

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 24

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 13 March 2026



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

Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers
Solidarity
Attentive and Discerning

This week in Celebration of the Word...

"We focused on Lent Reconciliation. We listened to a piece of scripture that reminds us of how important it is to treat people with **dignity** and respect. Lent allows us to focus on people who we may ignore. It allows us to reflect on what we are sorry for and to also allows us to **build bridges and break barriers**. It is a time of reflection and **peace**. I enjoy Celebration of the Word as it allows us to focus on many different things each week."

By Meera Badhan 8RES

This week in Afternoon Prayer...

"We prayed for International Women's Day. We prayed for all the inspirational women in our lives. We reflected on one of our house patrons Emmeline Pankhurst, and how she stood up for fairness, respect and courage. We also prayed for British Science Week. We focused on optical illusions and thought about how the eyes and the brain can be tricked by science. We prayed for World Book Day. On this day, we were given a bookmark and this book mark reminds us that we all have our own chapters and challenges."

By Jayda Corbett-Brooks 8PHA

Class Mass

"This week, we went to Mass as a class. The atmosphere was peaceful and allowed me to reflect. I do go to Church outside of school, but this experience was different because in the Catholic Church, Catholics receive the Eucharist."

By Chevonne Oluwadamilola Jolayemi 8BRK

Important Dates to Note

- **University of Birmingham – The Big Quiz – 12 Year 10 Pupils**
Tuesday 17 March 2026 – 8.50am to 3.10pm
- **Year 8 Pathways Parents' Afternoon**
Wednesday 18 March 2026 – 2.00pm to 4.00pm
- **Carding Mill Valley Trip – 50 Year 10 Pupils**
Friday 20 March 2026 – 8.30am to 4pm
- **Values@Day 2**
Friday 20 March 2026
- **France Trip – 40 Year 8 and Year 9 Pupils**
Monday 23 March 2026 to Friday 27 March 2026
- **Year 11 Parents' Evening**
Wednesday 25 March 2026 – 3.30pm to 5.30pm
- **Easter Holiday**
Monday 30 March 2026 to Friday 10 April 2026



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Message from Head of School

This week brought our much-anticipated **Literacy Week**, which included **SJW World Book Day, the Book Relay and the Book Fair**. Thank you to **Miss Hashmi** for all of her hard work in planning the week, and to the staff who took part by dressing up. We are already looking forward to next year, and there is a strong possibility that pupils will also be able to join in with the dressing up!

Thank you to the school community – pupils, staff, **PC Manns**, and parents/carers – for your support and response regarding the **School Wars** situation. As a community, let us continue to remain vigilant and report any further information to the school and the police. Please see the statement below from **West Midlands Police** regarding the issue:

“We’re aware of reports in the West Midlands and nationally suggesting children from some schools are planning to take part in organised fights.

We are speaking to schools locally and offering them support where necessary.

We’d urge parents to speak to their children about their use of social media and other online platforms to ensure they are staying safe.”

As previously mentioned, the school may operate a **searched entry on arrival**. This may be for the whole school or for selected year groups. These searches take place to ensure that we are promoting safety not only within school but also in the wider community. Banned items are regularly discussed with pupils and are listed below. Please support us by routinely checking your child’s bag, coat and blazer.

With **Eid al-Fitr** fast approaching, may I remind parents/carers that you must **contact the school to inform us of your child’s absence**, so that it can be authorised. This allows the school to focus its attendance and safeguarding efforts on absences that have not been explained. Please note that **one day of authorised absence is permitted for Eid**.

By Mr Holder

Reading Success

Congratulations to our dedicated pupils who, since September, have immersed themselves in multiple Accelerated Reader books and successfully completed their quizzes. Your commitment to reading and your enthusiasm for discovering new stories are truly inspiring.

By Mr Mull

Top 3 readers in Years 7 to 9 are:

Year 7

Name	Number of Books Read and Passed	Words Read
Mariam Kimba Musah 7ARD	39	1,631,147
Anamika Binoy 7THO	19	180,336
Favour Adigun 7THO	17	216,029

Year 8

Name	Number of Books Read and Passed	Words Read
Chevonne Jolayemi 8BRK	24	202,492
Mohamed Elsdig 8RES	20	16,279
Hamza Hussain 8RES	18	250,825

Year 9

Name	Number of Books Read and Passed	Words Read
Abdulhakim Animashaun 9HAB	11	443,340
Mobina Alipour 9AHM	12	15,506
Devontae Hewitt 9BRS	9	71,000





Literacy Week

Free Books for all Pupils

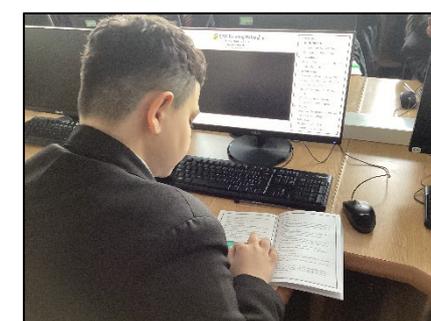
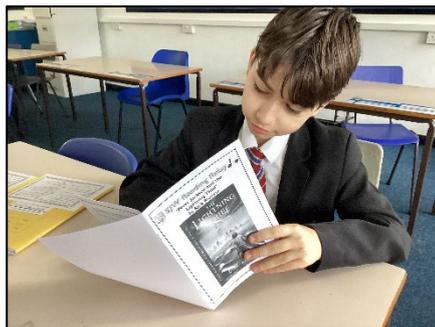
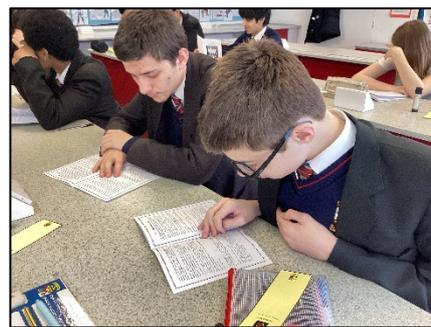
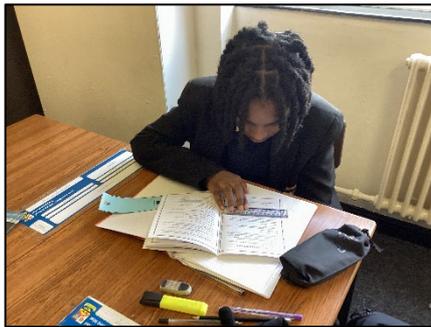
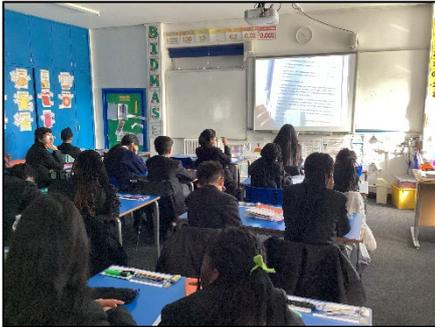
This year's Literacy Week brought a wonderful moment on Wednesday, when every pupil received a free book thanks to the World Book Day initiative. Ensuring that every pupil has at least one book to call their own is a powerful step in nurturing a lifelong love of reading. Pupils were genuinely excited to receive the books and couldn't wait to start reading, immediately using opportunities in their lessons to dive straight in. Year 7, 8 and 9 received 'Chaos at the Chocolate Factory' by Sibéal Pounder or 'Skandar and the Secret Element' by A.F. Steadman and Year 10 and 11 received 'Against All Odds' by Nathanael Lessore. **By Miss Hashmi**





Literacy Week Reading Relay

Our Reading Relay once again proved to be a highlight of the week. We hosted two separate Relays this week to give all pupils an opportunity to participate with an age-appropriate story. Teachers from every department joined in to read short extracts with their classes throughout the day, giving pupils the chance to experience most of a novel in bite-sized moments and chat about real-life themes without it feeling like a formal lesson. Years 7 and 8 read 'The Lightning Thief (Percy Jackson and the Olympians) by Rick Riordan. Years 9 and 10 read The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. **By Miss Hashmi**



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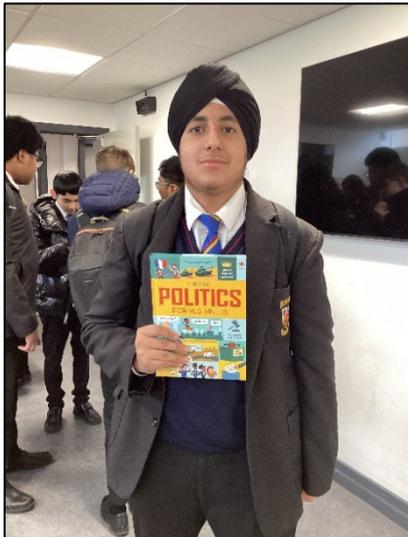


Literacy Week

Visiting Book Fair

We were delighted to welcome Jay from Usborne Books, who transformed the dance studio into a vibrant book fair for the day. Pupils loved having the chance to browse the shelves, discover new titles, and pick up something that genuinely sparked their curiosity. The buzz around the studio was fantastic as pupils explored the displays and chatted with Jay about the books on offer.

By Miss Hashmi





Book Reviews

Well done to the following pupils who have been diligently reading their Accelerated Reader books and writing thoughtful reviews of their favourites. Each pupil will receive five house points in recognition of their effort!

By Mr Mull

The Final Gambit by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

"This book was really good. Before reading this, I recommend the Inherence Games which gives us a little bit more context but basically this girl has won an inheritance and has to solve clues as to why she was given it all, with the four grandsons. The true reason comes out with the kidnapping of Toby and the appearance of a strange Eve. She claims to be a friend and manipulates one of the grandsons to be on her side for her betrayal and ends up sacrificing him for a game of chess with her sworn enemy. Yeah, this sounds complicated, but I promise you it was definitely worth it! 100% recommend it!"

By Lydia Binyam 10ESM

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens (Easy Classics)

"This book is about a young orphan who had a rough childhood. It teaches us about the lifestyle children had to face. I really enjoyed this book especially because not only does it tell a tense story it also allows me to gain knowledge at the same time."

By Amira Akhtar 9HEA

My Story: Suffragette by Carol Drinkwater

"Firstly, I would like to say that this book is really interesting, and it shows so much mixed feelings. It is set in around the Victorian times when women couldn't vote. The main character is Dollie, a girl who lived in the poor parts of London but eventually she joined the WSPU, these were women who campaigned for women's votes. If anyone is learning about the Suffragettes, this book is a great book to learn about them."

By Favour Adigun 7THO

Timon Of Athens - A Shakespeare Children's Story

"The book I read is called Timon of Athens, this is about a rich man with no self-control and eventually lost all his money and ran to the forest. He lived and died to be a man hater. It's a very interesting book which I recommend you read."

By Divine Dike 8HAS

Say Cheese and Die by R.L. STINE

"The things that I learned about the book was that there were four friends that were bored so they decided to go on an adventure until they found a weird camera. They took it and a few hours later Greg realised that the camera could predict the future about your death. It is a really good story."

By Angelica Sibanda 8BRK

Slave girl by Patricia C McKissack

"A slave girl called Clotee who learned to read and write while fanning her masters. She had a terrible life working in the kitchen and big house. After all she'd been through, she later became a conductor of the underground railway that freed slaves. I would really recommend you read this book."

By Chevonne Oluwadamilola Jolayemi 8BRK

Sancho By Harry Coninx

The book was about a boy living in London playing football with a gifted talent but suddenly he gets a chance to prove he is a good footballer. I really enjoyed this book and I recommend it to other people."

By Paul Ngobeh 7WIO

Dear Olly by Michael Murpurgo

"I enjoyed how hero was still determined to fly countless times after getting traumatised after a cat attacked it. I also enjoyed how determined Olly was to save the bird after she accidentally left the ladder out and a cat pounced on hero."

By Ekamjot Singh 7WIO

Max Helsing, Monster Hunter by Curtis Jobling

"This is the book I have been reading over the past few weeks, and it is WONDERFUL! It has so much detail it makes you feel that you're watching it without moving a muscle. One of my favourite parts in the book was when Max called out "Heavy Metal" and Syd (Sydney) smashed the guard into bits. In addition, I also LOVED the part when Max starts taunting Udo Vendemir (one of the strongest/oldest wizard in the book) and archer saves Max AGAIN. Overall, this book is 10/10 and would buy it myself!"

By Omar Ahmed 7ANT

It's the end of the world and I'm in my bathing suit by Justin Reynolds

"I like this book because it pictures a normal teenager's life. It is based on a boy named Eddie. He can't go to his favourite festival (Beach Bash) because he has to stay home to do his laundry, which classifies it as the most horrible chore. I recommend this book from ages 12-18."

By Favour Adigun 7THO



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Book Reviews

Ruby Rogers is a Walking Legend by Sue Limb

"This book is about a girl called ruby and she always gets scared by her brother but at the end her brother decides to get ruby some fairy lights to help her sleep at night, ruby is afraid of the dark. I like the part when ruby went on stage for her performance and said happy panky instead of hanky panky, it was funny."

By Briana Paola Drapac 7WIO

A Midsummer Night's Dream

"This book is about love. Lysander and Demetreus both fall in love with Helena because Puck put the flower juice on the wrong people. The first person they both see is Helena and they both now hate Hermia. Soon after the king tells puck to put this on Lysanders and Demetrius' eyes so that everything goes back to normal. I really like this book and I would recommend it to people to read it."

By Antonia Maria Magaon 7WIO

Dragon Racers by Peter Bunce

"It was very interesting because the twins called were Harris and kitty. Kitty had a dream about driving a biplane but her dad and Claude, her older brother did not let her and said she was still a child. But she did not care and then found a dragon egg and named it red. Day by day red got big and was fed bacon also Claude and dad did not know about this. There was a race and Claude and another Pilot joined. Kitty had an idea to fly the dragon. The race started and every one flew. Halfway Claude got hit by a thunder bolt, it caught fire, but kitty and red helped."

By Anamika Binoy 7THO

Ultimate Football Heroes - Fernandes by Matt and Tom Oldfield

"The book is about a boy who had football dreams and with a lot of hard work, he managed to achieve more than he was aiming too. He was a team player and an amazing leader who is always confident and leads his team to victory. Despite him losing sometimes he would always get back up and train even harder to be better the next match he played. I would definitely recommend it to a friend and people who are into football as it can inspire us."

By Seim Teklesenbet 8MAV

Boy Band Blues by Kelly McKain

"This book is about a girl and her friends who had played a part in helping design a new boy band for a charity concert at her school. At first, she hated Wayne Roman (the lead singer) and even told her friends that she disliked him but after all that time she spent with Wayne she grew feelings for him to the point where she began lying to him about her dad actually being a DJ which at the end of the story he actually does end up becoming one. Over time they spent a long time together with him, his band, her and her friends while designing clothes at the main characters house. This led to Wayne Roman give slight hints that may or may not like Lucy (the main character) but after all Wayne secretly had a girlfriend and led Lucy into thinking that he liked her back. Then came the concert but Tilda wasn't allowed to go so the girls ended up making a plan that backfired into Tildas dad finding out that she was in the concert. But at the end she ended up saying sorry and all was forgiven."

So overall I would give this book a rating of 4/5 and would recommend reading."

By Henon Yosef 7WIO

The book thief by Markus Zusak

"I 100% recommend this book. It was an emotional read and follows the joys and sorrows of a little girl during Nazi Germany as German girl hiding a Jew in her basement and stealing with her funny neighbour. I fell into the world of Lisel Meminger as she gets over her brother's death and makes a new home with her loud foster mother and accordionist father and goes on adventures and gets up to mischief with her school mates and her best friend Rudy Steiner. They befriend Jews, steal books and have fun despite the conflict approaching, until it caught up with them and destroyed everything she cherished. Spoiler: A bomb is dropped on her street and most of the people that she knows die, including all her school friends and her best friend Rudy."

I promise you will regret not reading this book so go check it out!"

By Lydia Binyam 10ESM

A Midsummer Night's Dream

"I give a rating of 4/5 because it was quite funny and it had a mixture of themes. Anyone who likes romantic and comedy books this is a book for you."

By Favour Adigun 7THO





Book Reviews

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

"This story explains how Snow White was the daughter of a king. When she was very young, her mother died, and later her father married another woman who became her stepmother.

The stepmother was very beautiful but also very jealous and proud. She had a magical mirror and every day she asked it, "Mirror, mirror, who is the most beautiful in the world?" The mirror always replied, "You are the most beautiful, my queen."

But one day the mirror answered that Snow White was the most beautiful. The queen became very jealous and angry. She ordered a guard to take Snow White into the forest, kill her, and bring back her heart as proof. The guard took Snow White into the forest, but he was kind and could not kill her. He told her the truth and asked her to run away to save her life. Instead, he hunted a pig and took the pig's heart back to the queen.

Snow White ran deep into the forest and after walking for a long time she found a small house. Inside the house everything was very small. On the table there were seven cups of tea, and she took a small sip from each cup. She was very tired, so she went to the bedroom and fell asleep on a bed. The house belonged to seven dwarfs who worked during the day. When they returned home from work, they found Snow White sleeping.

When she woke up, she told them her whole story, and they kindly allowed her to stay in their house. The next day when the dwarfs went to work, they warned Snow White not to open the door for anyone. Meanwhile the queen again asked the mirror who was the most beautiful in the world. When the mirror said Snow White was still alive, the queen realized that Snow White had not died. She made a plan to kill her herself.

The queen disguised herself as an old woman and went into the forest with a poisoned apple, calling out, "Sweet apples!" She knocked on the door, but Snow White said she was not allowed to open it. The old woman said she would leave the apple outside, so Snow White took it and ate a bite.

The apple was poisoned and Snow White fell unconscious. When the seven dwarfs returned home, they saw Snow White lying there and believed she was dead. They were very sad and decided to bury her on a mountain so they could see her whenever they came back from work. One day a prince passed by on his black horse and saw Snow White. He immediately fell in love with her and asked the dwarfs if he could take her with him.

As they were carrying her away, the piece of poisoned apple came out of her mouth and Snow White woke up. The prince was very happy and asked her if she would marry him, promising to protect her forever, and Snow White agreed. Then they went away together and lived happily ever after.

By Alayna Rasheed 7THO



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Book Reviews

Book review by: Deeya
 Title: Diary of the Wimpy Kid
 Author: Rolf Keaney
 Non-fiction Fiction

Would you recommend the book?
 Yes No
 Why? cus it's readable and fun

Rating: ★★★★★

What is the book about?
A kid who shows his life

Who would enjoy this book?
 Age: 9+
 Interests: Sports (Animals) History Gaming Countries
 Poetry (Cooking) Reading (Art Music) Films/TV
 Social media (Fashion) Science Other _____

Book Illustration

Book review by: Umm
 Title: My Cat
 Author: Susan Collins
 Non-fiction Fiction

Would you recommend the book?
 Yes No
 Why? it's a book

Rating: ★★★★★

What is the book about?
A cat story about survival

Who would enjoy this book?
 Age: 11+
 Interests: Sports Animals History Gaming Countries
 Poetry (Cooking) Reading (Art Music) Films/TV
 Social media (Fashion) Science Other _____

Book Illustration

Book review by: maloo
 Title: Escape room
 Author: Carole Lee
 Non-fiction Fiction

Would you recommend the book?
 Yes No
 Why? because it's so fun to think

Rating: ★★★★★

What is the book about?
A boy who has to do puzzles and escape room with 8 other people outside the US mind.

Who would enjoy this book?
 Age: 9-18+
 Interests: Sports Animals History Gaming Countries
 Poetry (Cooking) Reading (Art Music) Films/TV
 Social media (Fashion) Science Other _____

Book Illustration

Book review by: Ally
 Title: Crush
 Author: Cathy Cassidy
 Non-fiction Fiction

Would you recommend the book?
 Yes No
 Why? because it shows real life challenges and it's just really good.

Rating: ★★★★★

What is the book about?
A girl who has a crush on her step-sister's boyfriend. Her step-sister has anger management issues. She ends up getting together with her crush but to get there she has to get through real-life challenges.

Who would enjoy this book?
 Age: 12-18+
 Interests: Sports Animals History Gaming Countries
 Poetry (Cooking) Reading (Art Music) Films/TV
 Social media (Fashion) Science Other _____

Book Illustration

Book review by: Alison
 Title: The Boy who failed show and tell
 Author: Jordan Sonnenblick
 Non-fiction Fiction

Would you recommend the book?
 Yes No
 Why? it's entertaining

Rating: ★★★★★

What is the book about?
Jordan Sonnenblick and things that happened in his past.

Who would enjoy this book?
 Age: 13+
 Interests: Sports (Animals) History (Gaming) Countries
 Poetry (Cooking) Reading (Art Music) Films/TV
 Social media (Fashion) Science Other _____

Book Illustration

Book review by: Blaine
 Title: Snow White and the Glass
 Author: Stephan Lerner
 Non-fiction Fiction

Would you recommend the book?
 Yes No
 Why? I really like story and I recommend to every one. The story is very good and interesting.

Rating: ★★★★★

What is the book about?
The book is Snow White her father who is king. Step-mother her step-mother hates her alot.

Who would enjoy this book?
 Age: 12-15 and 5-10 years
 Interests: Sports Animals History Gaming Countries
 Poetry (Cooking) Reading (Art Music) Films/TV
 Social media (Fashion) Science Other _____

Book Illustration



Book review by: Anamika Bandy
 Title: The Great Gatsby
 Author: Scott Fitzgerald
 Non-fiction Fiction

Would you recommend the book?
 Yes No

Why?
It is a sad story but also in the middle happy. Sad because a character dies at the end without one thing he truly wanted. love.

Rating: *****

Book Illustration

What is the book about?
This book is about a man called Nick who helps Gatsby and his Nick's Sister to see each other again. But soon Tom finds out.

Who would enjoy this book?
 Age: 13
 Interests:
 Sports (Animals) History Gaming Countries
 Poetry (Cooking) (Reading) Art Music (Films/TV)
 Social media Fashion Science Other (Gardening)

Book review by: Mical Johnson
 Title: Holes
 Author: _____
 Non-fiction Fiction

Would you recommend the book?
 Yes No

Why?
Every character has a dark hunger because we want to read more and its interesting. Also really fun.

Rating: *****

Book Illustration
 title: MOLE'S

 lizard
 Author ???

What is the book about?
Its about a boy named Stanley Yelnats who was framed of stealing a famous persons shoe, which was given to charity. So he was sent to jury camp. He meets warden and a friend named zero so they both try to escape the camp successfully and bring home.

Who would enjoy this book?
 Age: 10+
 Interests:
 Sports (Animals) History Gaming Countries
 Poetry (Cooking) (Reading) Art Music (Films/TV)
 Social media Fashion Science Other (Gardening)

Book review by: Hadiah Miah
 Title: Oliver Twist
 Author: Charles Dickens
 Non-fiction Fiction

Would you recommend the book?
 Yes No

Why?
It was written by Charles Dickens who makes it as a way to spread awareness about how disadvantaged kids were treated in Victorian times.

Rating: *****

Book Illustration

What is the book about?
A young boy named Oliver Twist is put into a workhouse as his mother dies during birth. This book is set in Victorian times and everything that is in Oliver Twist and his parents were currently eating as the two people who led the workhouse. Oliver tried to run away but was caught and sent to work down the road. Oliver and his friend Dick Swiveler in the workhouse and they were more kind to him when he tried to get out of the workhouse.

Who would enjoy this book?
 Age: 11 - 15
 Interests:
 Sports (Animals) (History) Gaming Countries
 Poetry (Cooking) (Reading) Art Music (Films/TV)
 Social media Fashion Science Other _____

Book review by: Favour
 Title: Its the end of the world and im in my bathing suit
 Author: Susan Al Reynolds
 Non-fiction Fiction

Would you recommend the book?
 Yes No

Why?
It mostly interprets a normal teenagers life.

Rating: *****

Book Illustration

What is the book about?
The book is about a boy named Eddie. He cant go to his favourite event of the year (Beach Bash) because he didnt do his laundry for half the summer. Now he has to spend his summer in his bathing suit.

Who would enjoy this book?
 Age: 12-18
 Interests:
 Sports (Animals) History Gaming Countries
 Poetry (Cooking) (Reading) Art Music (Films/TV)
 Social media Fashion Science Other (Horrible things)

Book review by: Guinevere Owen
 Title: Dave Diggers Secret Mission
 Author: Rosalind Wiseman
 Non-fiction Fiction

Would you recommend the book?
 Yes No

Why?
This book is like a Bing and tells us how annoying little siblings can be.

Rating: ***** 5/5

Book Illustration

What is the book about?
This book is about a girl called Davie and her little sister called Digger. Davie and her sister have a secret mission and its really funny. Davie and her sister have a secret mission and its really funny. Davie and her sister have a secret mission and its really funny.

Who would enjoy this book?
 Age: 9-13
 Interests:
 Sports (Animals) History Gaming Countries
 Poetry (Cooking) (Reading) Art Music (Films/TV)
 Social media Fashion Science Other (Reading)

Book review by: Dressing Sissy
 Title: Still Water
 Author: Chris Ware
 Non-fiction Fiction

Would you recommend the book?
 Yes No

Why?
Because at like chapter 4 it gets really interesting and gives the reader a persuasive sense to read more.

Rating: *****

Book Illustration

What is the book about?
It about a young girl sent to the countryside because of MUM and she dont want to see her mom so but, her mom needed.

Who would enjoy this book?
 Age: 10-12
 Interests:
 Sports (Animals) History Gaming Countries
 Poetry (Cooking) (Reading) Art Music (Films/TV)
 Social media Fashion Science Other _____



Year 8 Football

Date: Wednesday 11 March

Fixture: U13 Aston League

Opponent: King Edwards Aston Grammar

Result: SJW 4 -1 King Edwards Aston

Our Year 8 team took part in another football fixture of their season. Despite the challenge playing with a few key players out the team showed incredible resilience to secure a comfortable 4-1 win.

Man of the Match

Congratulations to Mikel Usoro, who was my Man of the Match for his outstanding attacking efforts causing lots of issues for the struggling KEASTON defence. The whole team showed that they are able to play at a high level but Mikel stood out with his game changing efforts throughout the game.

The boys displayed a strong mentality throughout the match even when faced with a challenging environment.

By Mr Arshad



Visit to St Mary's Coffee Club

Pupils have taken a very active part in Tai Chi today and earned themselves a round of applause from everyone. One of the guests went out of their way to compliment all of the pupils from St John Wall which was lovely to hear. Our next visit is an Easter gathering with entertainment from a ukelele band.

By Mrs Clayton



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