

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 7

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 17 October 2025



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

Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers
Dignity
Loving and Compassionate

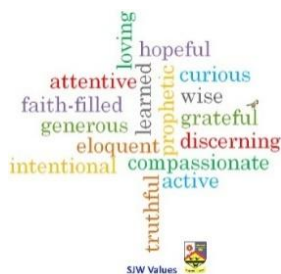
This week in Celebration of the Word...

"We focused on our school values of being **loving and compassionate**. We listened to a piece of scripture that teaches us the importance of showing **love and compassion** to everyone, especially those who feel left out. We were then shown some examples of individuals who have shown these values in their lives. For example, Anne Frank who was **generous** in her beliefs - believing that everyone has a good heart. In school, we can show **love and compassion** by including people and helping others when they are down."

This week in Afternoon Prayer...

"We prayed for Black History Month. As part of our reflection, Miss Antonucci spoke about her mum, who was a ballerina. Despite people trying to cause setbacks, her mum showed resilience and didn't give up. We also prayed for challenge poverty, asking God to guide us to look after those in need. We prayed for International Day of the Girl, recognising that girls have the power to do anything. We like Afternoon Prayer because it is a calm way to end the day and a chance to learn about important topics."

By 7Y Lifestyle



Important Dates to Note

- **Gandhi House Reward Trip – Star City**
Wednesday 22 October 2025 (11.00am to 2.30pm)
- **Awards Evening – Year 8 and Year 9 (Invite only)**
Wednesday 22 October 2025 (5pm to 6pm)
- **Awards Evening – Year 10 and Year 11 (Invite only)**
Thursday 23 October 2025 (5pm to 6pm)
- **Year 7 Welcome Mass**
Friday 24 October 2025
- **Cultural Heritage Day**
Friday 24 October 2025
- **Half Term**
Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025
- **Year 11 Mock 1 Examinations**
Monday 3 November 2025 – Wednesday 12 November 2025

Happy Diwali!

We would like to extend our warmest wishes for a **Happy Diwali** to all members of our community who will be celebrating on **Monday 20 October**.

If your child will be absent from school to celebrate Diwali, we kindly ask that you **inform us by calling the attendance phone line on 0121 554 1825 (Option 1)**.

Using the attendance line is the **only way the absence can be authorised**, and it helps us to quickly identify and follow up on other absences that are not related to Diwali.

Thank you for your continued support, and we wish all those celebrating a joyful and safe Diwali. **By Mr Holder**



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Photographs

On Friday 19 September, a professional company came into school to take photos of all the children. These photos are available for parents to buy.

Next week, your child will receive an example copy of the photo that was taken of them. Information and costings are available on the print out. As these photos were taken by an external company, the office/school will not be able to answer any questions about the photos. All questions must go through the number listed on the photograph.

By Mr Price

Cultural Heritage Day

This will take place on Friday 24 October 2025.

Pupils can wear:

- A full cultural outfit.
- National sport tops with the rest of your school uniform.
- An item of clothing linking to your culture with the rest of your school uniform.
- A flag along with the rest of your school uniform.

You are not allowed to wear:

- Jeans
- Tracksuits or hoodies
- Caps
- Crocs
- Bandanas, face coverings or other banned items.
- Your own clothes which do not link to your culture.

By Mr Price

Important message for Year 7 Parents

Year 7 pupils have now begun receiving their weekly assessment homework for each subject. This homework is **compulsory** and plays a key role in helping pupils prepare for upcoming assessments. It's an excellent resource to support ongoing revision and reinforce classroom learning.

We encourage parents to support their child by helping them create a simple homework and revision timetable at home. This will greatly assist with organisation and time management as they develop good study habits.

Year 7 Assessment Week will commence from Monday 1 December.

By Mrs Ellis

Gandhi House Reward Trip

The House reward trip will be to TENPIN in STARCITY.

- Wednesday 22 October 2025
- Leaving school at 11:00am; coming back at 2:30pm.
- Wear comfortable clothing suitable for the trip (no uniform).
- Bring packed lunch, if on free school meal, a packed lunch will be provided.
- There will be an opportunity to use the arcade machines, please bring some money.

Pupils must get parental consent via MCAS to be able to go. Don't miss the opportunity!

By Mrs Hewett



U14s Aston League Fixture v GD

Our Year 9 team, along with a few Year 10 players, took part in their first football fixture of the season with just 11 players in the squad. Despite the challenge, the team showed great determination and teamwork to secure a fantastic 3 - 1 victory against George Dixon Academy.

Man of the Match - Congratulations to Jayden Tyrell, who was awarded Man of the Match for his outstanding defensive efforts and a crucial goal that put SJW back in the lead just moments after conceding a penalty.

The boys displayed excellent resilience and a strong mentality throughout the match, a true demonstration of the SJW spirit.

Well done, team!

By Mr Arshad



WOW Afternoon

This week, staff at Saint John Wall had the chance to take part in some extra-curricular activities of their own. These included indoor football with Mrs Ratcliffe, cooking with Miss Reynolds, wreath making with Mrs Towie, and 'Fun Games' with Ms Forbes. The sessions aimed to bring staff together, promoting community and positive wellbeing across the school. A big thank you to all the staff who planned and delivered these activities!

By Mr Rathbone



Year 7 Natural High

On Wednesday, Year 7 took part in a special assembly participating in a presentation about drugs awareness. The main focus of the presentation was to raise awareness of people having a natural high and not a high that was fake from drugs. David Graham spoke to Year 7s about where we could get advice about drug related issues such as Frank and child-line.

Pupils also took part in singing and dancing as well as a few pupils doing kick ups with a football.



Music Mark Award

The school has been awarded a Music Mark award for the value that we place on music in our school. The Music Mark award is a UK association for Music Education championing and supporting access to music for all young people. At St John Wall we work hard to foster a love for music at the heart of the school, embedding it in our catholic life, our extracurricular activities, Open evening, Awards evening and many more throughout the school year. Over 60 students take part in instrument lessons alongside their music lessons at SJW because of that love for music which is such a joy to see them flourish on their instruments. It is such an honour that this was recognised by Music Mark and we were awarded the Music Mark award for 2025-2026.

As a school we will continue to have music at the heart of the school by always advocating for the importance of music education in the curriculum and creative life of our school, provide a diverse and inclusive music education for every young person and welcome opportunities to broaden our musical horizons by working with providers in our community and beyond.

Well done to all students and staff that are helping us achieve this goal.

By Miss Antonucci



Year 10 Work Experience (25-26)

Last week, we launched the **Year 10 Work Experience Programme** during our **Celebration of the Word**. We are delighted to be partnering with **Learn to Work Ltd** to help organise and deliver this year's programme, which will take place **from Monday 4th to Friday 8th May 2026**.

The benefits for our students in searching for and engaging in meaningful work experience are significant. We are keen for every Year 10 student to have the opportunity to **secure their own placement** with an employer — whether through a family contact or by carrying out their own search. The **deadline for students to confirm their own placement** is **Friday 19th December 2025**.

Should you require advice or information regarding work experience please do not hesitate to get in touch with the **'Learn to Work' Limited** team on **0121 446 2781**.

By Mr Rathbone

Letters:

- [Further Information for Parents Letter](#)
- [Own Placement Form](#)





Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

HAPPY, SAFE HALLOWEEN/BONFIRE NIGHT – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

With the darker nights fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of 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 also like to remind our students about the following: -

- **Anti-social behaviour:** Halloween can be a scary time for people who don't like surprises or callers at their door. Think about how your actions and behaviour affect others; elderly and vulnerable people may be frightened by 'trick or treat' – only approach houses that have been decorated for the occasion, as they are potentially inviting callers to the door.
- **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](#) - Google have 'Find my Device' & android manufacturers also offer similar location apps (Samsung have 'Find' for example) these can be found on the Google 'Play store'.
 - Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; 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
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.



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- **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.**

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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27 October until 2 November

Parents, guardians and carers can enjoy
unlimited free bus travel across the
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How to claim



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Just scan the QR code (or visit tfwm.org.uk/october) to apply!

Once applications close, we'll email you
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HGS SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

OFSTED 2024 said:

"An extensive personal development curriculum promotes the development of pupils' character and interests exceptionally well"

"All Sixth-form students receive ... high-quality careers guidance. This prepares them extremely well for the next stages of their lives."

WHEN

Thursday 23rd October 2025
4.30pm - 6.30pm

WHERE

**King Edward VI
Handsworth
Grammar School
for Boys**
Grove Lane, Birmingham, B21 9ET



REGISTER NOW!
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2025 A level Results:

- 42% of all grades were A or A*
- 67% of grades were A*-B
- 88% of all grades were A*-C



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- ☑ Discover more about the A-Level subjects we offer.
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