



# Saint John Wall Catholic School

## A Catholic School For All



Issue: 3

Friday 18 September 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

Dear God,

Jesus your son, the light of the world, taught us to always forgive. Help us to remember this when times are difficult. Encourage us to turn to you for guidance & support so that we can move past any challenges we have with others.

Amen

## Pupil Safety: Knife Arch Searches

During this week random teaching groups were selected to take part in a search and metal detector check as previously mentioned in the newsletter.

Pupils were very responsible in participating in this as well as considerate about why we were doing it. I was impressed how the pupils supported the school in this initiative to ensure they are safe and appreciate risk.

Remember, the school's behaviour policy states that if a member of staff suspects that a pupil has a banned item in their possession, they can instruct the pupil to turn out their pockets and/or their bag.

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

## Collective Worship – Safer Travel

An Education Officer, Paula Shortland, from West Midlands Police visited school this week to give a talk to pupils about travelling safely on public transport during the covid-19 pandemic. She commented that she was very impressed with our pupils, and that Year 10 were the most well-behaved group of pupils she has ever spoken in front of, which I thought was high praise! Feeling very proud of them all.

**By Miss Moyo – Head of Year 10**

## Important Dates to Note

- **Year 11 Mock 1 Examinations**  
Monday 5 October to Friday 9 October 2020
- **Autumn Half Term**  
Monday 26 October 2020 to Friday 30 October 2020

## SJW Values

**Generous and Grateful**

## Headteacher's Message

Thankyou for your continued support in getting all pupils back into school safely over the past few weeks, including the last minute change regarding face coverings due to Birmingham's increased covid 19 restrictions. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

Here is a summary of the education we are now providing:

**School reopening:** Pupils in all year groups have fully returned for their full timetable. Pupils are separated in year group bubbles for most of the day. This is facilitated safely with staggered entry, lesson changeover, lunch and exit times. If pupils are in corridors with pupils outside their bubble where social distancing is difficult to maintain, they can wear a school face covering. Please see our school website [www.sjw.bham.sch.uk](http://www.sjw.bham.sch.uk) and select the 'Covid-19' button for full details of school day timings, permitted face coverings, safety flyers and covid 19 agreement.

**Attendance:** Full attendance is expected in school unless a pupil is isolating as per public health guidelines. Some pupils are arriving after the school start time of 8.50am. Please make every effort to ensure they are on time so important learning is not missed.

**Coverage of the curriculum:** All pupils are being taught the full curriculum and teachers have put in place plans to ensure all pupils rapidly resume their learning. Development homework is available on the school website and pupils can complete this independently at home to assist with catching-up anything missed during March to July 2020. A programme of after school masterclasses is being planned and you will be informed when your child will need to attend. More details next week about online lessons.

**Mental health and wellbeing:** All pupils have been encouraged to talk to a member of staff if there are any changes to their circumstances, or they are worried or anxious about anything. All staff have received training on bereavement support, mental health support, emotional coaching, restorative justice and circle time. We have also set up a wellbeing@ email address that pupils can use and a team of trained staff can respond to any information shared.

Thankyou for your support in these challenging times.

**Miss Marston - Headteacher**

## Enjoy the city ... and keep Covid-19 Safe!

As the lockdown eases, Birmingham's experiences are gradually welcoming visitors back with additional Covid-19 security in place. *Discovering Birmingham Experiences* includes information on things that are now open for you to enjoy. For local people this is a fantastic time to come into the city centre and for visitors we aim to help you make the most of your stay.



Centenary Square in the heart of Birmingham is a great place to relax and enjoy the city.

## Birmingham Heritage Week

A city-wide festival celebrating its rich and diverse aspects.

Heritage Week is for visitors and local people helping you to get out and explore the city.

This year is slightly different with a mix of real tours, visits, virtual tours and discussions. For live events full Covid-19 precautions are in place.



The Real Birmingham Family sculpture creates much discussion during Heritage Week tours.



## Visit England – we're good to go!

Experiences that have reopened have many new ways of working in place to ensure they comply with the latest Government guidelines on Covid-19 security. Look out for the Visit England 'We're good to go' quality mark which shows that an organisation has passed Visit England's assessment of compliance with Government and public health guidance on Covid-19 safety.



Subscribe online now – email: [subscribe@discoveringbirmingham.co.uk](mailto:subscribe@discoveringbirmingham.co.uk)

## AWARD-WINNING City centre walking tours

The popular Positively Birmingham Walking Tours have restarted, with weekend tours available to book now and continuing throughout the year.

Private tours are also available for visitors and local people and groups to enjoy during the week. All tours use the 'live audio' system, with the guide transmitting to an audio unit carried by each guest. This enables social distancing to 2m – and much more if you like! Tours start from outside the Library of Birmingham.

Saturdays 1.30pm–3.30pm:

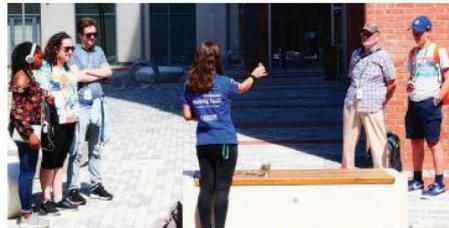
From canals and Victorians to today's city

Sundays 1.30pm–3.30pm:

Discovering Birmingham including the 'secret canal' to the Jewellery Quarter

Check availability and book a ticket on the website: [www.positivelybirmingham.co.uk](http://www.positivelybirmingham.co.uk)

Positively **BIRMINGHAM**  
Walking Tours



The 'live audio' allows for great social distancing, used here as the tour stops at Newhall Square, the newest of Birmingham's designer squares.



Jonathan and Maria all set for a Covid-19 safe walking tour!

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**Birmingham Heritage Week**

10 – 20 September 2020

**Heritage Fun in Brum**

- Eleven days of fascinating events for local people and visitors to enjoy
- See website for details: [www.birminghamheritageweek.co.uk](http://www.birminghamheritageweek.co.uk)

## Welcome back

While many places sadly remain closed for now there are plenty of things reopening for local people and visitors to enjoy in Birmingham. It is a win-win: they need your support and you get some great things to do without too many crowds! Here we highlight key attractions that are now open to enjoy.

For the latest information and a more complete list of experiences visit [www.discoveringbirmingham.co.uk](http://www.discoveringbirmingham.co.uk)

### IN THE CITY CENTRE:

#### A Self-Guided & Virtual City Centre Tour

Explore the city at your own pace. Available 24/7 - link sent straight to your phone so you can start at once. Also suitable as virtual tours, especially for schools.  
[www.positivelybirmingham.co.uk](http://www.positivelybirmingham.co.uk)

#### Ikon Gallery B1 2HS

Modern art gallery in a historic Martin & Chamberlain building in Brindleyplace. Pre-book online with FREE entry. Open Thurs (3-7pm); Friday to Sunday (12-4pm)  
[www.ikon-gallery.org](http://www.ikon-gallery.org)

#### Legoland Discovery Centre B1 2AA

Alongside the canal in the city centre. Do remember that adults must be accompanied by a child!  
<https://birmingham.legolanddiscoverycentre.co.uk>

#### Positively Birmingham Walking Tours B1 2ND

2-hour city centre tours run most weekend afternoons. Private tours at a date and time of your choosing.  
[www.positivelybirmingham.co.uk](http://www.positivelybirmingham.co.uk)

#### Run of a Kind B5 4EG

A 10 km, 2-hour guided run over canal paths and city streets with stops to learn about things around you.  
[www.runofakindbirmingham.com](http://www.runofakindbirmingham.com)

#### St Philip's Cathedral B3 2QB

Open for private prayer and to see the famous Burne-Jones windows. Restricted hours, face masks mandatory.  
[www.birminghamcathedral.com](http://www.birminghamcathedral.com)

#### Sealife Centre B1 2HL

Open now to visit as long as you pre-book on website.  
[www.visitsealife.com](http://www.visitsealife.com)

### AROUND & ABOUT:

#### Ackers Adventure B11 2PY

Now open for bookable activities including skiing and tobogganing.  
[www.ackers-adventure.co.uk](http://www.ackers-adventure.co.uk)

#### Birmingham Botanical Gardens B15 3TR

A short trip from the city centre. Now open to walk round on weekdays and the weekend.  
[www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk](http://www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk)

#### Cadbury World B30 1JR

Tells the story of the Cadbury family and their role in producing chocolate products.  
[www.cadburyworld.co.uk](http://www.cadburyworld.co.uk)

#### Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens B36 9BT

A ten acre walled garden rescued by volunteers over 35 years ago and restored back to its original 19th century condition. Open all year round with pre-booking advised.  
[www.castlebromwichhallgardens.org.uk](http://www.castlebromwichhallgardens.org.uk)

#### Escape Live B19 3LY

Escape game for 2-6 people. Includes Peak Blinder themes. Book on website.  
[www.escapelive.co.uk/locations/birmingham](http://www.escapelive.co.uk/locations/birmingham)

#### Moseley Road Baths B12 9BX

Spectacular 1907 swimming pools with the smaller one open for swimming.  
[www.moseleyroadbaths.org.uk](http://www.moseleyroadbaths.org.uk)

#### Selly Manor B30 2AE

Reopen for pre-bookings. Two timber-framed Tudor buildings, moved to Bournville by the Cadbury family.  
[www.sellymanormuseum.org.uk](http://www.sellymanormuseum.org.uk)

## Make a Gentoo penguin's day!

Sealife Birmingham is amazing, with over 2,000 creatures and the incredible 360° underwater tunnel. The Gentoo penguins have been missing visitors and are looking forward to welcoming you back. You'll need to pre-book even if you have an annual pass. Online tickets start at under £20. The Utilita Arena Birmingham South car park is just a 3 minute walk.  
More details and bookings at: [www.visitsealife.com](http://www.visitsealife.com)



## Big thrills in Small Heath

Until you can hit those Alpine slopes again a great local secret is the excellent ski coaching at **Ackers Adventure** in Small Heath, now open with Covid-19 safe practices in place.

**Tobogganing:** For children up to 12 years, with limited group sizes.

**Wednesday Morning Club:** Expert advice and friendly people. You must pre-book.

**Recreational Skiing:** Available throughout the week for those who can already ski.

Further details and bookings from: [www.ackers-adventure.co.uk](http://www.ackers-adventure.co.uk)

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## Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Now open daily from 10am to 6pm - 15 acres of gardens and four impressive glasshouses to enjoy. The café is open for take-aways and there are plenty of places to sit and enjoy this tranquil space. (Please note that the ever-popular children's playground closes at 2pm).

More details from [birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk](http://birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk)



### BIRMINGHAM CURIOSITIES

## The invention of plastic

It's amazing that Birmingham invented silver electroplating and then went on to produce silverware for the whole world. Did you know that Alexander Parkes, one of the principles at the Elkington electroplating company also invented plastic? He is remembered with a blue plaque on part of the original Elkington factory works on Newhall Street.

Alexander proudly named the plastic 'Parkesine' and set up a factory to make it on Hackney Marshes in East London. The production process was problematic as it used ethanol to extract cellulose from wood pulp, which led to many fires. The process was modified and taken forward by another company who renamed the plastic Xylonite.

Positively Birmingham Walking Tours look at Elkington as part of their Sunday afternoon tour which runs throughout the year.

More details and booking at [www.positivelybirmingham.co.uk](http://www.positivelybirmingham.co.uk)

The Elkington factory site includes a pleasant new square for visitors to enjoy, flanked by the restored Whitmore Warehouse, seen here.



The blue Plaque remembers Alexander Parkes' invention of plastic.

Products produced by Elkington displayed in the brand new Newhall Square.

## DISCOVERING BIRMINGHAM *experiences*

### Editorial

Our focus is on promoting things to experience in the Birmingham postcode area - contact Jonathan Berg: [editor@discoveringbirmingham.co.uk](mailto:editor@discoveringbirmingham.co.uk)

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