

# St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School



We will prepare the way by loving, living and learning with the Lord

## Friday 23rd January 2026



As we reflect on this week's gospel, we are reminded of the significance of 'living in the light.' At St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, our fundamental mission is to guide our pupils to illuminate the world around them, embodying the teachings of Jesus through their actions and interactions.

Positivity serves as the cornerstone of our educational approach. We are committed to nurturing an environment where every child can shine, sharing their unique gifts and talents while demonstrating compassion and understanding. Our school community—pupils, families, and staff—must work in collaborative partnership to create a beacon of hope and inspiration.

Each decision we make is carefully considered with the purpose of supporting and enhancing each child's development. Trust and positivity are essential in this journey. We believe that by approaching our each other with mutual respect and optimism, we can create a transformative educational experience.

By embracing these principles, we can collectively walk in the light of Christ, supporting one another and growing together in faith and understanding.



**Our Lady and All Saints**  
Catholic Multi Academy Company  
Strong in Faith



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM



# Reflection

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday's gospel talks about people who lived in darkness seeing a great light.

One way of thinking about this is that when we are sad or lonely, everything feels dark and gloomy. This is the dark. But then when someone does something nice for us, like including us in their game, or making us laugh, everything seems brighter again. This is the light. This is the light that Jesus brings into the world. It is the light of God's love for each one of us.

We can try to share this light by loving our neighbours, near and far. By helping to make the world a fairer place so that every person has what they need to live a healthy and happy life, because we know that at the moment some people in our world do not have enough food to eat, safe houses to live in or enough water to drink. And this is not what God wants for his children.

We all live in one world, with the same sun shining down on us. We are all God's children and belong to one global family. Jesus asks us to care for one another. By doing this we can help the light of Jesus to shine in the world.

## Our Virtues

Curious  
and  
Active

loving hopeful  
attentive learned curious  
faith-filled wise  
generous prophetic grateful  
eloquent discerning  
intentional compassionate  
truthful active

## Catholic Social Teaching

### Rights and Responsibilities

Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected, and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities — to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

## Our Pope's Prayer Intention

For January 2026, Pope Leo XIV's intention is for **prayer with the Word of God**, asking that scripture becomes nourishment and hope for lives, building a more fraternal Church; he encourages everyone to draw strength and guidance from God's Word, letting it lead to serving others and building bridges, as part of the new "Pray with the Pope" initiative.





# Lunch Menu

## School Dinners

### Weekly Menu: World Autumn Winter 25-26 week 1



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Main</b>	<b>Main</b>	<b>Main</b>	<b>Main</b>	<b>Main</b>
Margherita Pizza	Sweet Chilli Chicken Noodles	Roast Chicken	Meatballs in a Tomato Sauce	Fish Fingers
BBQ Sweetcorn Pizza	Vegetable BBQ Wrap	Roasted Vegetable Strudle	Sweet Potato Casserole	Salmon Fish Fingers
Topped Pasta Cheese & Tomato Sauce	Topped Pasta Cheese & Tomato Sauce	Topped Pasta Cheese & Tomato Sauce	Topped Pasta Cheese & Tomato Sauce	Cheesy Bean Wrap
Topped pasta & Tomato Sauce	Topped pasta & Tomato Sauce	Topped pasta & Tomato Sauce	Topped pasta & Tomato Sauce	Topped Pasta Cheese & Tomato Sauce
Topped Pasta & Cheese	Topped Pasta & Cheese	Topped Pasta & Cheese	Topped Pasta & Cheese	Topped pasta & Tomato Sauce
Jacket Potato with beans & Cheese	Jacket Potato with beans & Cheese	Jacket Potato with beans & Cheese	Jacket Potato with beans & Cheese	Topped Pasta & Cheese
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with beans & Cheese
Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans
Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayonnaise	Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayonnaise	Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayonnaise	Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayonnaise	Jacket Potato with Cheese
Ham Sandwich	Ham Sandwich	Ham Sandwich	Ham Sandwich	Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayonnaise
Cheese Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich
Tuna Sandwich	Tuna Sandwich	Tuna Sandwich	Tuna Sandwich	Tuna Sandwich
<b>Dessert</b>	<b>Dessert</b>	<b>Dessert</b>	<b>Dessert</b>	<b>Dessert</b>
Childs Choice Dessert	Childs Choice Dessert	Childs Choice Dessert	Childs Choice Dessert	Childs Choice Dessert

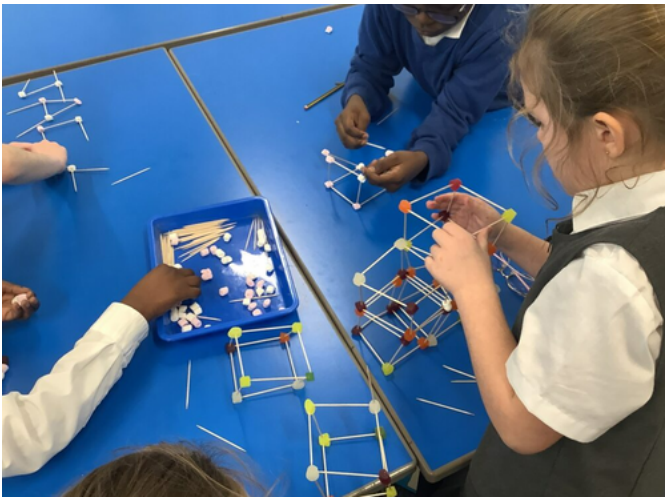
**Allergens**

Margherita Pizza:Cereals containing gluten,Eggs,Milk,Soya; BBQ Sweetcorn Pizza:Cereals containing gluten,Eggs,Milk,Soya; Topped Pasta Cheese & Tomato Sauce:Cereals containing gluten,Milk; Topped pasta & Tomato Sauce:Cereals containing gluten; Topped Pasta & Cheese:Cereals containing gluten,Milk; Jacket Potato with beans & Cheese:Milk; Jacket Potato with Baked Beans:No allergens; Jacket Potato with Cheese:Milk; Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayonnaise:Eggs,Fish; Ham Sandwich:Cereals containing gluten,Soya; Cheese Sandwich:Cereals containing gluten,Milk,Soya; Tuna Sandwich:Cereals containing gluten,Eggs,Fish,Soya; Childs Choice Dessert:Cereals containing gluten,Eggs,Milk,Soya,Sulphur Dioxide; Sweet Chilli Chicken Noodles:Cereals containing gluten,Eggs,Soya; Vegetable BBQ Wrap:Cereals containing gluten,Milk; Roast Chicken:Cereals containing gluten; Roasted Vegetable Strudle:Cereals containing



## Year 4

Year 4 have been looking at strength and structures in our DT this half term. We investigated how useful different materials are and which shapes create strong sustainable structures.





# Awards

## Star of the Week

Our Star of the Week for Early Years and Key Stage One is Luca-James W



Our Star of the Week for Key Stage Two is Tillie- Renae H

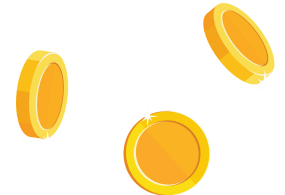


## Virtues



Nursery	Chimaobim I-O
Reception	Aarie M
Year 1	Cali- Mae W
Year 2	Niamh W
Year 3	Axel C
Year 4	Isla- Mae M
Year 5	Jax R
Year 6	Lily W

## Star Readers



Bonnie B	Mercy O
Yaseer A	Marley R
Mia D	Diyana R
Taylor S	





# Celebrations



## Birthdays

Sophia U - Year 4



We wish you a very happy birthday from everyone at St. John's!

## Ready to Learn

Our most punctual class, this week, who were in everyday, on time and ready to learn is...

Year 1 &

Year 3

**Well Done**

## Attendance

The class with the highest attendance this week is...

Year 5

97.1%





# Family Support

## **Does your child have SEND? Or do you believe they have additional needs?**

Pop along to our SEND  
coffee morning to meet parents  
of SEND children to chat about  
the highs and lows with families  
who understand.

Signposting and support  
available.

✧ ✧  
Ran by SEND parent carers for  
SEND parent carers

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February  
8.45-10.15am



## Children's tips and advice



Follow our tips and advice to stay safe on the road.

To stay safe on the road you should:

- Always use the [Green Cross Code](#) STOP, LOOK, LISTEN!
- Always hold an adult's hand when you are near the road
- Wear a seat belt when travelling in the car and use the [right child or booster seat](#)
- Make sure you are properly trained to ride your bike on the road
- Always wear a cycle helmet and bright reflective clothes when on your bike
- Be [bright and be seen](#) whenever you are near a road
- Put away your headphones or mobile phone when crossing the road
- Always walk on the pavement or footpath where there is one
- Know and understand the [school crossing signs](#)

### Learning the Green Cross Code

It's never too early to start teaching children the [Green Cross Code](#), encouraging children to stop, look, listen and think with you before crossing the road. It can be a fun activity to teach children while you're on the school run or a walk to the park. And your good habits crossing the road can soon become theirs.

But remember they still need your help. Younger children find it difficult to judge the speed and distance of traffic – so they don't know when it's safe to cross the road. And, they won't always remember road safety rules, especially if they're distracted or spot a friend across the road.

#### Think

Find the safest place to cross. Where possible use a pedestrian crossing.

Avoid crossing between parked cars, at bends in the road or close to the top of the hill to make sure drivers can see you.

#### Stop!

Stand on the pavement near the kerb and make sure you can clearly see the traffic.

Don't get too close to the traffic and give yourself lots of time to look around.

#### Look and listen

Look in every direction and be sure to listen carefully for things you can't yet see.

Sometimes you can hear dangers before you can see them.

#### Wait

Wait until it's safe to cross. If traffic is coming, let it pass. If you're not sure, don't cross.

Only cross when there is a safe gap and plenty of time to cross. Remember, traffic may seem far away but it may be moving quickly.

#### Look and listen again

When it is safe, walk straight across the road. Don't run. Keep looking and listening.

Look out for bicycles, scooters and motorcyclists travelling between lanes of traffic and do not cross diagonally.



All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about the safety of their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, links and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving up to millions, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place, while they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

**BULLYING**

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

**SHARING GROUP CONTENT**

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or forward onto a friend's phone. The risk of something your child posted as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

**EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION**

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways. Starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child, likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one or more don't have access to, meaning they can't be involved, a child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

**UNKNOWN MEMBERS**

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be playful at first, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

**INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, comments and unsuitable images or videos. These could be shared by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

**NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO**

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be pinged with a loud, potentially, and irritating, hundreds of notifications a day, not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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## Advice for Parents & Carers

**CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS**

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on in posts, which could upset others in the group. Messages may still be sensitive how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

**GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT**

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them, validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

**BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE**

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advice them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Remember to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

**PRACTISE SAFE SHARING**

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

**AVOID INVITING STRANGERS**

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to add to their bank in online things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

**SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS**

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happened into in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

**Meet Our Expert**

Dr Claire Bullard is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written several academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and online behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

**NOS National Online Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday

Thank you to the PTFA  
A massive £913.80 raised to date



# Diary Dates

- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January - 9.15am- Mass led by Year 2**
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February- 8.45am - SEND Coffee Morning**
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February - 9.15am - Mass led by Year 1**
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February - 9.15am- Mass led by Year 6**
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February - 9.15am- Mass led by Year 5**
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March - 9.15am- Mass led by Year 4**
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March- 9.15am- Mass led by Year 3**
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - 9.15am- Mass led by Year 2**
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March - 9.15am - Mass led by Year 1**



# Term Dates

## Spring Term 2026

**Half Term Holiday: Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026**

**Term Ends: Friday 27nd March 2026**

**End of Term Holiday: Monday 30th March 2026 to Friday 10th April 2026**

## Summer Term 2026

**Term Starts: Monday 13th April 2026**

**(May Day: Monday 4th May 2026)**

**Half Term Holiday: Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026**

**Term Ends: Monday 20nd July 2026**

**End of Year Holiday Starts Tuesday 21st July 2026**

## Inset Days

**Monday 1st Sept**

**Friday 24th Oct**

**Monday 19th Jan**

**Monday 23rd Feb**

**Monday 15th June**

**Monday 20th July**



# Family Support

Solihull  
Family Hubs



A Family Hub is a place where children, young people and families can go for services, advice and to meet other families. Raising a family, being a parent or carer, or navigating life as a young person can be a challenge so staff in the hubs can put you in touch with different services in the area.

Scan here for more information on the Family Hubs website or visit:

[www.solihull.gov.uk/family-hubs](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/family-hubs)



The Solihull Family Hubs app is available to download from the Apple Store and Google Play Store. It includes information on sessions at each of our hubs, online resources and much more. **Take a look today!**

Google Play



App Store

