

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 2

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 13 September 2024



Catholic Life Annual Theme: Pilgrims of Hope on the Path of Peace

Termly Theme: 'Each and every unique child'

Termly Catholic Social Teaching: Dignity

Termly SJW Values: Curious and Active

This week in Weekly Worship...

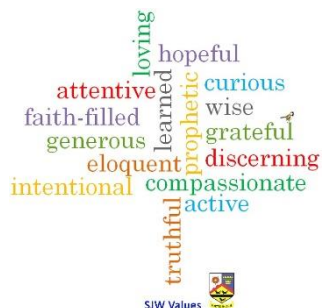
"We learnt a lot about our new theme, **Pilgrims of Hope on the Path of Peace**. We thought about what a pilgrim is and what they might have to bring with them when they go on pilgrimage. We also thought about the importance of preparing. We did this by remembering that we are all **unique**. We can be **curious and active** by taking part in school and by thinking about the year ahead with **hope**".

By Mernell Reid 9ILY

This week in Afternoon Prayer...

"We prayed for Education Sunday. This is a day where we think about the importance of education. Going to school gives us an opportunity to learn something new every day. We also prayed for our new staff and pupils. We prayed that they feel welcome in our school community. We can make new members welcome by smiling at them in the corridor or just by saying hello to them. We also prayed a part of our mission statement, '**for each and every unique child**'. We thought about the gifts and talents each child brings to our community".

By Zenab Imran 9ILY



Dates to Note

- **Carding Mill Valley Trip – 43 Year 11 Pupils**
Monday 16 September 2024 – 8.45am to 3.45pm
- **Remote Learning Practice and Open Evening**
Tuesday 24 September 2024

Pupils in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 will leave school at 12.00pm and should make their way home then log on to lesson 4 via teams 2.15 to 3.00pm.

Year 7 parents, you are invited to attend school at 12.00pm to 12.30pm for a teams remote learning training session, and then Year 7 will leave school at 12.30pm to log on to lesson 4 via teams 2.15 to 3.00pm.

You are warmly invited to attend our Open Evening for a tour of the school 4.30pm to 6.00pm.

- **Open Mornings**
Wednesday 25 September 2024 – 9.30am to 12pm
Thursday 26 September 2024 - 9.30am to 12pm

Please ring school reception to book your slot.



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MCAS/Class Charts

A huge welcome to Year 7 pupils and parents.

As a school, we like to keep everyone informed about how well pupils are doing, especially regarding behaviour.

Saint John Wall uses ClassCharts to award behaviour points to pupils. You will be able to see the positive and negative behaviour points awarded by using the ClassCharts App. This can be downloaded from your usual App store. Pupils will need to download 'ClassCharts Student App'. Positive ClassChart points can be exchanged for prizes. Parents will need to download 'ClassCharts Parent App'. Parents and pupils will receive a unique code via email. Please do not share this code with anyone.

By Miss Timmins



Dance Movement Project

We have an exciting extra-curricular opportunity starting after school on Monday 16 September. Sport4Life will be delivering a free weekly dance class. Further details are below:

- Open to all year groups
- Every Monday, 3.15pm-4.15pm
- No experience necessary
- All abilities welcome
- Range of dances covered including street, contemporary and a range of other styles

If you have any questions, please see Miss Guest or Miss Young.

By Miss Guest



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House Captains 2024-2025

This week our new Year 10 house captains visited Year 7 forms to take part in the welcome to house at Saint John Wall activity. Form groups played competitively against each other answering questions such as 'guess the logo' and 'get to know your form'. It was great to hear from the Year 10 leaders that Year 7 pupils showed kindness, respect and enthusiasm towards their first house event! Well done to the winners: 7HAS scoring 20 points for Gandhi House - Full marks!

By Miss Young

We are excited to announce the selection of our Year 10 House Captains for the year ahead. After a rigorous selection process, these outstanding pupils have proven they have what it takes to take on the challenge of leadership and guide their houses to success.

They are more than ready to step into their roles, providing support and inspiration to their peers while fostering a strong sense of community and house spirit. Whether it's leading house events, supporting fellow pupils, or collaborating with staff, our captains are prepared to take on these responsibilities with confidence and dedication.

Please join us in congratulating our new Year 10 House Captains as they begin this exciting journey of leadership and service. We look forward to seeing the great things they will achieve!

By Mr Hussain

Mandela House - Arjan Badhan and Precious Illori

Gandhi House - Erica Fosua Agyemang and Riya Bains

John Paul House - Ryan Kanna and Ellie Mai

Luther King House - Borys Morawski and Aaphryl Antonio Pereira

Pankhurst House - Miradi Pembele and Africa beauty Garcia George



House News

The first competition of the year is launching on Monday 16 September! This competition will be worth double points to celebrate us building cohesion and using teamwork within our form groups.

The two areas which will be judged will be:

- Best designed robot
- Best built robot

This activity is all about using your creative flare and thinking about how to appropriately use recyclable materials to build your design.

Science Department House Competition

Launching Monday 16 September
Deadline: Monday 21 October

Design a Robot

Design a robot like an engineer to solve a problem. Think about how robots can be used in today's world to help with real-life issues.



There will be two categories that will be tested:

- Best designed robot
- Best built robot



When sourcing your materials, consider how they will be appropriate for each part of your robot and the specific problem you aim to solve.



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Year 11 Prefects

This week our Year 11 Prefects were given their new ties, duty rotas and hi-vis jackets ready for their duty which will start on the 16 September. They were very excited to be the first-year group to be wearing the new ties and I must say they looked very smart and ready to start their new roles. Some of their roles involves:

Responsibility and Accountability: Prefects are given specific duties that help them develop leadership skills. They are responsible for maintaining discipline, organising events and guiding younger pupils.

Role Models: As pupil leaders, prefects set an example for their peers, especially younger pupils, in terms of behaviour, work ethic, and academic standards.

Decision-Making Skills: Prefects often make decisions that affect their peers, allowing them to develop critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

I look forward to working with them all, being inspirations to other year groups as well.

Well done to: Akealia Higgins 11KIY, Ameira Peart 11JON, Kobi Mensah 11KIY, Shania-Anne McDermott 11BRO, Sarah Manu 11MCI, Yousma Mustafa 11MCI, Hannah Nyika 11MCI, Shoaib Ghalib 11JON, Yoosuf Bouterse 11BRO, Christel Mjeda 11MCI, Denzel Okyei 11MCI, Tennice Wright 11MUH, Francisca Idemudia 11MCI, Vanessa Kodua 11MCI, Mercedes Johnson 11KIY, Kelly Odiase 11MCI, Nilasha Kanna 11BRO, Chinazam Okeke 11BRO, Deborah Fadola 11MCI, Diya Chana 11MUH and Simran Gill 11MCI

By Mrs Chand

"It is so exciting to become a prefect as it's a huge opportunity to not only help the teachers but also the pupils around the school".

By Sarah Manu 11MCI

"It feels weird having a new tie, but I think I am ready for the responsibility ahead". **By Yoosuf Bouterse 11BRO**

"Having the opportunity to experience the role of a prefect this year means holding great responsibility but also being able to influence your fellow pupils in a positive way according to the school values". **By Kelly Odiase 11MCI**

"It's a great opportunity and experience to be a prefect, I am incredibly grateful for this responsibility. I am looking forward to all of my new activities and ways I can help around school with pupils and staff". **By Simran Gill 11MCI**



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SJW Supper Club

Sign up in
the canteen



3.15-4.30pm

**Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays
Starting Monday 9 September 2024**

Timings:

**3.15-4.15 enrichment activities
4.15-4.30 food and leave school site**

- 20 spaces per day, first come first served, sign up before 3.15pm each day.
- If you attend, you will not be able to leave the school site until 4.15pm.
- If you are being collected, parents/ carers need to contact the school office.
- Hot food and drinks provided free of charge.

Mondays	Tuesdays	Fridays
Bouncing Statistics	Sport 4 Life	Sport 4 Life
Team building and a range of sports	Team building and flag football	Team building and a range of sports



School Attendance Update

September 2024

Important - please read!

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is an important update about school attendance for the 2024/25 academic year.

Saint John Wall Catholic School continues to work in partnership with parents and the Local Authority to improve school attendance.

A big thank you to the majority of parents who make sure their children attend school regularly, particularly during the current cost of living crisis impacting families.

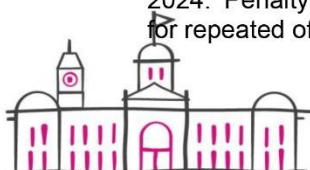
Your efforts, working in partnership with the school, will ensure that your child will have the best chance to achieve their academic potential and have real opportunity in further education and the world of work. It will also enable your child to:

- access the lessons needed to achieve their expected grades
- maintain friendships and develop new ones
- have access to social and sporting events offered by the school
- explore potential careers
- develop work habits such as good punctuality which are essential to thrive in the world of employment

How does your child compare?

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons

You may be aware of the changes to the law related to school attendance, in particular the new national penalty notice framework which came into force on the 19 August 2024. Penalty notice amounts have increased and there is now an escalation process for repeated offences.



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The Government has brought in the changes due to concerns about the decline in attendance linking to a deteriorating attainment and progress levels for children over the last few years. There is more information for parents here:

[National changes to education penalty notices - September 2024 | School attendance, advice for parents | Birmingham City Council](#)

If you are worried about your child/children's attendance the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with the school directly. The school has specialist staff who may be able to help, and all schools work closely with health and council teams who may also be able to help if needed. If you have concerns about mental health; domestic abuse; parenting; bereavement; finance; problems with drugs and alcohol; you can find help and support from the 'From Birmingham with Love' webpage:

[From Birmingham with Love](#)

*It may be tempting to book a family holiday in term time to save on costs during the cost of living crisis. **However, family holidays in term time are not allowed in law and are very unlikely to be authorised.** Taking children on leave without applying for authorisation may mean the school has to report your child as 'missing' to the local authority and holidays cannot be authorised retrospectively in law. Adding even more absence to the time children have already missed only means that the children miss even more lessons that will not be repeated.*

Family emergencies also need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Notifying the school of leave due to a family emergency does not mean it will be authorised.

Please note that where parents fail to ensure their child attends school regularly, legal action, including penalty notices, may be considered. New regulations also mean that children on extended period of leave may lose their school place where there is no evidence of a timely return to school or the date provided is too far away.

We hope this information is helpful to you and we wish you and your child/children all the best for the new academic year.

Kind regards,

Education Legal Intervention Team
Birmingham City Council

K Marston

Miss K Marston
Headteacher

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Words matter. They stick. They last a lifetime. They shape who we are and who we become.

How parents and carers can build children up, not knock them down

This short guide for parents and carers is part of a set of supportive resources we've developed with Dr Fiona Pienaar to help us all talk to children in a way that will build them up, not knock them down.

Five practical tips for communicating with children

1 Role model

As adults, we're role models for children and have a major influence on their development, and how they communicate. Encouraging words can build up their confidence and develop their self-esteem and help them feel valued and connected. Abusive, dismissive or belittling words or attitudes are likely to do the opposite.

Talk to children in a calm, kind respectful tone. You may have been hurt yourself, but you can break the cycle. If we respect children, they respect themselves and others.

Give your child your full attention and try not to interrupt when they are talking.

2 Set expectations

Whenever you spend time with children and want them to do something, give them really clear, instructions and set specific expectations in language they can understand and that's right for their age and stage of development. Children want to do the best they can. Compassionate and reassuring language – and recognising and appreciating that everyone's different – will help them feel safe and supported, accepted and loved.

Avoid shouting, insults, put-downs or name-calling, and language that will intimidate or belittle a child.

3 Focus on positives

We all want to know when we have done well, and to understand why. Give children compliments and praise whenever you can, and explain in detail why you're impressed with them. This shows them that you really see them and value what they have achieved.

It is important not to criticise them as a person. When you're addressing a problem, explain that it's the behaviour you don't like, not them as an individual.

4 Stop and think

We all get overloaded and stressed sometimes. Try to pause and think about what you're going to say. If you're feeling angry and agitated, or experiencing challenging emotions yourself, stop, breathe, step away if you need to, and think before you speak.

Be aware of your body language too. For example, avoid standing over your child, as this can intimidate them, so get down to their level to communicate eye to eye.

5 Repair

It's never too late to put things right. When you recognise that you've said something that could be hurtful to your child, take time to have a chat with them and say sorry and let them know you mean it. Encourage them to talk about how they're feeling, and make a fresh start together.

Try not to be too hard on yourself when things go wrong. When we get angry or say something we regret, it's usually because we're under pressure, and there's too much going on. It's important that you have support too, and have ways to take pressure off yourself.

In an emergency

If things get too much for you, you may need to get out of your immediate environment and get urgent support. You can use **Shout's free 24/7 crisis text service** for mental health support on **85258** or giveusashout.org, or, if you're worried about a child's safety, contact the **NSPCC** at help@NSPCC.org.uk or on **0800 800 5000**.

If you're a child and need help, you can get confidential support from **Childline** - to find out more go to www.childline.org.uk you can also call **free on 0800 1111**.



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