



Saint John Wall Catholic School

A Catholic School For All



Issue: 12

Friday 11 December 2020

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Weekly Information Bulletin



Mission Statement

'To educate each and every unique child in our care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be'

Prayer

Termly Theme: LIGHT

Dear Lord, Let us follow in the footsteps of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, by promoting peace and love everywhere we go. As we finish this second week of Advent, we pray for peace all over the world. We also ask you to help us gain inner peace, allowing us to have moments of quiet to let you into our lives.
Amen

sKIDs PLUS Covid 19 Research Programme

The second round of testing took place last Friday 4 December. This included 67 staff and pupils who were tested for the presence of covid 19 and for antibodies. I am pleased to let you know that all 67 tested negative. This is again testament to the hard work and vigilance of staff, pupils and parents with following the safety and hygiene measures at school. Thankyou to you all.

By Miss Marston - Headteacher

Important Dates to Note

- **School closes for Christmas Holidays to all Pupils at 2.30pm**
Wednesday 16 December 2020
- **Year 7, 9 and 10 Remote Parents' Day using Teams**
(Appointments will be allocated to meet with teachers online)
Thursday 17 December 2020 – 9.00am to 6.00pm
- **School Opens to all Pupils**
Wednesday 6 January 2021

Last Day of Term

Christmas Jumper Day is on Wednesday 16 December, pupils can wear a Christmas jumper along with their uniform for only 50p. All money raised will be for the charity 'Save the children'.

When pupils are dismissed on Wednesday there will be no Library facilities available for pupils to wait to be collected. All pupils need to be off site by 2:30pm.

Attendance Updates

Birmingham City Council has been able to provide enough evidence about some of our families regarding poor attendance and this has resulted in the family being fined.

Please ensure your child is in school every day so this does not happen to you! If you have any questions about attendance or need some support please contact Ms Hanson in the school office.

By Mrs Crooks - Assistant Principal
(Personal Development, Safety, Behaviour & Attitudes - DSL & SPOC)

Christmas Jumper Day
for staff and pupils!

WEAR A CHRISTMAS JUMPER ON
WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER

FOR ONLY **50P**

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE
CHARITY 'SAVE THE CHILDREN'

Creative Writing by Asher Rogers 9PEJ

Theme: Heroes

It would never end. He realised that now. He lost count of all his previous attempts at fixing his original mistake at thirty seven tries, but it was all for nothing. He pulled himself out of the cardboard box and stood up. The rusty overpass above him was devoid of traffic. It had been for years. Weeds grew up around the wrecks of old tractor trailers and smashed cars abandoned along the road. Numbed refugees dragged themselves away from the city in the distance, the city where smoke rose from almost every building and staccato gunfire and artillery explosions could be heard. The cracked sign lying on the roadway read "Major Deegan Expressway" and "New York City Next Exit". He was exhausted but he had to go back, further this time, and fix his mistake. If only he could stop himself in time... in time... time itself was the problem.

A mere month ago he had solved the problem of time travel. Once the major mathematical hurdles were overcome, building the machine itself was trivial. It was reducing it to a medallion that he could wear that was the big effort. But he had succeeded, and having succeeded he first travelled back as a test, to see if it would work. If he died, that was no matter - he had come further than anyone else. But he didn't die. It was much worse than that. He changed history. He destroyed the world.

At first it was a lark. He blinked himself back to his college days and relived the carefree fun of those times. When he got tired of that he decided to try something really worthwhile - he would kill Hitler. That alone would make him the biggest hero in history. And so, rotating the rings on the medallion, he blinked himself back in time and space, suddenly appearing at the Reichstag. He was able to surprise everyone, grab a submachine gun and lay a perfect line of shots across Hitler's chest. He struck the "return" button before anyone could stop him. Hitler was dead, years before he could do his damage.

But when he returned, his laboratory was a shattered mess. Gunfire was blazing in the courtyard of the University. The sound of heavy engines, the screams of pain and the shouted commands of soldiers filled the air. He ran to the window and was almost killed by a sniper - the round whizzed right by his head and slammed into the whiteboard behind him. He ducked below the window and waited, then looked out. Russian and Chinese military vehicles of a type he had never seen before were rolling across the quad. Students and soldiers lie dead and dying everywhere. A few American soldiers were emerging from the shattered Student Union, hands up in surrender. In the distance he could see American forces pulling back in ragged retreat. What the hell had happened? Somehow, by killing Hitler, he had changed the future to... this. It was no longer a lark. He had to change it back. Anything was better than this.

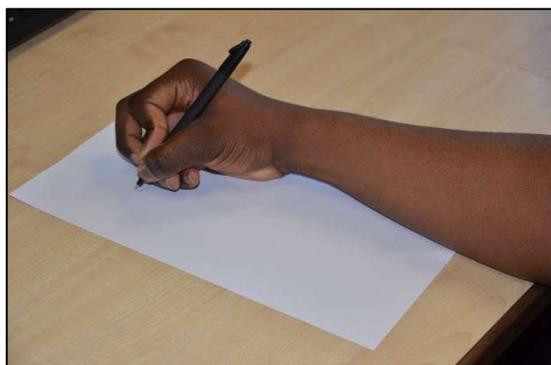
He feverishly worked the counter-rotating rings on the medallion around his neck. He had to control for space as well as time. He wanted to go back to the Reichstag and rescue Hitler this time, push him out of the way of his previous self with the machine gun. What would that be like, encountering himself? Was it possible? If it were, how come he hadn't seen his future self-saving Hitler's life? He didn't have time to ponder. He pushed the button.

Again, he found himself at the Reichstag, seconds before his previous self was to arrive and grab the MP38 from the honor guard soldier protecting Hitler. The guard was amazed to see him blink in but before anything could happen, his future self appeared. In that instant there was a screaming shriek that filled his ears. The walls shook, the windows shattered, the ceiling caved in. Giant cinderblocks fell onto the assembled Nazis -- he was sure Himmler was crushed, probably Bormann as well, maybe even others. His head was splitting, it was all he could do to press the "return" button before his eardrums burst.

When he returned to the lab, things were different again. There was no gunfire. There was no noise. The place was abandoned completely, and it looked as if it had been abandoned for some years. Thick dust coated the tables, chairs and lab equipment. Trees were growing through the window. As he walked to the window, his foot went through the rotten and spongy floor. The campus was a wasteland of abandoned buildings, rubble and overgrown trees and brush. As far as his eyes could see was wilderness. Civilization was gone.

He realised now that if he moved through time and met another version of himself that he would set up a feedback loop that created a destructive distortion, much the same way as if two microphones are set side by side and set up an audio feedback loop until the receiver blew its circuits out. He couldn't go back to the moment he killed Hitler. He would have to go back further and insure Hitler wasn't even there. But how? He spoke no German. He wasn't a history buff. He didn't know much about the period. He could blink in and out, but now he realized that every single thing he did had consequences for the future.

And then he realised the truth and his blood went cold. The life he knew might be gone forever. He might never be able to fix the past and restore what had been. Everything he knew, everyone he knew and loved -- was gone or different or maybe had never been born. They probably wouldn't even recognise him if he appeared before them. He had the superpower to travel through time, and his superpower had destroyed his life. But there must be a way to fix it, if only he could go back far enough. If only he could stop himself from killing Hitler. But how?



Do you need any support over Christmas?

Food:

Food Parcels collections 5-6pm Daily
Midland Langar Seva Society
Dale End Bus Stops (Stall)
Birmingham City Centre
B4

Asian Resource Centre
Villa Road
0121 523 0580

Food Bank Centres
New Life Wesley Church
Holyhead Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 0RA
0121 507 0734
(Thursdays 1-3pm)

Salma Food Bank
Unit 8
Ash Court
Crystal Drive
Smethwick
B66 1Q
07767164246

Aspire Housing Rookery Road
308 Rookery Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 9QG
1pm Mon/Wed/Fri

If you qualify for Free School Meals, please check your emails as you've been sent vouchers which you can use to purchase food.

Wellbeing & Mental Health:

Support with your mental health over this Christmas time:

- Young Minds
<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/looking-after-your-mental-health-at-christmas/>
- MIND
<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/christmas-and-mental-health/christmas-and-mental-health/>
- Forward thinking Birmingham
<https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk/>
- KOOTH
<https://www.kooth.com/>

Bereavement & Loss:

If you or anyone in your family suffers the loss of a family member or friend at this difficult time, there are some websites below that may help & comfort you:

Winston's Wish

Website: <https://help2makesense.org/>

Email: ask@winstonswish.org

Cruse Bereavement Care

Website: <https://www.hopeagain.org.uk/>

Phone: 0808 808 1677

Childline

Website: www.childline.org.uk

Phone: 0800 1111

Grief Encounter

Website: <https://www.griefencounter.org.uk/young-people/>

Phone: 0808 802 0111