

# 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 14

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 15 December 2023

**Catholic Life - This year we are focusing on 'Year of Live Simply'.  
Termly Theme: The Common Good - Live in Solidarity  
Termly SJW Values – Compassionate and Loving**

**This week in Afternoon Prayer...** "We prayed for Human Rights and that everyone is equal. We also prayed for **peace** and how we can show it in the world. One way to show **peace** is by not arguing with those around us. This also helps us with our friendships. The reason I like Afternoon Prayer is because everyone gathers together whilst listening about what we can do to help in the world."

**By Natalia Szykiewicz 7BRS**

**This week in our Weekly Worship...** "We focused on Advent. We spoke about joy, **peace** and **solidarity**. and thought about why it is important to show forgiveness. We reflected on the importance of **solidarity** and **peace** and wrote on doves how we can help to show **peace**. On my dove, I wrote about showing **love** everyone and by praying for all those around the world who are at war and are not experiencing **peace**."

**By Dean Seabright 7PAL**

This week, we continued with our Year 8 class Mass. "We went to Mass and it was really nice. I was able to take part in the Mass by doing one of the readings. Everyone was so respectful during the Mass. I liked how Mrs Ellis gave us more information about what we had experienced at the end of the Mass."

**By Kosisochukwu Chinedu 8REG**

### Dates to Note

- **Christmas Show – Cinderella (please purchase tickets)**  
Monday 18 December 2023 & Tuesday 19 December 2023  
5pm to 7pm
- **Christmas/ Jolly Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner**  
Tuesday 19 December 2023
- **INSET DAY – School Closed to all Pupils**  
Friday 22 December 2023
- **Christmas Holidays**  
Monday 25 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2024
- **INSET Day – School closed to all Pupils**  
Monday 8 January 2024
- **School Open to all Pupils**  
Tuesday 9 January 2024

### Christmas/ Jolly Jumper Day

On Tuesday 19 December, Saint John Wall is holding a Jolly Jumper Day. On this day, pupils can wear any jumper that makes them feel comfortable and jolly. This can be a Christmas jumper, a comfy jumper or even their cosiest hoody! It doesn't necessarily have to be a Christmas jumper as we understand that not everyone has one! So, pupils can wear any jumper that makes them feel jolly, along with the rest of their normal school uniform. They can also wear their normal school jumper and 'jolly' it up with a Christmassy decoration, broach or badge. Pupils are asked to pay 50p each or £1 to cover a whole family. All money raised will be going to Birmingham Mind, a mental health charity chosen by our Year 8 Wellbeing Group and Birmingham's Children's Hospital.

**By Mr Lysaght**



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## Message from The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP – Secretary of State for Education

You may have seen that my department has launched two consultations in recent weeks. I'm really keen to hear from you on these topics once you return from the Christmas break so that you can help shape these important policies.

- [Advanced British Standard](#) – we are seeking views on the design and implementation of the landmark qualification framework, as well as how it will be assessed and awarded, and how to make sure the changes benefit all students. The consultation is open for 14 weeks, closing on 20 March. ([Click here for survey](#))
- [Introducing minimum service levels in education](#) – help us design a policy to protect children and young people's education whilst balancing an individual's right to strike. This consultation is open until 30 January. ([Click here for survey](#))

I want to hear from teachers, school leaders, parents, students and employers in all of these consultations, so I would be grateful if you could share the links with your wider school community so as many people as possible can have a say on these important issues.

## Visit to St Mary's Coffee Club

This morning we had a visit from the Music Man and pupils took part in a little carol singing which was wonderfully festive. They were kept busy serving tea and coffee for the guests which is so good for pupil's conversational skills and confidence and they were well rewarded with a selection box each to take home and share with their families. Merry Christmas everyone from all at St Mary's Church, Harborne.

By Mrs Clayton

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## Uniform Changes

From January you will be able to purchase our new V Neck Navy Blue Sweatshirt.

If you already have a grey or navy woolen jumper this is still acceptable, but if you want to purchase a new jumper please buy the V neck one as pictured.

You can purchase the new jumper from:

- Gogna on Rookery Road
- [My Uniform Hub – School Uniforms | Birmingham](#)

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## Christmas Tree Festival

Saint John Wall once again joined other members of the community for St Mary's Church, Handsworth Christmas Tree festival last week.

At Saint John Wall we are grateful for the resources we have on this planet and have taken care to think how we could recycle, a bottle, an item we use every day into something festive for our tree we have turned them into snowflakes! Each snowflake is unique and individual, just as each pupil at Saint John Wall is.

**By Mrs Towie**





## Year 7 and 8 Reading Relay – 'A Christmas Carol'

This Thursday pupils in Years 7 and 8 took part in the first reading relay of this academic year, which was focussed on the text 'A Christmas Carol'. Pupils read different sections of the original text in their lessons which covered the whole novella and was focussed mainly on the importance of Christmas spirit - showing generosity, kindness and compassion towards all people as well as living in solidarity with one another. The pupils engaged well with this challenging text and understood the message that Dickens was trying to portray. Hopefully, this will stand them in good stead for when they study the text at GCSE in English! **By Mrs Mann**

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## Year 7 and 8 Reading Relay – 'A Christmas Carol'

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*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'

**Tuesday 19 December 2023**

**We are celebrating Jolly Jumper Day at Saint John Wall!**

**To promote positive mental health and wellbeing, wear any jumper that makes you comfortable and jolly. This can be a Christmas jumper, a comfy jumper or even your cosiest hoody!**

**Donate 50p if you wear a jolly jumper (maximum £1 if you have sibling(s))**



Money raised will go towards  
Birmingham Mind and  
Birmingham Children's  
Hospital



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Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

## HAPPY CHRISTMAS – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

With Christmas fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour during the festive break from school. Whilst we hope they will enjoy socialising with friends and family, we also want to ensure they feel confident to keep themselves safe and away from danger, 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 additional support and up-to-date safety messages.

In partnership with the police, we would like to remind our students about the following: -

- **Personal Safety:**
  - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members, and keep Christmas gifts and other valuables (such as smartphones/watches/headphones) out of public view whenever possible, especially during your journey to and from school, when you return in the New Year.
  - 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; 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, including sudden death! Information is available at [www.talktofrank.com](http://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.



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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, you may also be held responsible for that crime – even if you weren't the one directly responsible.

Yours faithfully,

*K Marston*

**Miss K Marston**  
Headteacher  
Saint John Wall Catholic School

**Richard North**  
Chief Superintendent - Birmingham LPA  
West Midlands Police



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## Crime Prevention Advice for Educational Sites

Follow this simple checklist when you are open or closed for business to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime:

- Be extra vigilant over the holiday period
- Remember to follow your school's security guidelines
- Keep all keys out of sight
- When you close for any holiday, lock away everything you can
- Leave no unnecessary cash on the premises.
- Close and lock internal and external doors
- Set all security alarms
- Ensure that your CCTV system is fully working
- Check all windows are closed and valuable property is secured from view
- Ensure any school vehicles are securely parked and the keys securely locked away
- Do you need someone to call in and move the post or any deliveries?
- Ensure you leave no rubbish outside your premises that can be used to start fires.
- Remove, or secure, anything from outside that might help a criminal to break in, such as benches, bins, garden tools, ladders.
- Are all your items of IT property marked?
- Do you have an asset list of all your items, including serial numbers?

**If you see something suspicious, act upon it, do not ignore it.**

**In an emergency call 999.**



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# CHRISTMAS LUNCH



**£3.00,  
or Free  
School  
Meal**

## TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER

### Roast Turkey Dinner

Seasoning, Sprouts, Carrots and Roast Potatoes

### Vegetable Wellington

Seasoning, Sprouts, Carrots and Roast Potatoes

**Chocolate Cake or Caribbean  
Fruit Cake and Custard**

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**Turkey Cranberry Baguette**

**£2.50**



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## Join Us This Winter!

Join us this winter at our fun, free Bring It On Brum! holiday clubs taking place across Birmingham. Holiday clubs will be taking place from 27th December-5th January and include a huge range of different activities.

Don't miss out on winter fun and make sure to book your holiday clubs early!

[Click here to find and book your local holiday club](#)

**HOLIDAY KITCHEN**  
**AT**

**Bring it on Brum!**

**forward steps**  
The Outdoor Professionals

[www.ackers-adventure.co.uk](http://www.ackers-adventure.co.uk)  
The Outdoor Professionals

Join us for a  
**tobogganing session,**  
**fun and food!**  
Parents must attend activity with children!!

Thursday 28th  
December 9.30-1.30

For 4-8 Year olds  
(Under 4's not permitted)

Warm and waterproof clothing essential

Booking for 4-8 year olds via [www.bringitonbrum.co.uk](http://www.bringitonbrum.co.uk) You will need your BIOB/ FSM/ HAF code to book

### Holiday Kitchen at Ackers Adventure

This Winter Holiday Kitchen is at **Ackers Adventure** on Golden Hillock Rd Small Heath B11 2PY. We will all be meeting at Ackers at 10am with registration and instructions followed by a fun tobogganing session for the children. All children aged 4-8 years can participate. After the tobogganing lunch will be provided for the children along with some indoor activities. Parents will need to stay with their children and supervise at all times.

This active session will go ahead whatever the weather so come prepared with appropriate clothing!



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## Avery Fields

We are pleased to welcome you to our Winter HAF Multi-Sports and Arts & Crafts programme at Avery Fields! Spaces are available for young people aged 5 to 14 years, and can also cater for mild SEND needs.

Our day starts on our state-of-the-art 4G Astro turf pitch, where we play an array of games and activities aimed at building a young persons resilience, developing their communication and team-building skills, with fun, enjoyment and safety at the heart of all.

The afternoon session is based indoors, where we tap into our creative side with arts & crafts. From paper aeroplane building, to design your own superhero and Christmas ornament creations - we cover a wide range of activities. While in between the two sessions of our day is lunch. We provide all attendees with a packed lunch including; a sandwich, a snack, a piece of fruit and a drink.



## Frankley Christmas HAF Camp

Our camp is a multi sports camp with arts and craft sessions too!

We have sports ranging from football, basketball, dodgeball, cricket and many more! We have over 10 years experience in sports coaching and childcare so you children are in very good hands!



## FIT KIDS ZONE C.I.C HODGE HILL WINTER CAMP

**TUESDAY 2ND JANUARY  
TILL  
FRIDAY 5TH JANUARY**

**FREE 9 AM TILL 1PM  
CHILDREN MUST RECEIVE  
BENEFIT RELATED FREE  
SCHOOL MEALS AND HAVE  
A HAF CODE**

**FUN & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES**

Colebourne Primary School  
Stechford Road  
Hodge Hill  
B34 6BJ

### MULTI-SPORTS

**THIS WINTER CAMP WILL PROVIDE LIFE SKILLS AND  
HELP BUILD CONFIDENCE. CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE  
TO ACCESS A NUTRITIOUS BALANCE MEAL  
THROUGHOUT THE DAY AS WELL AS REFRESHMENTS  
WHICH WILL ALL BE PROVIDED BY FIT KIDS ZONE  
C.I.C**

**All Welcome**  
if you don't receive free school meals you are still welcome to  
attend our club with a small charge per day  
**£10 per day with out food £13 per day with food**  
9am till 3pm

Www.Fitkidszone.co.uk/clubs      07985607421

### Fit Kids Zone CIC

Fit Kids Zone is offering children from reception to year 6

The opportunity to learn different fun activities such as:

- Multi-Sports
- Gymnastics
- Dance
- Arts and Crafts

What Will Be Included?

The day will consist of breakfast each morning from 9am till 10am. After this, children will get the chance to choose which fun activities they wish to take part in. We will then break for an hour lunch period.

All the children's food will be provided by Fit Kid Zone and will follow the School Food Standards.

summer holiday club supported by: **Bring it on Brum** and **new roots**

**OPEN TO  
AGES  
6-14**

**FOR MORE INFO &  
TO REGISTER VISIT  
creativesparks.uk/register**

CONTACT INFO:  
INFO@CREATIVESPARKS.UK  
07954 660196

**creative Sparks**

## WINTER HOLIDAY CLUB

**FREE FOR  
FREE SCHOOL  
MEAL KIDS**

A fun packed holiday club filled with expressive arts, enrichment activities, team sports and games, role-playing and nature scavenger hunts to ensure an exciting experience for everyone. Come and learn in a fun and interactive environment, enjoy making new friends!

**FREE  
BREAKFAST  
& HOT LUNCH!**

**£10  
PER SESSION  
NON-FSM KIDS**

**FUN ACTIVITIES**

- 3D ARTS & CRAFTS
- PAINTING & DRAWING
- CLASSIC SPORTS DAY
- FREE PLAY & GAMES
- NUTRITION & HEALTH
- PUBLIC SPEAKING
- NATURE TREKS
- ROLE-PLAY

<b>ARK ST ALBAN'S ACADEMY CONYBERE STREET B12 0YH</b>	<b>WED 27TH DEC TO FRI 29TH DEC TUE 2ND JAN TO FRI 5TH JAN 10AM - 2PM</b>
<b>KING SOLOMON SCHOOL LORD STREET B7 4AA</b>	<b>WED 27TH DEC TO FRI 29TH DEC 10AM - 2PM</b>

**THEMES  
Creative Arts  
Role-Play  
Writing  
Drama**

### CREATIVE SPARKS WINTER HOLIDAY CLUB @ KING SOLOMON INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SCHOOL

This Winter Club has been designed with the aim to educate, empower and enrich children in a fun, inclusive and interactive environment. We will have fun packed days filled with stimulating team sports and games, arts & crafts, role-playing opportunities and nature scavenger hunts to ensure an exciting experience for all.

The holiday club leads have significant experience in creating a fun and engaging learning environment, where everyone is encouraged to contribute and participate. We will have bitesize sessions on nutrition and health as part of our holistic approach to our holiday clubs.

Key features:

- Classic sports day;
- Opportunities to develop public speaking skills;
- 3D Arts and crafts
- Exploring expressive writing skills;
- Team sports; and
- Nature treks.



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# CHRISTMAS SALE

## 15%

USE CODE: CHRISTMAS15

**SHOP NOW**

[www.gogna.me](http://www.gogna.me)

VALID UNTIL 12.01.2024

\*ONLINE ONLY

\*EXCLUDES PACKAGES



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