

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 16

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 9 January 2026



Catholic Life Annual Theme:

Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers

Termly Catholic Social Teaching:

Solidarity

Termly SJW Values:

Attentive and Discerning

Loving God,

As we begin this New Year together, we thank you for the gift of our school community.

Guide us as we continue to **build bridges** between each other, between differences and between hearts that long for understanding.

Help us to **break down** the **barriers** that keep us apart - **barriers** of fear, judgement or indifference.

Teach us to be **attentive** and **discerning** to each other, choosing what is right and good, and recognising your presence in every person we meet.

Inspire us to live the call of **solidarity**, standing alongside those who struggle.

Bless our efforts this year as we continue to be a community where everyone feels seen, valued and heard.

Amen

Important Dates to Note

- **Year 7 Parents' Afternoon**
Wednesday 14 January 2026 – 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Year 8 – 11 dismissed from 1pm – 1:20pm
- **Year 8 and Year 10 Assessment Week**
Monday 19 January 2026 to Friday 23 January 2026
- **Alton Castle Residential – 20 Key Stage 3 Pupils**
Monday 9 February 2026 to Wednesday 11 February 2026
Leaving at 2pm – Arriving back at 4pm approx.

Remote Learning

Due to the extreme winter weather today, and for the safety of all pupils and staff, we switched to remote learning to ensure our pupils still received their education. It is vitally important that all pupil's logon to teams and join their classes.

If your child was unable to logon or had IT issues, please contact the school so we can attempt to resolve the issues for future remote learning days.

When school reopens may we ask that all pupils are wrapped up warm with a coat, gloves and scarf to and from school, and to take extra care when walking on icy footpaths.

We will keep you updated if we have future remote learning days. As always thank you for your support.

Please make sure that you have MCAS downloaded and **have enabled notifications / messages to show** – this is how we will communicate a school closure initially.



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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



Welcome Back & Happy New Year!

We hope you had a restful and joyful holiday. As we begin this new term, let's embrace fresh opportunities to learn, grow, and achieve together.

Wishing each of you a year filled with success, curiosity, and inspiration. Let's make this term our best yet!

Staff Mass

On Tuesday, staff gathered in the hall during our training day for a special Mass celebrating both the Feast of the Epiphany and the close of the Jubilee Year. The Epiphany reminds us of the visit of the three Wise Men to the baby Jesus, a moment that represents **hope** and guidance. Throughout the Jubilee Year, our school community has taken part in a range of activities that have encouraged kindness, service, and a sense of community. Marking these two important occasions during our staff Mass gave us the opportunity to reflect on the themes they share and how they can continue to inspire us as we begin the New Year, guiding us all to move forward as **Pilgrims of Hope** together.

A big thank you to Fr George for coming into school in the snowy conditions to celebrate this special staff Mass with us. Thank you also to Ms Hewett, Mr Holder, Miss Lally and Mr Price for reading during the Mass.

By Mr Lysaght



Welcome to new members of staff

We are delighted to welcome the following staff members to our Saint John Wall community and look forward to the invaluable knowledge and expertise they will share with our pupils.

Mr Abdullah - Teacher of English

"My interests range from reading to boxing, and I've enjoyed both since I was at school myself. I'm really looking forward to starting this new journey at Staint John Wall, where I can continue to inspire and develop fearless learners!"

Mrs Omar - Temporary Mathematics Teacher

"I am really looking forward to joining the SJW community and working with pupils and colleagues. I am excited to support pupils in developing their mathematical understanding and confidence, and to contribute to the wider life of the school.

I hope to inspire pupils to enjoy mathematics, build their confidence, and achieve their full potential. I am also keen to continue developing my teaching practice and to be a positive role model within the school community."

Mr Rahman – D&T Teacher

"I am looking forward to meeting all the groups and supporting them in reaching their true potential. I want to develop myself as a teacher and learn new skills which will help me deliver the best possible teaching to all pupils."

Miss Manu - Pupil Coach

"I am really looking to be returning to SJW, this time as a member of staff. It's exciting to come back to an environment I know well and to support pupils in a new perspective. I'm especially looking forward to working closely with pupils and staff and being part of a school community that values care, support and high expectations.

I hope to make a positive difference by encouraging pupils, supporting their learning and helping them to build confidence in order to achieve their full potential!"

Mr Pembele - Pupil Coach

"I look forward to the new experience as a member of staff rather than a pupil.

I'm looking to give children the support that I was given so they can achieve higher grades."



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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



Accelerated Reader Success

From September 2025 to December 2025, our Year 7, 8, and 9 pupils have truly embraced the joy of reading through our Accelerated Reader programme. Their dedication has been inspiring, many pupils have read multiple books, explored new genres, and grown in confidence as readers.

This success is more than numbers; it's about building a culture where reading is celebrated and curiosity thrives. Every book opened is a step toward greater knowledge and imagination, and our pupils have shown that when you commit to reading, the possibilities are endless.

Well done to all for making reading a priority and proving that a love for books can transform learning!

By Mr Mull

The top readers are:

Year 7

- Mariam Kimba Musah 14 books read & passed
- Evelyn Adeyeye 13 books read & passed
- Yasir Aziz 10 books read & passed
- Safa Hussain 10 books read & passed
- Edgaras Tamosauskas 10 books read & passed
- Marwa Azad 9 books read & passed
- Blessing Sarayi 8 books read & passed
- Anamika Binoy 8 books read & passed
- Nadia Winczura 8 books read & passed

Year 8

- Chevonne Jolayemi 22 books read & passed
- Mohamed Elsdig 12 books read & passed
- Hamza Hussain 11 books read & passed
- Solihome Atobrhan 9 books read & passed
- Divine Dike 8 books read & passed

Year 9

- Abdulhakim Animashaun 8 books read & passed
- Mobina Alipour 8 books read & passed
- Devontae Hewitt 6 books read & passed
- Safah Akhtar 5 books read & passed
- Nathan Elue 5 books read & passed
- Rupinder Ram Rani 5 books read & passed





Year 10 Assessment Week

Monday 19 January 2026 to Wednesday 28 January 2026

Period	Monday 19 Jan	Tuesday 20 Jan	Wednesday 21 Jan	Thursday 22 Jan	Friday 23 Jan	Monday 26 Jan	Tuesday 27 Jan	Wednesday 28 Jan	
1 9:15 Start	English Literature 1 hour	GCSE Business 1h 15m	Engineering 1h 15m	Geography 1h 15m	Science Combined 1 hour	Spanish Writing F= 1h 10m H= 1h 15m	Music AM - P1/2	Drama ALL Day	Art All Day
			Hosp & Catering 1h 15m		Calculators				
Break									
2 and 3 10:50 Start *12.05 start	Maths 1h 15m Non-Calculator		History 1h 20m	IT 1h 30m	GCSE Statistics 1h 30m	GCSE Drama 1h 45m			
				Health and SC 1h 15m	Sport 1h 15m				
Lunch									
4 13:50 Start	Spanish Reading F= 45m H= 1h	RE 1 hour							





Year 8 Assessment Week

Monday 19 January 2026 to Friday 23 January 2026

Period	Monday 19 January	Tuesday 20 January	Wednesday 21 January	Thursday 22 January	Friday 23 January
1 9:15 Start	8XJ History Room 32	8YJ MFL Room 23	8YS Computing Room 003		
	8XW Computing Room 003	8YW Geography Room 24			
	8XS Computing Room 002				
Break					
2 10:50 Start		Year 8 Science GYM	8YS History Room 21	8XW Geography Room 24	8XJ MFL Room 23
				8YW MFL Room 23	
Lunch					
3 12.35 Start	8XS Geography Room 24		8XS History Room 32	8YS MFL Room 23	8YJ History Room 32
	8YW Computing Room 003		8YJ Geography Room 24		8YW History Room 004
	8XW History Room 21				8YS Geography Room 24
4 13:50 Start	8XJ Computing Room 003	8XJ Geography Room 24	Year 8 Maths GYM	Year 8 English GYM	Year 8 RE GYM
	8XW MFL Room 22	8XS MFL Room 23			
		8YJ Computing Room 003			



Message from WMFS to Parents and Carers

'Don't enter or venture' - Stay away from frozen open water as cold snap continues

West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) is urging the public to stay well away from lakes, ponds, rivers, canals and reservoirs as freezing temperatures hit the West Midlands.

Frozen water can look harmless, but it's one of the most dangerous winter hazards we face.

Surface ice can look deceptively solid, but is often thin, fragile and unpredictable. It can give way suddenly – plunging people or pets into freezing cold water and serious danger.

Cold water shock can affect anyone, regardless of age or swimming ability, and can quickly lead to loss of control, exhaustion and drowning.

WMFS is particularly concerned about the risks to children, who may be tempted to play near or on frozen water, and dog walkers who may instinctively venture on to ice or into the water if a pet gets into difficulty.

Parents and carers are urged to speak to children about the dangers, to ensure they understand that no ice is ever safe. Dog walkers are advised to keep pets on leads near water during icy conditions. Never step onto ice, and - crucially – don't enter water or venture on to ice if a person or animal gets into difficulty. Call 999 immediately and ask for the fire service."

What to do if YOU fall through ice:

- stay calm and shout for help
- spread your arms out across the surface of the ice in front of you
- first check if the ice is strong enough. If it is, then kick your legs to propel yourself forward
- lie flat and use your arms to pull yourself over the ice towards the shore
- if the ice on the water breaks, try to make your way to the bank or shore, breaking ice in front of you as you go
- if you find yourself stuck and unable to escape, wait for help. Stay as still as possible to conserve your energy. Bring your arms close to your sides and keep your legs together, while keeping your head out of the water.

What to do if you see SOMEONE ELSE fall through the ice:

- shout for help, call 999 or 112 and – if the incident involves inland water – ask for the fire service
- do not go on to ice to attempt a rescue
- call out to the casualty and encourage them to stay calm
- to try to reach the person from the bank, use a rope, pole, tree branch, clothes tied together or anything else that can extend your reach
- lie down flat on the bank, to avoid slipping or being pulled in
- if you can't reach them, try sliding something that floats – like a football or large plastic bottle – to them, to help them float
- if the casualty is too far away, DO NOT try to rescue them yourself
- wait for the emergency services to arrive. Continue to calm and reassure the person.

More [winter water safety messaging can be found here](#).



Oxhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8HH



0121 554 1825



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