

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 39

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 17 July 2026



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

Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers
The Common Good
Generous and Grateful

Prayer

Loving God,

As we come to the end of another school year, we thank You for all the blessings You have given us. Thank You for the learning, laughter, friendships, challenges overcome, and opportunities to grow together as a school family.

We are especially **grateful** for Your **care** and protection during this busy final week. Thank You for keeping everyone safe on our school trips, during Sports Day, celebrations, and all the special events that have brought us together. Thank You for the wonderful memories we have made.

Throughout this year, we have reflected on our theme of **Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers**. Help us to carry this spirit with us into the future. May we continue to build bridges of friendship, understanding, kindness, and **hope** wherever we go. Give us the courage to break down barriers of fear, loneliness, prejudice, and misunderstanding, so that everyone feels welcomed, valued, and **loved**.

As we begin our summer holidays, watch over all our families, staff, and pupils. Keep us safe, give us time to rest and enjoy the beauty of Your world, and bring us back together refreshed and ready for the new adventures that lie ahead.

We thank You for walking beside us throughout this school year and for always being our guide.

Amen.

September 2026 – First Week Arrangements

- **Thursday 3 September 2026** Year 7
- **Friday 4 September 2026** Year 7 and Year 11
- **Monday 7 September 2026** All pupils to return to school at normal time.

Happy Retirement Miss Marston

Miss Marston, our Headteacher, is retiring after 10 years at SJW and we want to express our sincere gratitude for her outstanding leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our school community.

Her guidance, kindness, and vision have inspired staff, supported countless pupils, and helped create a school where everyone has been encouraged to learn, grow, and succeed. The positive impact she has made will be felt for many years to come.

Thank you, Miss Marston, for your years of hard work, your encouragement through both challenges and celebrations, and for leading with integrity, compassion, and purpose. You have left a lasting legacy that will not be forgotten.

We wish you a long, happy, and healthy retirement filled with new adventures, precious time with family and friends, and the opportunity to enjoy all the things you've worked so hard for.

With our deepest thanks and very best wishes, from all the staff and pupils at Saint John Wall Catholic School.



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Goodbye to Members of Staff

"After 33 wonderful years in teaching, and the last 10 years serving as Headteacher of this very special school, it is time for me to say goodbye. It has been an immense privilege to serve so many children, families, staff and governors, sharing in their learning, growth and faith journeys.

I leave with a heart full of gratitude for the support, kindness and dedication of our school community. Together, we have celebrated many achievements and overcome challenges, always guided by our mission to educate each and every unique child in our care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be.

On Wednesday afternoon, I was treated to a wonderful retirement afternoon tea. After a lovely spread of sandwiches, cakes and mocktails, I had the opportunity to thank all the members of our Saint John Wall family, who have been on the journey of school improvement with me. I especially thanked my family and friends, teachers, support staff, school leaders, governors and pupils. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to parents and carers."

By Miss Marston – Headteacher



"To pupils - keep on asking why,
To colleagues - hugs and a sad goodbye.
I'll turn the page and wish you well
Time to go...I've just heard the bell."

By Mrs Mavrogenis – English Teacher

"Dear Pupils of SJW,

As I say goodbye, my heart is filled with gratitude for each and every one of you. Being part of some of your journey has truly been a privilege, I want you to know that you are far more capable, talented, and important than you may sometimes realise.

Every day you come to school, you bring something unique, a smile, a kind word, a helping hand, a creative idea, or simply your determination to keep going, even when things are difficult. These qualities matter in life. Remember that success is not just about grades or achievements. It is also about the person you are becoming.

There will be times when life feels hard. We all make mistakes, face disappointments, or doubt ourselves. When those moments come, please remember that mistakes are not failures. They are opportunities to learn, grow, and become stronger. Believe in yourself, even when the path ahead seems uncertain.

Be the person who takes ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THEIR ACTION.

Most importantly, never forget that you matter. Your voice matters. Your dreams matter. Your future matters.

The world is a beautiful place, and I cannot wait for you to experience it and travel.

Keep aiming high, keep working hard, and keep being the amazing young people that you are. We believe in you, and we cannot wait to see all that you will achieve.

With pride and best wishes

By Mr Adedeji – Inclusion Mentor





Aimhigher UniFest Summer School

A group of our Year 10 pupils recently took part in UniFest, an exciting programme delivered by an external organisation in partnership with University College Birmingham (UCB). After successfully applying and being accepted onto a range of courses, including Health and Sport, pupils spent three days experiencing university life first-hand. Throughout the programme, pupils attended lectures, seminars, and practical sessions, giving them a real insight into higher education and the opportunities available to them after school. Some pupils even had the chance to stay in university halls, making the experience even more authentic. The programme was designed to inspire pupils from all backgrounds to consider their future pathways, and we are delighted to share that the feedback from UniFest about our pupils was outstanding. Their enthusiasm, engagement, and conduct were recognised throughout the event.

Congratulations to Nathanael Byfield 10ESM, Ethan Mthinsi 10ESM, Lydia Binyam 10ESM, Raena Teshome 10BRO, and Alex Sultana 10ILY for representing the school so brilliantly. We are incredibly proud of all they achieved.

"UniFest was an unforgettable experience. I learned about careers in sport beyond playing, experienced university life, and met welcoming people who made the trip enjoyable. The staff were incredibly supportive and always happy to answer our questions."

By Nathaniel Byfield

"Staying at the university was a great experience. I made new friends, explored the campus, and now feel much more familiar with what university life is like."

By Ethan Mthinsi

"UniFest was an amazing experience. I enjoyed learning about health courses, working with new people, and making friends. The graduation ceremony was a highlight, and I was proud to earn certificates that I can add to my CV."

By Alexandru-Ionuț Sultana

"The UniFest residential gave me a real insight into university life. Exploring courses such as biochemistry, optometry, and audiology introduced me to new career options and inspired me to consider university in the future."

By Raena Teshome

Support over Summer

The safeguarding team continue to be available during the summer holidays to support our pupils and families.

If you need support over the summer holiday, you can contact the wellbeing email address – wellbeing@sjw.bham.sch.uk.

The safeguarding team will respond and see how they can help you.

Resources and signposting is also available on our school website: [Saint John Wall Catholic School - Wellbeing@SJW](https://www.sjw.bham.sch.uk)

By Mr Price



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Witness Week Year 7 Team Building



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Witness Week

Year 9 Trip to Weston-Super-Mare

What a fantastic end-of-term trip to Weston-super-Mare! We enjoyed glorious sunshine throughout the day and had a wonderful time exploring the beach and pier. Although the sea water wasn't quite as inviting as we had hoped, it certainly didn't dampen our spirits. Pupils were a credit to the school, demonstrating excellent behaviour and making the most of a memorable day by the coast. A great way to finish the term together!

By Mrs Chand



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Witness Week Year 10 Trip to Go Ape

Our Year 10 pupils had an exciting trip to Go Ape Coventry, where they tackled the Tree Top Adventure course. High up in the trees, pupils navigated bridges, platforms, and obstacles that challenged their confidence, resilience, and teamwork. It was fantastic to see everyone encouraging one another and stepping outside their comfort zones as they climbed higher through the course. The day was filled with laughter, determination, and plenty of memorable moments, with all pupils embracing the challenge and having a brilliant time. We are incredibly proud of the positivity and support they showed throughout the day.

By Miss Cummings



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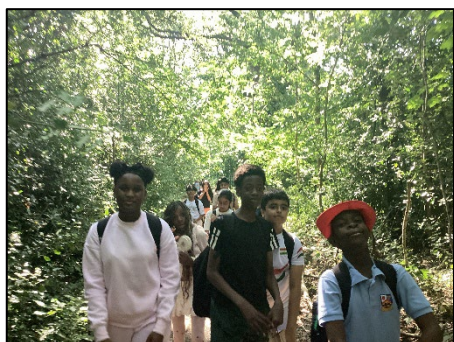
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Witness Week Year 7 Walk to Sandwell Valley



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Witness Week

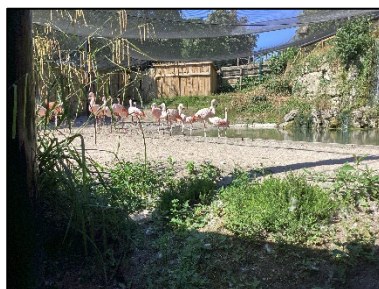
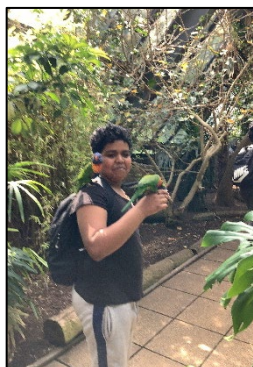
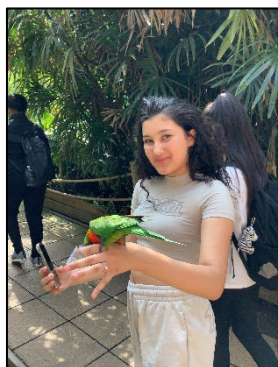
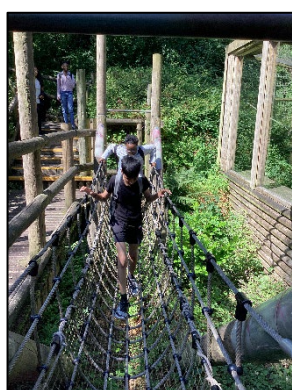
Year 8 Trip to Dudley Zoo

Year 8 pupils enjoyed a fantastic day at Dudley Zoo and Castle, exploring a variety of animals and learning about habitats, conservation, and biodiversity. They also visited the historic castle grounds and enjoyed spectacular views across the Black Country.

Pupils represented the school brilliantly, showing enthusiasm, respect, and curiosity throughout the day. A memorable moment saw Tyler demonstrate kindness by trying to help a young child who had become stuck on a steep hill. Mr Hussain then safely assisted the child, earning the gratitude of the parent and a round of applause from pupils.

The trip was a great success, providing valuable learning experiences and lasting memories for everyone involved.

By Mr Hussain



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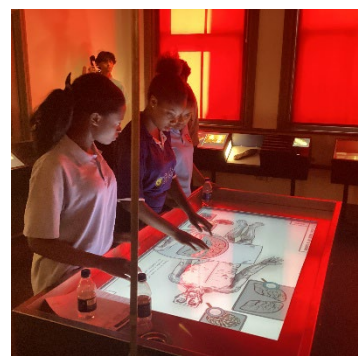
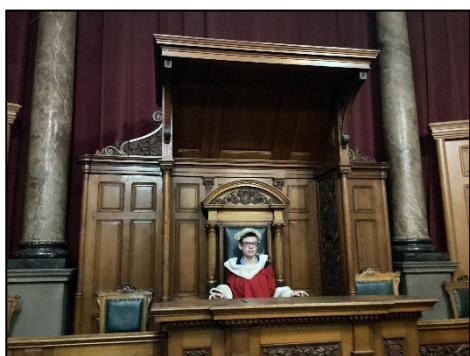
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Witness Week

Year 9 Trip to National Justice Museum

On Tuesday 14 July, Miss Guest, Miss Lally, Ms Thomas and Miss Lai, along with 44 Year 9 GCSE History pupils visited the National Justice Museum in Nottingham. This museum is housed in the historic Grade II* listed Shire Hall. During the courtroom workshop, pupils stepped into authentic legal roles including judges, barristers and jurors to enact a real trial (the trial of Derek Bentley) and debated sentencing outcomes.

Pupils also explored the museum, including ancient dungeons and a Georgian goal where pupils discussed the evolution of the legal system. Pupils handled artefacts which were used to punish offenders in the past such as the scold's bridle and branding irons. Pupils also visited the transportation and capital punishment exhibitions. In the exercise yard, pupils were able to spot the name Valentine Marshall in the brickwork. This was the name of a convict kept in Nottingham Gaol before being transported to Australia. **By Miss Guest**



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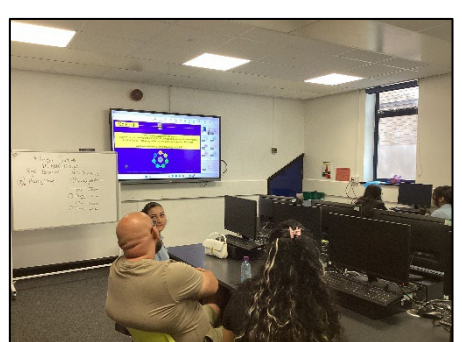
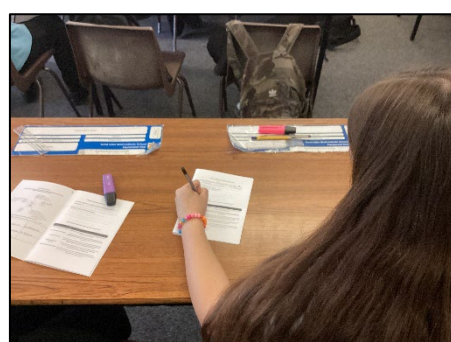
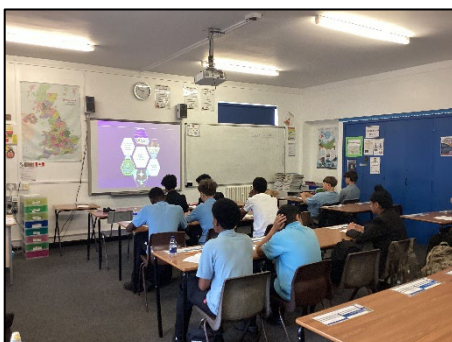
Witness Week St John Wall Day

The feast day for St John Wall takes place during the summer holidays. As a school community, it is important that we take the time, during the school year, to celebrate our Patron Saint.

As part of our celebrations, members of our wider school community came into school to participate in a service and receive a lesson from our teaching staff. The service focused on our theme for the year of building bridges and breaking barriers.

Tours were provided by our staff to our visitors. Staff finished the day with a celebratory afternoon tea honouring Miss Marston and her service to the school.

By Mr Price



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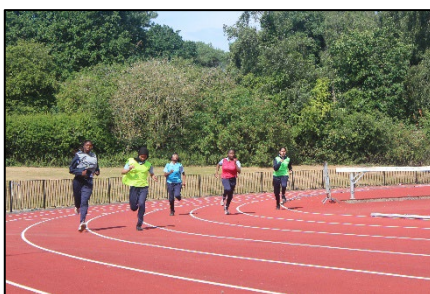
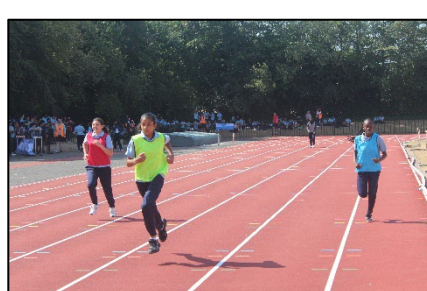
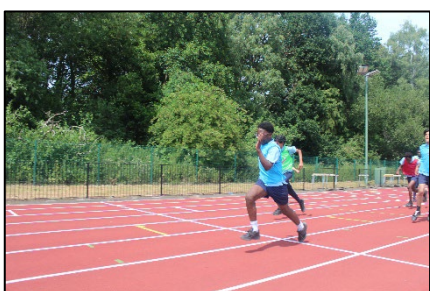
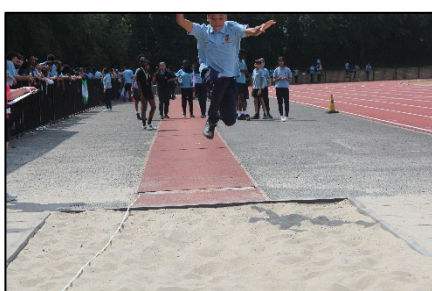
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Witness Week Sports Day

Sports Day has been a fantastic success! The children gave 100% effort in every event, cheered one another on and truly showed what it means to be the best version of themselves. Their determination was especially impressive in the heat, which certainly wasn't easy. A huge thank you also goes to all the staff who supported the day, whether by running events or acting as team managers in the stands and ensuring the children made it to each event on time. It was a brilliant team effort from everyone involved!

By Mrs Ratcliffe



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Witness Week End of Year Service

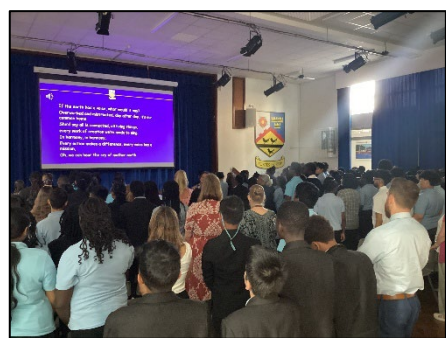
On Friday, pupils from Year 7 to Year 10 gathered in the hall for their end of term service. This service looked back on the school year and our theme of **Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers**. During the service, paper seeds were brought forward symbolising the values that have nourished and strengthened our community throughout this academic year.

Before the service, pupils completed a bridge intention card. On this card, they made one promise to continue **Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers**. As we end our year together, may we continue to build bridges, overcome barriers and help our community to flourish.

Thank you to all pupils for being so reverent and respectful during the service. A big thank you to those pupils who read, played instruments, and prepared a dance for during the service. Thank you also to Mrs Ellis, Mr Lloyd-Price and Miss Antonucci for their hard work and support in preparing for the day.

We wish you and your families and very happy, safe and restful summer break.

By Mr Lysaght



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Compass Birmingham
Mental Health Support Teams

FREE COMPASS FUN DAY

22ND JULY 2026

Time: 11AM – 3 PM
Location: Dolphin Centre, Ward End Park Rd, Washwood Heath Rd, Birmingham B8 2HB

We encourage all families to bring along a lunch box or picnic with water to stay hydrated through out the day.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Mindful Movers
- T-Shirt painting
- Football
- Craft activities
- Bracelet making
- Stress balls
- Glitter tattoos
- Mehndi
- Face painting
- Relaxation corner with mindful colouring
- Free prize draw

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

SCAN TO LEARN MORE:



Compass Birmingham
Mental Health Support Teams

FREE COMPASS FUN DAY

05 AUGUST 2026

Time: 11AM – 3 PM
Location: Nechells Wellbeing Centre, Rupert St, Birmingham B7 4AR

We encourage all families to bring along a lunch box or picnic with water to stay hydrated through out the day.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Mindful Movers
- T-Shirt painting
- Football
- Craft activities
- Bracelet making
- Stress balls
- Glitter tattoos
- Mehndi
- Face painting
- Relaxation corner with mindful colouring
- Free prize draw

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

SCAN TO LEARN MORE:



FREE COMPASS FUN DAY!

19 AUGUST 2026

Time: 11 AM – 3 PM
Location: Holford Drive Community Sports Hub, 101 Holford Dr, Birmingham B42 2TU

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Mindful Movers
- T-Shirt painting
- Football
- Craft activities
- Bracelet making
- Stress balls
- Glitter tattoos
- Mehndi
- Face painting
- Relaxation corner with mindful colouring
- Free prize draw

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Families are encouraged to bring a lunchbox and water to stay hydrated throughout the day!

SCAN FOR MORE



Compass Birmingham
Mental Health Support Teams

FREE COMPASS FUN DAY

26 AUGUST 2026

Time: 11AM – 3 PM
Location: EBCF Summerfield Community Centre, Winson Green Rd, Winson Green, Birmingham B18 4EJ

We encourage all families to bring along a lunch box or picnic with water to stay hydrated through out the day.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Mindful Movers
- T-Shirt painting
- Football
- Craft activities
- Bracelet making
- Stress balls
- Glitter tattoos
- Mehndi
- Face painting
- Relaxation corner with mindful colouring
- Free prize draw

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

SCAN TO LEARN MORE:




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GCSE

RESULTS COLLECTION



ON
THURSDAY,
20TH AUGUST 2026



FROM
10:00am



IN THE
HALL



If you are unable to collect your results in person,
please contact the school in advance to discuss
alternative arrangements.

Good luck with your results! ★

• **#Riseup** •



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Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

HAPPY, SAFE SUMMER – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

The summer holiday is fast approaching, it is important our students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour while they are enjoying socialising with friends and family during the break. We also want to ensure they feel confident to keep themselves safe and away from crime and anti-social behaviour.

Parents/carers and students should already be aware that as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students and provide support and up-to-date safety messages.

In partnership with the police, we would like to provide some reminders about the following:

- **Personal Safety:**
 - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables (such as smartphones/watches/headphones) out of public view whenever possible.
 - For apple devices parents/carers can active 'Find My' which includes Activation Lock – A feature that is designed to prevent anyone else from using your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch, if it's ever lost or stolen. Activation Lock turns on automatically when you turn on 'Find My' on your device – more details on this feature are available here: [Activation Lock for iPhone and iPad - Apple Support](#)
 - Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances (including in vapes); as they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour, and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects and could even have fatal consequences - Information is available at www.talktofrank.com
- **Swimming in rivers/reservoirs:** Reservoirs may look inviting, especially on a hot day, but they are extremely dangerous places to swim. If you jump in, you may not be able to get out as the sides are very steep; the water never gets above 11 degrees, and this will affect your ability to breathe and to move. Rivers and reservoirs may be deeper than you think. Safety information is available here: [Water safety - West Midlands Fire Service](#)
- **Social Media:** Don't allow your use of social media to put you at risk of grooming, exploitation, or regret in future. Use social media positively and avoid being negative about anyone online as comments/actions may be traced back to you and you will be held accountable.
- **Weapons in public places:** Carrying a knife or other weapon will get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them. Don't take BB Guns, Gel Blasters/Guns, or any other real looking toy guns into public spaces as these can cause alarm to the public - which could receive a Police Firearms response.
- **Anti-social behaviour:** Think about your actions towards others; a little thought & respect goes a long way.
- **Off-road bikes:** These can only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.



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- **E-Scooters:** In the UK, you must be at least 18 years old and hold a provisional or full driving licence to ride a hire e- scooter. A privately owned e-scooter can only be used in a private place with the landowner's permission; they are illegal to use on a road or in a public place.
- **Remember the company you keep:** If your friend breaks the law, your association with that person may have legal consequences for you, which could be very serious – even if you weren't the one directly responsible.

If a student is in a position where they need help, they should talk to an adult they trust. Crimes can be reported directly to the police via 101; alternatively, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org. **If a crime is taking place or a life is in danger, call 999 immediately.**

We wish everyone a happy and safe summer.

Yours faithfully,

K Marston

Miss K Marston
Executive Headteacher
Saint John Wall Catholic School

Tom Joyce
Chief Superintendent
Birmingham Local Policing Area
West Midlands Police



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ALPACAS & ANIMAL HOUSE

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BOUNCY CASTLE & INFLATABLE GAMES

FOOTBALL & CRICKET TOURNAMENT

CHILDREN ACTIVITIES

**FIREARMS, DOGS, TRAFFIC, DRONES
& MOUNTED UNIT STANDS**

MR TEE'S ICE CREAM

MEET MISS RACHEL

...AND MUCH MORE!



SUNDAY 26TH JULY
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM



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SUNDAY 26TH JULY 2026



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U10's

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