

# St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School



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

## Friday 27th February 2026



Following our half-term break, it has been lovely to welcome our pupils back to school with a renewed sense of energy and purpose. The return to our community has coincided with the beginning of the season of Lent, a time that we are now observing together as one school family.

Our engagement with this liturgical season commenced during our INSET day, when our staff participated in a formation session led by Raymond Friel OBE. This session provided an opportunity to reflect upon Catholic Social Teaching and its relevance to our work within the school community.

Upon the return of our children, we have subsequently directed our focus towards the three principal considerations of Lent: deepening our prayer life, contemplating a form of personal sacrifice, and embracing almsgiving as a means of supporting others.

What has been particularly encouraging this week is the extent to which our pupils have independently initiated charitable acts and considered how they might contribute to their wider community. This demonstrates a genuine understanding of the significance of this season and reflects the values we seek to nurture within our school. It is reassuring to witness our pupils developing into thoughtful and conscientious citizens who recognise their responsibility towards others.

As we progress through Lent together, we remain committed to supporting our pupils in their spiritual and personal development.



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



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM



# Reflection

## Second Sunday of Lent

Jesus goes to the top of a mountain with Peter, James, and John. When he gets there his appearance changes – his face and clothes shine with light.

A voice comes from a cloud, saying: “This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.”

The disciples are very afraid, but Jesus tells them not to be. Then everything looks normal again.

We can hear God’s voice when we stop and pray. When we make time for God in our lives. And when we make the right choices in how we treat others.

The disciples’ lives are changed by what happened on the mountain. They now know just how special Jesus is – that he is God’s Son. They have seen his face shine like the sun and they have heard God speak to them.

Our lives are changed by Jesus too. Jesus lives in all of us. He asks us to always try to do what is right, to stand up for what we believe in and to help other people. Jesus calls us to show God’s love to others.

Our love for one another can also shine out like the sun as we treat all people as we would want to be treated.

What will you do this Lent to listen to God and to play your part in building a better world?  
How will you make sure your love for other people shines out like the sun?

## Our Virtues

Intentional  
and  
Prophetic

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

## Catholic Social Teaching

### Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

The Option for the Poor and Vulnerable is a core Catholic Social Teaching principle, urging that the needs of the marginalized, oppressed, and poor be prioritised. Inspired by the Gospel, it demands actions —relief, defence, and liberation— to ensure dignity and justice for all, viewing society’s greatness through how it treats the most vulnerable.

## Our Pope’s Prayer Intention

**Pope Leo’s prayer intention for February 2026**

**For children with incurable diseases**

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.





# World Book Day

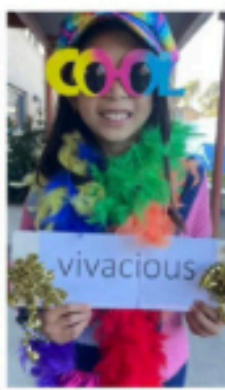
 WORLD BOOK DAY  THURSDAY 5TH MARCH

To celebrate world book day on Thursday 5th March, children are invited to dress up as a word.

This could be a favorite word, a descriptive word, a topic word or a fun/interesting word of their choice.

Please keep costumes simple and comfortable for a normal school day.

We're looking forward to a fun day celebrating language and reading!





Sponsored Read

Take part in our...



***In partnership with***  
***The Little Book Fairy***  
your local Independent Usborne Partner



Take part in our

***Ready, Steady... Read!***

from 2nd March to 6th March



# Awards

## Star of the Week

Our Star of the Week for Early Years and Key Stage One is  
Achiever E



Our Stars of the Week for Key Stage Two are Harley W,  
Abbasyn H, Jacob N and Kelyna K-T

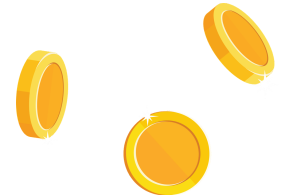


## Virtues



Nursery	Michael A
Reception	Leon W
Year 1	Hallie K
Year 2	Connor B
Year 3	Zoe M
Year 4	Isla- Mae M
Year 5	Thomas O
Year 6	Lena A

## Star Readers



Ophelia K	Jaiden B
Hunter W	Sophia M
Zoe M	Favour J- O
Splendid I-O	Zara R





# Celebrations



## Birthdays

Kinda A Year 6  
Carter H Year 5  
Ava-Rose L Year 5  
Conor Mc Year 2



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...

Y1, Y3, Y6

&

Nursery

**Well Done**

## Attendance

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

Year 1

&

Nursery

100%





# Breaktime Snacks

Please ensure that, if you choose to send your child with a morning breaktime snack, it is healthy, and inline with our Healthy Eating Policy.

We have seen a large increase in children bringing packets of crisps and chocolate bars for their snack.

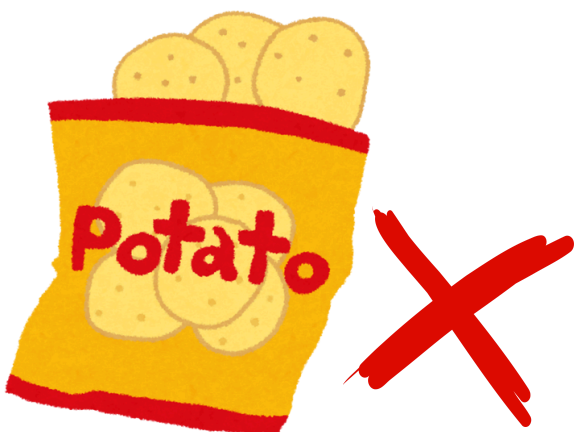
**This is not permitted.**

Morning snacks should ideally be fresh fruit, or dried fruit or fruit based bars. Any children with crisps or chocolate will be asked to return the item to their bag to take home.

**Please be reminded that we offer bagels and free fresh fruit to our children, each day, so there are always alternatives.**

Another problem which has resulted in the increase in unhealthy snacks, is an increase in litter on our school site. Where possible, we ask that snack choices avoid items that are contained in plastic bags or wrappers.

Thank you for your support in this matter.





# Parent Carer Support



## PINS - PARENT CARER SESSION

Partnership For Inclusion Of Neurodiversity In  
Schools

**St John the Baptist Primary  
School**

### SENSORY WALLS

Welcome to our sensory walls workshop, where we look forward to creating engaging sensory walls together with parent carers and exploring the vital role that sensory input plays in supporting our children's development.

We warmly welcome all to attend



PARTNERSHIP FOR  
INCLUSION OF  
NEURODIVERSITY IN  
SCHOOLS



10/3/2026



1.30 pm



# Parent Carer Support



## PINS - PARENT CARER SESSION 3

Partnership For Inclusion Of Neurodiversity In  
Schools

**St John the Baptist  
School**



We look forward to welcoming all parent carers to the sessions. These sessions are an opportunity for you to come along and ask any questions you may have.

- ✓ We offer impartial information
- ✓ Safe space to share experiences
- ✓ Updates on local Services
- ✓ Opportunities to give feedback



PARTNERSHIP FOR  
INCLUSION OF  
NEURODIVERSITY IN  
SCHOOLS



18/3/26



9.15 am



# Lunch Menu

FOOD FESTIVAL by Aspire		LUNCHTIME					PRIMARY WORLD
WEEK 3 Autumn Winter 2025/26 15/09/25, 06/10/25, 27/10/25, 17/11/25, 08/12/25, 29/12/25, 19/01/26, 09/02/26, 02/03/26, 23/03/26		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
THE MAIN EVENT	Cheese and Tomato Pizza Slice with Wedges	Mild Chicken Tikka Masala and Rice	Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Skin on Roasties and Gravy	Jerk Chicken Pasta	Fish Fingers & Chips		
MEAT-FREE MAGIC Veggie Dish	Cheese & Onion Puff Pastry Slice with Wedges	Vegetable Korma with Rice	Carrot & Stuffing Puff Pastry Plait, Skin on Roasties with Gravy	Sweet Potato & Chickpea Balti with Rice	Vegetable Fingers with Chips		
RAINBOW ALLEY Vegetables and Salads	Carrots and Peas	Mixed Greens	Carrots	Sweetcorn	Baked Beans or Peas		
BIG TOPPING Filled Jacket	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo		
DESSERT TROLLEY	Sweet Potato Chocolate Brownie	Maple Cookie	Eve's Apple Pudding & Custard	Muesli Bars	Vanilla Cookie		
What impact has your meal had on planet Earth today? Very Low  Low  Medium  High  Very High		AVAILABLE DAILY DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGURT AND CUT FRUIT			PASTA TWIRLER AVAILABLE EVERY DAY TOPPED PASTA HOT PASTA TOPPED WITH HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & CHEESE		

FOOD FESTIVAL  
by Aspire

## WORLD BOOK DAY

5th March

Beef Burger  
with Wedges & BBQ Beans  
Or  
Quorn Burger  
with Wedges & BBQ Beans  
&  
Orange  
Marmalade Sponge

Topped Pasta, Filled Jacket Potatoes &  
Sandwiches are also available



# Attendance



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

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



## 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

## 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 online safety with 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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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.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- 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 third party. The risk of something your child intended 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 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 short, potentially, mind-numbing flood 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 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. Encourage 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



# Diary Dates

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March - 9.15am- Mass led by Year 4**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March -1.30pm Sensory Walls Workshop**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March- 9.15am- Mass led by Year 3**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 9.15am - Parent Carer Engagement**

**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





## 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

