

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 15

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 19 December 2025



Catholic Life Annual Theme:
Termly Catholic Social Teaching:
Termly SJW Values:

Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers
Dignity
Loving and Compassionate

A Christmas Prayer

Heavenly Father,

On this blessed day, we pause to give thanks for the gift of love and light that entered the world so long ago.

Fill our hearts with peace, our homes with joy, and our lives with kindness toward one another.

May we remember those in need and share generously from what we have.

Guide us to walk in hope, speak with grace, and live in harmony, so that the spirit of Christmas shines through all we do.

Amen.

Important Dates to Note

- **Year 11 Rewards Trip to Solihull Ice Skating Rink**
Friday 19 December 2025 – 8.45am to 12.30pm
- **Christmas Holiday**
Friday 19 December 2025
Pupils will be dismissed from school between 12.30pm and 12.45pm
- **School reopens to all Pupils**
Wednesday 7 January 2026
- **Year 9 Parents' Afternoon**
Thursday 8 January 2026 - 1.30pm to 4.00pm
- **Year 7 Parents' Afternoon**
Wednesday 14 January 2026 - 1.30pm to 4.00pm



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RAISE EVENT - University of Birmingham

A group of Year 7 pupils recently visited the University of Birmingham to take part in the Year 7 Christmas Lectures. During the visit, pupils attended an engaging English lecture based on *The Knight Before Christmas*, alongside a Science session exploring the fascinating topic of stem cells.

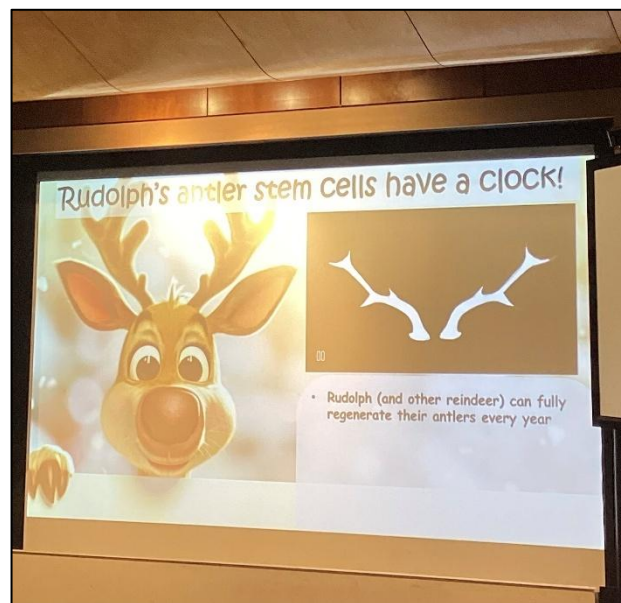
The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained a great deal from both sessions. They represented the school exceptionally well throughout the visit.

Feedback from the university staff was extremely positive, with the event organiser commenting:

"We organise a lot of school visits and my colleagues and I were incredibly impressed with how polite and attentive your students were. They were a real credit to you and your school."

Well done to all the pupils involved for being excellent ambassadors for our school.

By Mr Hussain
HAPs Ambassador



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Bedrock Reward Trip – A Theatrical Treat!

Twenty of our top Year 8 Bedrock users were rewarded with a fantastic trip to the REP Theatre, where they enjoyed a live performance of *Sherlock Holmes and the 12 Days of Christmas*. This was an amazing opportunity for students to see Sherlock Holmes brought to life on stage, perfectly linking to our Year 8 English Scheme of Work.

The performance was thoroughly enjoyed, and students were highly engaged throughout. During the post-performance Q&A, they asked thoughtful and insightful questions, showing real curiosity about the characters, acting choices, and the process of bringing a story from page to stage.

Staff at the theatre praised our students for their excellent behaviour, maturity, and respect, making them a true credit to the SJW community. The students represented the school superbly and fully deserved this reward for their commitment and hard work on Bedrock.

Well done to all involved — a brilliant example of achievement being celebrated in style!

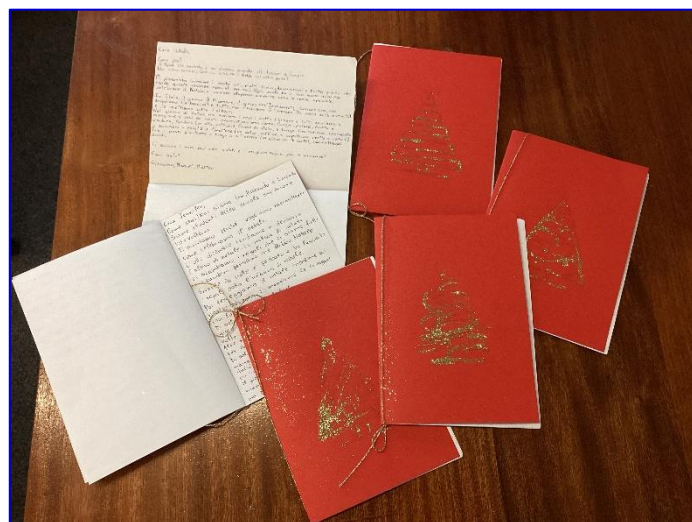
By Mrs Wieremiewicz



Celebrating International Friendship This Christmas

Our Year 9 and Year 11 pupils were thrilled to receive stunning Christmas cards from the Istituto Volterra in Italy! Each card was beautifully crafted and written in both Italian and English, showcasing creativity and cultural connection. This thoughtful gesture brought festive cheer to our classrooms and reminded us of the joy of international friendship. We are so grateful to our Italian partners for sharing their time and talent with us. These cards have not only brightened our celebrations but also inspired our pupils to appreciate language learning and global collaboration. Grazie mille, Istituto Volterra!

By Mrs Bigongiari



Attendance Challenge

The attendance challenge for this half term took place Monday 1 December – Friday 19 December. The challenge was a team response amongst each form group to get the best attendance AND punctuality during this time.

The winning forms were:

1. 7ARD
2. 11GUE
3. 8BRK
4. 9HAB
5. 10ILY

Each form has been awarded the House attendance trophy, 50 house points for their house and a treat.

By Miss Lally



Christmas Card Winners



Gurkeerat Chana – Year 7



Amarachi Isife – Year 8



Mickal Teklesenbet – Year 7



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Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 17 December 2025

On Wednesday, our canteen treated staff and pupils to a delightful Christmas feast, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere for all to enjoy. Pupils tucked into a traditional spread featuring succulent roast turkey, golden parsnips, crispy roast potatoes, and the ever-popular pigs in blankets with carrots and sprouts. The festive meal was a resounding success, bringing smiles and holiday spirit to the entire school community.



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Year 7 Christmas Disco

Wednesday 17 December 2025

On Wednesday, we celebrated Year 7's fantastic transition into Saint John Wall Catholic School and the successful completion of their very first term with a festive Christmas Disco!

The event was a huge hit, thanks to the amazing efforts of our Year 11 prefect team who organised everything brilliantly. A big well done to everyone involved for making it such a joyful occasion!



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Christmas Showcase

Thursday 18 December 2025

On Thursday we had our annual Christmas showcase to close off the term where music students can showcase their gifts and talents to their teachers, parents and peers. This was an event for pupils who take instrument lessons to perform what they have been learning. It was such a wonderful gift to see all the pupils perform so well and to see the progress they have all made on the instruments. Thank you to everyone who helped put on the event and well done to all the pupils who performed so well! Merry Christmas everyone! **By Miss Antonucci**



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Jolly Jumper Day

Friday 19 December 2025

Today, we proudly celebrated our annual Jolly Jumper Day, an occasion dedicated to fostering wellbeing among both pupils and staff. While festive Christmas jumpers were welcomed, we placed special emphasis on the value of individuality and personal comfort. To reflect this, everyone was encouraged to wear any jumper that made them feel confident, happy, and truly themselves.



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House Competition

This half term, our school corridors were transformed into a winter wonderland as pupils took part in the *Deck the Door* competition. Each form group was challenged to decorate their classroom door with a Christmas theme, bringing creativity and festive cheer to every corner of the building. From sparkling snowflakes to Christmas trees and imaginative scenes, the effort and enthusiasm were evident in every design. The event not only showcased artistic talent but also fostered a sense of community and holiday spirit among students.

Judging was based on four key criteria: **creativity and originality**, **teamwork and effort**, **festive impact**, and **sustainability**. These standards encouraged pupils to think outside the box while working collaboratively and considering eco-friendly choices. Congratulations to all participants and the winners for making this year's competition resounding success—YOUR HARD WORK TRULY DECKED THE HALLS IN STYLE!

By Ms Hewett



1st 7WIO



2ND 7ANT



3RD 7BAI



1st 8BRK



2ND 8RES



3RD 8HAS



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House Competition



1st 9PAD



2ND 9HAB



3RD 9AHM



1st 10CAL



2ND 10ILY



3RD 10BRO



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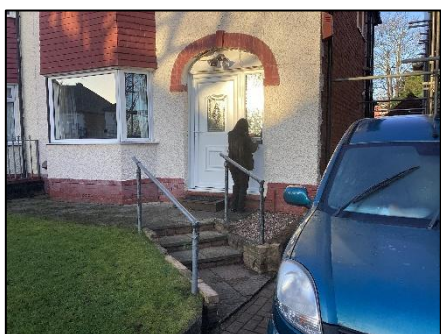


Christmas Community Card Delivery

Friday 19 December 2025

Today, we carried out our annual Christmas Card delivery to neighbours in the local community. We deeply value our relationship with our neighbours and work closely with them to keep our local area safe and welcoming. Here are some moments captured from this year's deliveries.

A special mention to our Christmas Cars winners Gurkeerat Chana – Year 7, Mickal Teklesenbet – Year 7 and Amarachi Isife – Year 8 who's designs were used as our official Christmas Card.



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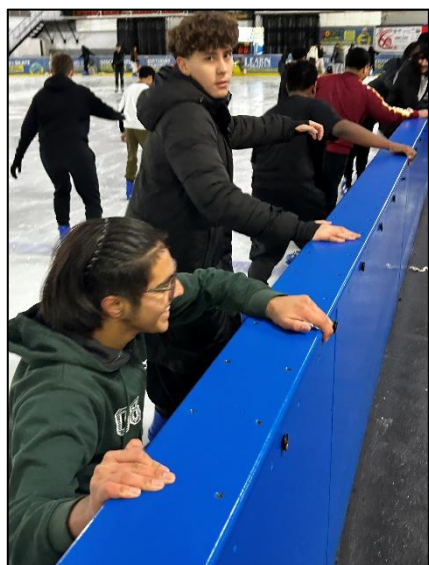
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Year 11 Trip to Solihull Ice Skating Rink Friday 19 December 2025

Year 11 had a fantastic time ice skating to reward them of their hard work during the first term that included their first mocks! Some wonderful feedback from the public who said our pupils are so respectful and polite to everyone! Well done Year 11 and have a wonderful Christmas break!

By Miss Reynolds



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Carol Service – Year 7 and Year 8

Friday 19 December 2025

Pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 ended the term with a Carol Service in the hall. Pupils reflected on building bridges between ourselves and the local community and learned about all the items that had been donated to local charities.

Pupils also listened to some bible reading of the Nativity story – whilst singing some well-known Christmas carols. Thank you to pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 for their hard work over the past few weeks with practising for carols for today's service. Thank you also to Miss Antonucci and Miss Cummings for rehearsing with the pupils in lessons. A big well done to our readers who read during the service too, it was a wonderful celebration. **By Mrs Ellis**



Christmas Service – Year 9 and Year 10

Friday 19 December 2025



Year 9 and 10 pupils enjoyed a service focusing on our theme for the year, 'Breaking barriers and building bridges'. Pupils reflected on the barriers that they face in our world today, and how, through all their hard work in school, at home and in their local community, they have been able to break through these barriers to build bridges of peace and hope. Pupils also reflected on the Nativity story, learning about the barriers that Mary and Joseph faced before and after the birth of Jesus.

Thank you to all pupils for their excellent behaviour, as well as a huge thank you to our readers and musicians for all your support. **By Mrs Ellis**



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School Games December Newsletter 2025

YST Improving PE for Muslim Girls Trip

On Thursday 4 December, I had the privilege of accompanying seven Year 8 girls to the Birmingham City Football Ground to take part in the Youth Sport Trust (YST) research project, Improving PE for Muslim Girls. The day was incredibly insightful and aligned closely with the project aims outlined by YST, which seek to improve PE, sport and physical activity opportunities for Muslim girls in schools. Throughout the visit, we explored the religious theory behind the importance of physical activity, while also reflecting on the current barriers that prevent many Muslim girls from being active. The girls took part in surveys designed to capture their experiences, motivations and challenges around PE, helping contribute to national research aimed at shaping more inclusive practice in schools. Key discussions centred on student voice, PE kit considerations, and practical changes we can make to create a more positive and empowering PE experience for all girls. Overall, the trip raised our awareness of the disproportionate levels of inactivity among Muslim girls and gave us valuable strategies and perspectives to bring back into our own PE curriculum.



KS3 Girls Handball Tournament

The Year 8 girls took part in the Aston Schools Handball Tournament yesterday after school (11.12.2025), competing against a number of schools from both the St John Partnership and King Edwards Partnership.

The girls played brilliantly and demonstrated our core school games values of **teamwork, respect, determination, resilience, and honesty** throughout the competition. St John Wall finished in 4th place, just missing out on medals, but their effort and spirit were outstanding.

A big thank you from Mrs Ratcliffe to all the girls for taking part and showing such excellent sportsmanship.





Barford Primary PE Support

This term, I have had the absolute pleasure of working at Barford Primary School, supporting teachers with the delivery of the PE scheme of work. My role has focused on team teaching within lessons, modelling effective practice and demonstrating how activities can be adapted or amended to maximise engagement, challenge, and progress for all pupils. A key aim of this support is to upskill school staff, ensuring long-term confidence and consistency in PE delivery — a particularly valuable approach given the ongoing uncertainty surrounding Sport Premium funding. It has been a genuine pleasure to work alongside the Barford team, and I look forward to continuing my support next term with gymnastics. If this is something you would be interested in using your Sport Premium funding for, please don't hesitate to ask — I would be more than happy to provide further information and work flexibly around your school's needs.

Up and coming events

Primary

Friday 16th January 2026 - KS2 Indoor Athletics - Competitive Event Y5+6 at HolyHead School 9:30am-12:30pm. Sports Hall Athletics - Format 25.26.docx - 12 students per team (6 girls and 6 boys) MAX 6 schools.

Tuesday 27th January 2026 - KS2 Badminton Festival - Engage and Inspire Event Y3+4 at King Edwards Handsworth Wood Girls School 1pm-3pm. 4 students per school (mixed gender event) MAX 5 schools.

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 - KS2 Badminton Festival at King Edwards Handsworth Wood Girls School 1pm-3pm. 4 students per school (mixed gender event) MAX 5 schools.

Tuesday 10th March 2026 - KS2 Y3+4 Gymnastics Festival; Engage and Inspire Event - St John Wall Catholic School 1pm-2:45pm. 6 students per school (mixed gender event) MAX 4 schools.

Change of date – Tuesday 17th March instead of Tuesday 10th February 2026 - Astons Got Talent Showcase - 10am-2pm at St John Wall Catholic School. As many acts/performances - no limit of schools and participants.

Secondary

Yr7 & Yr8 Girls and Boys Sports Hall Athletics – 20th January 2026

KS3/4 SEND Boccia – 29th January 2026

KS3 Boys Badminton – 12th February 2026

KS4 Boys Badminton – 12th February 2026

Astons Got Talent – **Tuesday 17th March (NEW DATE)**

Biggest Ever Girls Football Session – 3rd March 2026

Yr7/8 Girls Netball Final – 12th March 2026

Yr9/10 Girls Netball Finals – 26th March 2026





Donations of Uniform

Do you have any items of uniform at home?



Would you like to donate them to our school?

Black school trousers -
Girls or Boys

Blazers



PE navy shorts
PE navy joggers

SJW ties

Black school skirts

Any donations will be very much appreciated.



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