review

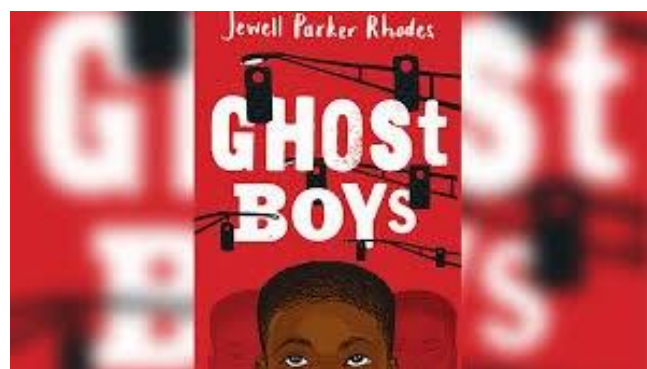
**Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes**

*"This book explains what happens to a boy who is living in America surrounded by racism the scene sets where an officer is standing over a 12-year-olds dead body because he had shot him, the 12-year-old is the main character named Jerome. What made me choose it as my favourite book is how they showed us how he lives his life and how his family was like, they made us get close to the family and where you are coming to the rising action where he's about to be shot. You feel the dread of his family's reaction they also had mentioned his school life was he was severely bullied by the following characters Eddie, Mike and Snap. The most interesting part is that when he dies he is taken to another world which was seen as the afterlife, he sees what his parents are mourning and even sees the officer and what happens to him.*

*I highly recommend this book for people who love a good plot twist and true crime. My favourite character was the mother of Jerome she was such an amazing mother and took care of them so well my heart broke for her after she found out about his death.*

*Thank you for reading my review and happy world book day!!!"*

**By Sarra Omar 9ESM**



Oxhill Road  
Handsworth  
Birmingham  
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk  
www.sjw.bham.sch.uk





UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

Centre for Systems Modelling  
and Quantitative Biomedicine

# HACKATHON

SATURDAY 10TH MAY 2025

10:00 - 18:00

@ THINKTANK, BIRMINGHAM

Join us for a full day hackathon where you will work in teams to create a website to raise awareness for a healthcare problem



## Challenges:

- Research and use AI tools
- Interview people with lived experience
- Record and edit videos and podcasts
- Perform live experiments
- Design graphics for the public
- Use art to communicate science



## Who can apply:

- Ages 10 - 16
- From West Midlands
- We encourage: girls and students from ethnic minority backgrounds, and low income families

## APPLY NOW!



<https://tinyurl.com/SMQBHackathon>



For questions or more details contact:  
[smqb@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:smqb@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

< DEADLINE: FRIDAY 11TH APRIL >



Oxhill Road  
Handsworth  
Birmingham  
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



[enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk)  
[www.sjw.bham.sch.uk](http://www.sjw.bham.sch.uk)

# Ofwat work experience week

14-17 April 2025 10am to 4pm

We are hosting a work experience week in Birmingham. You will get the opportunity to hear and learn from industry experts first-hand about where a career in policy, economics and data could take you.

Our work helps to tackle some of the biggest challenges – like climate change – that threaten the water we all rely on. The work we do every day has a direct impact on people, communities, and the environment.

These four days during the Easter holidays will give you an opportunity to improve your presentation, communication, and professional skills. The week also includes:

- a career talk;
- a CV building workshop; and
- interview practice to set you up for future success, wherever that may be.

We are looking for people who are proactive, positive, interested in what Ofwat does and keen to develop their professional skills. You need to be in year 11 to year 13 (or on a gap year post year 13).

I'm at  
the source  
of everyday  
life.



## [Apply for our work experience week](#) (by Wednesday 26 March)

We have space for 15 students and will shortlist applicants based on responses to the questions. You will be informed of the outcome by Friday 28 March.



## [Sign up for further early careers opportunities](#)

If you cannot attend the week but would like to sign up for further early careers opportunities at Ofwat, please fill in this [form](#).

Further questions? Please email [earlycareers@ofwat.gov.uk](mailto:earlycareers@ofwat.gov.uk)

**ofwat**



Oxhill Road  
Handsworth  
Birmingham  
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



[enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk)  
[www.sjw.bham.sch.uk](http://www.sjw.bham.sch.uk)