

St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School



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

Friday 30th January 2026



This week, I am particularly proud of our remarkable pupils who had the distinguished opportunity to visit the Mayor of Solihull. This experience has prompted significant reflection on importance of celebrating equality within our school environment.

At St. John's, we are committed to ensuring that every child has comprehensive access to our curriculum. Our approach is deliberate and thoughtful, shown through carefully adapted classroom strategies. These adaptations include providing essential learning supports such as word mats, assistive technology, and sentence stems, which enable all pupils to engage fully with their educational journey.

Central to our ethos is the celebration of our school's rich diversity. We consistently reinforce the principle that we are all created in the image and likeness of God, and therefore, we are fundamentally brothers and sisters. This message is not merely spoken but also deeply embedded in our daily interactions.

Our commitment to inclusivity and mutual respect remains unwavering, reflecting our core values and our dedication to nurturing every child's potential.



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



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM



Reflection

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples about the way he would like people to be treated and how he sees some types of people as extra special. He says that they will be happy or blessed.

We are all called by God to care for the other each other and can try to help Jesus' words to come alive today.

What could you do to help someone who is sad?

What could you do to help someone who is hungry or thirsty?

What could you do to help someone who is poor?

What could you do to help someone who is being laughed at or picked on for standing up for what they believe in?

By doing these things we can help to build a better world. A world where all people have what they need to live happy and healthy lives.

By doing these things we will also be following Jesus. We can help to make the words he spoke to his disciples a reality. God can work through us to bring comfort, mercy, and happiness to others.

Our Virtues

Curious
and
Active

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





Celebrating Learning

Afternoon Tea with the Mayor

Congratulations to three children who were invited to a special event to celebrate their academic achievements and progress in school. The children enjoyed 'Afternoon Tea' with the Mayor at the Solihull Civic Suite.





Awards

Star of the Week

Our Star of the Week for Early Years and Key Stage One is
Sophia M



Our Star of the Week for Key Stage Two is Zara R

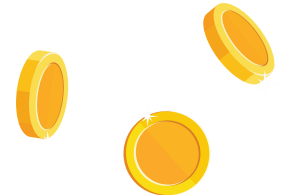


Virtues



Nursery	Orla L
Reception	Tahlia C
Year 1	Kelsie K
Year 2	Haris A
Year 3	Jasper B
Year 4	Tillie- Renae H
Year 5	Yaseer A- S
Year 6	Zainab H

Star Readers



Kupa N	Isla- Mae M
Evie- May L	Pearl B
Splendid I-O	Arlo B
Jerusha N- J	Lily- Rose J
Abi H	Abigail M
Ivan W	





Celebrations



Birthdays

Axel C - Year 3
Xena W-Y - Rec
Ned E - Nur
Theo A - Year 3



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

Well Done

Attendance

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

Year 1

&

Nursery

100%





Attendance



**St. John the Baptist
Catholic Primary School**

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Important Information About School Absence

Help us to avoid unauthorised absence, which can lead to future legal action.

Reporting Absence

Parents must report absences by 9.00am on the first day.

You must contact and leave a message via the school office

- Call: 0121 770 1892
- OPTION 1 – TO LEAVE A MESSAGE

Do not send messages on Class Dojo. The school office will not see these messages.

Ongoing Absence

If your child is absent for more than 2 days, please keep in regular contact with the school. Parents must respond to text messages from school or CSAWS.

Unauthorised Absence

If no message is received and the school has tried to contact you, the absence may be marked as unauthorised.

Medical Appointments

Please share medical evidence for appointments so we can record the absence using a medical code.

We hope your child is happy and settled at school.
Please let us know if you need our support – we are here to help.



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 4th February
8.45-10.15am





Family Support



PINS - PARENT CARER SESSION

Partnership For Inclusion Of Neurodiversity In Schools

St John the Baptist Primary School



SENSORY REGULATION

This workshop is open to all parents and carers of children with SEN. Helping your child manage their sensory environment can support their wellbeing, emotional regulation, and ability to engage in daily activities. By understanding your child's sensory needs, you can help them feel more settled and confident, both at home and in the wider community.



PARTNERSHIP FOR INCLUSION OF NEURODIVERSITY IN SCHOOLS



11/2/2026



9.15 am

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 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 on to a friend's parent. 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 friends of one their, 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 while it's 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 short notification, and you could receive 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 sent even if 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, advise 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 lists of doing 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. Ask 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.

National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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



Diary Dates

Wednesday 4th February- 8.45am - SEND Coffee Morning

Thursday 5th February - 9.15am - Mass led by Year 1

Wednesday 11th February- PINS Parent/ Carer session - 9.15am

Thursday 12th February - 9.15am- Mass led by Year 6

Thursday 26th February - 9.15am- Mass led by Year 5

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

Thursday 5th March - 9.15am- Mass led by Year 4

Thursday 12th March- 9.15am- Mass led by Year 3

Thursday 19th March - 9.15am- Mass led by Year 2

Thursday 26th 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



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





Family Support

Family Helpline

**Early Help support for families
and professionals in Solihull**

0121 788 4327

Live from 3 March 2025

Available Monday-Thursday 09:00-16:30,
Friday 09:00-16:00

Our dedicated team of duty workers support
with topics such as:

- Parenting and family guidance
- School attendance and support in coordinating Early Help assessments and plans
- Signposting to local services such as Solihull Family Hubs
- Child behavioural issues and social development
- Health and emotional wellbeing
- Referrals to Family Support Workers

For safeguarding concerns, such as if a child is at risk of being harmed, call the Solihull Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0121 788 4300



Working
for Children
and Families
in Solihull

