

St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School



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

Friday 13^h March 2026



This week, our school has been energised by Science Week, providing children across all classes with the opportunity to engage in practical experiments and explore the diverse career pathways available within the scientific field. The week has fostered curiosity and enthusiasm, allowing our community to develop a deeper appreciation for scientific inquiry and discovery.

Alongside these activities, Science Week has afforded us a meaningful opportunity to reflect upon our ongoing focus within Catholic Social Teaching, specifically that of stewardship and God's creation. Through our engagement with science, we have taken time to consider the profound beauty in the natural world and to marvel at the wonder of God's creation.

Science, in this context, becomes not merely a subject of academic study, but a vehicle through which we can develop our understanding of and gratitude for the world around us.

As we move into the coming week, our focus shifts to something altogether extraordinary.

We are fortunate to have the opportunity for pupils to interact with and learn from real moon rocks—an exceptional experience that will undoubtedly inspire and captivate our community. This remarkable initiative would not have been possible without the efforts of Miss Morton, to whom I extend my sincere thanks.

I look forward to sharing further updates with you as we continue to provide our pupils with enriching and memorable learning experiences.



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



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM



Reflection

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Jesus makes a paste, puts it on the blind man's eyes and tells him to wash in a pool. When the blind man does this, he can see.

The Pharisees question the man and his parents to find out how Jesus gave him his sight. The man tells *them*, but they do not believe it and grow angry.

Jesus tells the Pharisees that they are blind because they cannot see that he is the Son of God.

While there is nothing wrong with their eyes, the Pharisees do not open their hearts to see the truth of who Jesus is. While the blind man *is able to* see and to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Sometimes there are problems or things that are not right in this world. We can take notice of these problems and try to make them better.

God calls us to use our gifts and not to ignore the problems that we see. We can try instead to make a difference, to care for our earth, and to work together with our brothers and sisters to build a better world.

A better world needs all of us to play our part. So, this week, look out for all the good things that you can see. If you see anything that is wrong or unfair, think about what you could do to help change it.

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

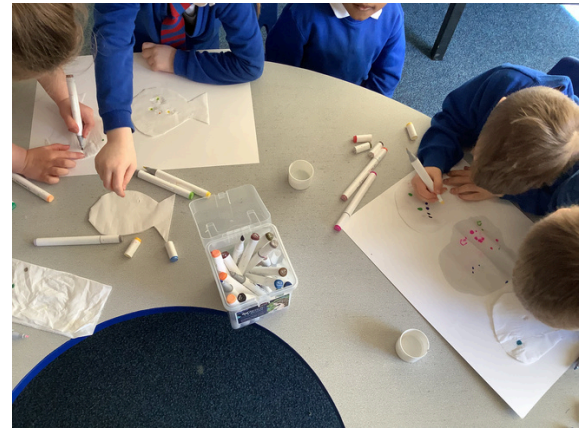
For March 2026, Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention is to pray with him for 'disarmament and peace,' and praying that 'the nuclear threat may never again dictate the future of humanity.'





Science Week

EYFS



Early Years explored Chromatography and made their own Rainbow fish after the live science week lesson. We used felt tip pens and water, we looked at the colours the felt pen marks made after it had water dripped on it.

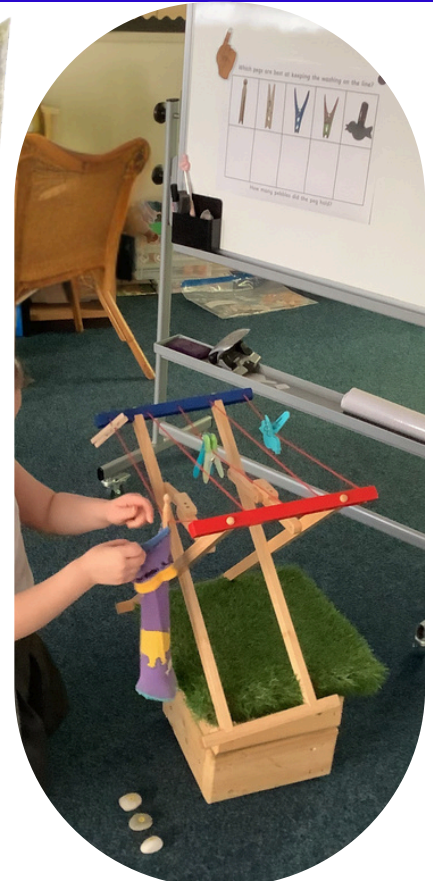


We conducted an experiment to find out which was the strongest and best peg to use to hang out washing.

Which pegs are best at keeping the washing on the line?

| | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|----|
| | | | | |
| 4 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 10 |

How many pebbles did the peg hold?



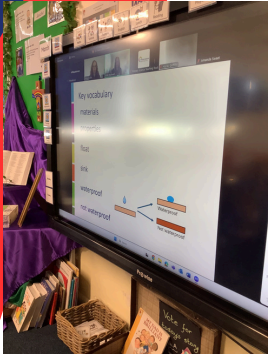


Science Week KS1

KS1

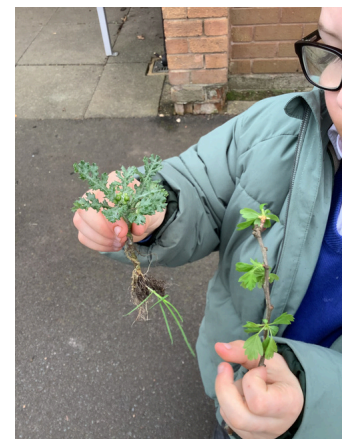
Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed exploring the floating and sinking activities in Science Week this week. They participated in experimenting with different fruits with their skins on and when peeled, discussing why the fruits floated or sank when put in water. We extended this activity to the 'dancing raisins' experiment, using fizzy and still water, exploring what made the raisins float and sink.



Year 2

Year 2 have had an exciting week celebrating Science Week! As part of our science unit on plants this half term, the children have been learning about what plants need in order to grow and stay healthy. We explored different types of seeds and bulbs, discussing how they grow and what makes them different. The class especially enjoyed going outside to investigate the plants in our school's surroundings. The children identified moss growing on a stick, collected leaves of different shapes from nearby trees, and spotted the beautiful blossom tree at the front of the school. It was wonderful to see their curiosity and enthusiasm for exploring the natural world.





Science Week LKS2

Year 3



Year 3 enjoyed their virtual science day, testing ways to strengthen paper tubes. These acted as a replica of the bones in our spines.

Year 4



Year 4 used their curiosity skills this week as part of the PSTT's virtual Science day! We made paper tubes to replicate the bones of a vertebrate and tested their strength.

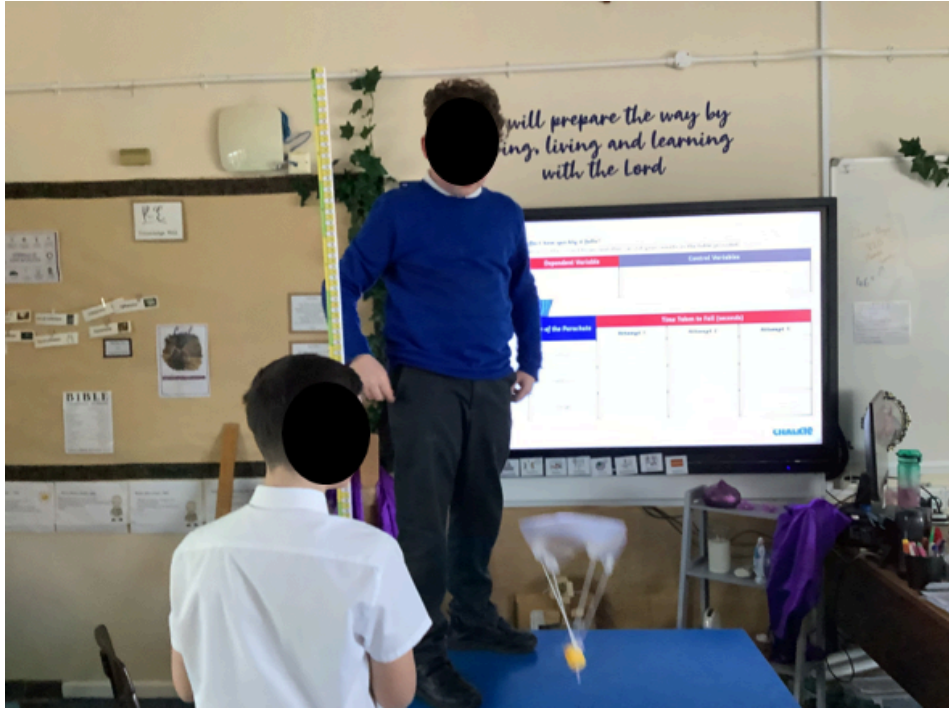
We were very inspired to continue our learning and compare the skeletons of different animals!



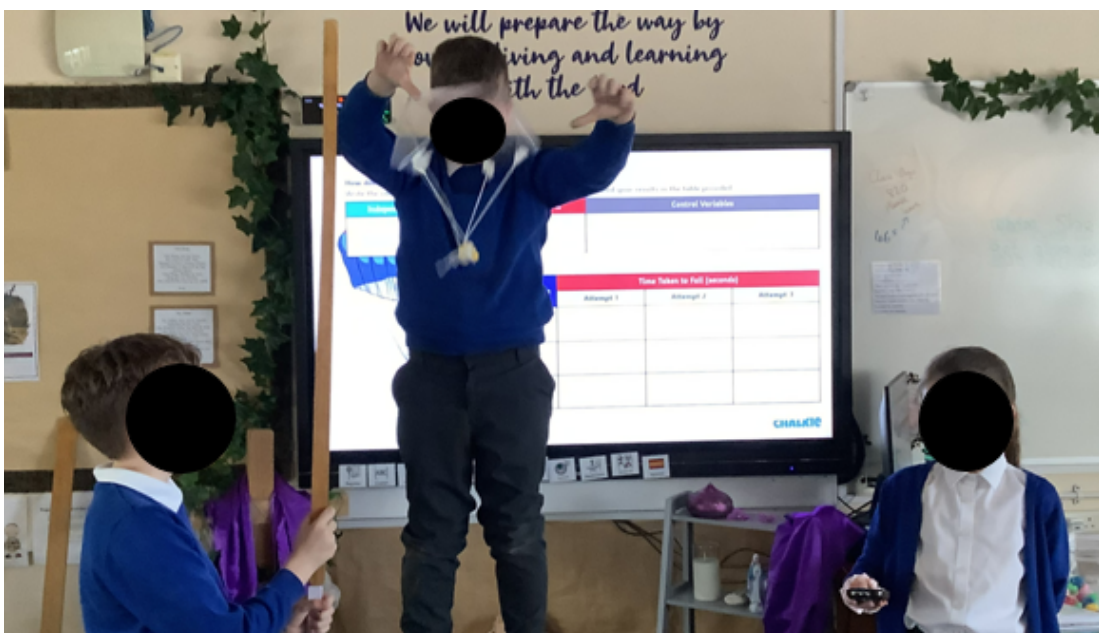


Science Week UKS2

Year 5



Year 5 enjoyed their virtual science day, testing which size of parachute was best for air resistance.





Awards

Star of the Week

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

Orla C



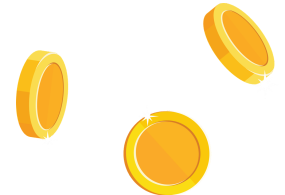
Our Star of the Week for Key Stage Two is Max T



Virtues



Star Readers



| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Nursery | Carter B |
| Reception | Bobby C |
| Year 1 | Carter- Jay J |
| Year 2 | Noah P |
| Year 3 | Johnathan D |
| Year 4 | Amanda E |
| Year 5 | Lilly- Mae M |
| Year 6 | Tiahnah B |

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Emerald B | Victoria N |
| Caleb A | Evie – May L |
| Niamh W | Haris A |
| Roy K- T | Rian R |
| Yaseer A- S | Jax R |





Celebrations



Birthdays

Yaseer A-S Year 5
Michael A Nursery
Harley D Year 6
Mercy O Year 1



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 3

Well Done

Attendance

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

Year 3

96.8%





Easter Activities

Easter Bonnet Parade

Our Easter Bonnet Parade will take place on Wednesday 25th March at 9.00am on our Key Stage One playground. This is for children in Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Two.

Parents/ Carers are welcome to wait on the playground after you have dropped you child in to school.



Decorate an Egg Competition

Key Stage Two children are invited to enter our decorate an egg competition. Please bring your entries in to school on Wednesday 25th March. There will be two prizes per class.





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.

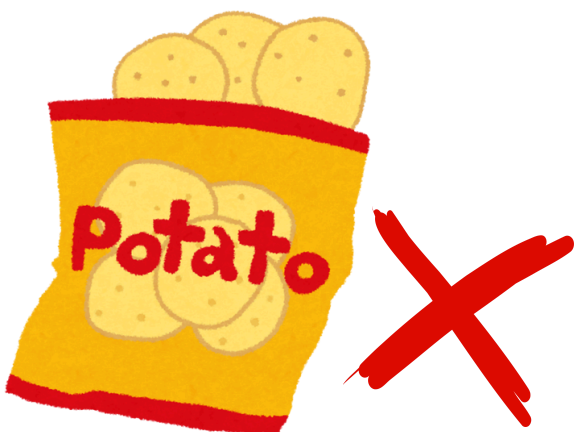
This is not permitted.

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 Workshop

Thank you to Solihull Parent Carer Voice for another fantastic session. Children and parents enjoyed working together to create engaging sensory walls.



PINS - PARENT CARER SESSION

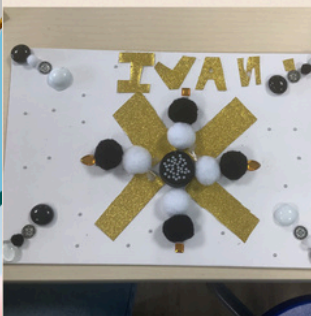
Partnership For Inclusion Of Neurodiversity In Schools

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



PIC•COLLAGE



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

WEEK 2
Autumn Winter 2025/26
08/09/25, 29/09/25, 20/10/25,
10/11/25, 01/12/25, 22/12/25,
12/01/26, 02/02/26, 23/02/26,
16/03/26

LUNCHTIME

PRIMARY
WORLD



THE
MAIN
EVENT

MONDAY

Macaroni Cheese B

TUESDAY

Chicken Jambalaya C

WEDNESDAY

Roast Gammon,
Skin on Roasties
and Gravy C

THURSDAY

Spanish Tomato
Chicken with
Diced Potatoes B

FRIDAY

Fish Fingers
and Chips B



MEAT-FREE
MAGIC

Baked Sweetcorn
Fritters
with Wedges B

Veggie Enchiladas
with Rice B

Cauliflower &
Broccoli
Bake B

Spanish Omelette
With Diced
Potatoes A

Margherita Pizza
with Chips B



RAINBOW
ALLEY

Peas

Broccoli

Carrots and Peas

Mixed Greens

Baked Beans or
Peas



BIG
TOPPING

Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo B

Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo B

Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo B

Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo B

Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo B



DESSERT
TROLLEY

Flapjack B

Carrot Cake C

Apple Tea Cake
and Custard B

Iced Vanilla
Sponge Cake B

Marble Cookie B

What impact has your meal
had on planet Earth today?



AVAILABLE DAILY

DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED
BREAD, YOGHURTS AND CUT FRUIT



PASTA
TWIRLER

HOT PASTA TOPPED WITH
HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE
& CHEESE C



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.

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.



Online Safety



TOP TEN TIPS TO



STAY SAFE ONLINE

1

Don't share your personal information



2

Only talk to people that you know



3

Don't meet up with anyone you have only met online



4

Only accept friend requests from people you know personally



5

Always think carefully about what you post



6

Make use of the privacy settings on all of your social media accounts



7

Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are



8

Report inappropriate content immediately



9

Only share images that you'd be comfortable with your friends and family seeing



10

Never share your passwords





Diary Dates

Sunday 15th March - 9.00am FHC induction Mass and meeting

Wednesday 18th March 9.15am - Parent Carer Engagement

Wednesday 18th March - Parent/ Carer evening

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

Wednesday 25th March - Easter Bonnet Parade/ Decorate an egg

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




TIMETABLE OF COURSES AVAILABLE

You can book your place by popping into the hub or calling the college on 0121 678 7000. To enrol online, visit the college website and click 'Enrol Now'.



Scan the QR code or email katrina.griffin-jones@solihull.ac.uk for more information.

All the courses at the family hubs are free subject to residency status.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Friday |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>9:30 – 11:30 Family Learning (Adult and Child) Riverside Family Hub</p>  | <p>9:30 – 11:30 Family Learning (Adults Only) Story Sacks Grammar for Parents Help your child (Infants) Supporting your child (Juniors) Elmwood Family Hub</p>  | <p>9:30 – 11:30 Family Learning - Adults Only Free Creche Available Story Sacks Grammar for Parents Help your child (Infants) Supporting your child (Juniors) Hatchford Brook Family Hub</p> | <p>9:30 – 11:30 ESOL conversation club Hatchford Brook Family Hub</p> |
| | | <p>9:00 – 11:00 Digital Skills for beginners Elmwood Family Hub</p> | <p>9:30 – 11:30 Sensory Play Hatchford Brook Family Hub</p>  |
| <p>12:30 – 14:30 ESOL Conversation Club Riverside Family Hub</p> | | <p>09:30 – 11:30 Functional Skills Maths Adult maths course Riverside Family Hub</p> | |
| | | <p>13:00 – 15:00 Cooking on a budget Riverside Family Hub</p> | <p>12:30-14:30 Sensory Play Elmwood Family Hub</p> |

Wherever you live in Solihull, we're here to support you. Family Hubs are local centres where children, young people, and families can access support and take part in fun activities! Our friendly staff and service providers work in partnership with you and your community to access the information and support you need. Some services offer drop-in sessions, whilst others require booked appointments. The Hubs are a safe space for you and your loved ones.

| Morning | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| <p>Women's community drop-in – 09:00-13:00 5 and 19 January Providing emotional and practical support. Marvellous Makers – 10:00-12:00 Stay and play session suitable from birth onwards. Come and join us for arts and crafts activities, use of the sensory room, and lots of play. No booking required, just drop-in. Siblings welcome.</p> <p>Health visitor clinic – 09:30-12:00 Booked appointments for parents and their babies, and children with the health visiting team. Book by speaking to Hub staff or your health visitor.</p> | <p>Solihull Community Housing – 09:30-11:30 Information and advice on housing issues. No appointment required, just drop-in.</p> <p>Solihull College family learning – 09:30-11:30 Term time only A five-week course explaining and helping you to understand the grammar your child is learning in their English lessons. Suitable for anyone with a child in Y1 – Y6. Grandparents and other carers welcome! FREE for Solihull residents. For more information, visit www.solihull.ac.uk/community-education or email katrina.griffin-jones@solihull.ac.uk – Super SEN – 09:30-12:00</p> <p>20 January Drop-in session for parents to seek advice and support for children or themselves as adults with ADHD and/or Autism.</p> <p>Baby massage – 10:15-11:00 Join us for some bonding time with your baby. To book, Email Michelle.meryon@ordinarymagic.co.uk or speak to Hub staff.</p> | <p>Solihull College digital skills – 09:00-11:00 Term time only Free 10-week course with a friendly tutor to learn new computer skills. Suitable for beginners. To book, speak to Family Hub staff.</p> <p>Uplift Initiative wellness walk – 10:00-12:00 7 & 21 January Join us for a gentle walk, good conversation and a cosy cuppa afterwards (& cake!) Meet at the Family Hub for 10am. Email or call Tammy on Theuplift.org@gmail.com 07303 137292</p> <p>Anxiety management support group for adults – 11:00-13:00 Weekly anxiety support group open for age 18 and above. Delivered by Reimagine Me CIC. For more information, email or call Michelle on info@reimaginemecic.org or 0755 389 9373.</p> | <p>Citizens Advice Solihull drop-in – 09:30-12:30 8 & 22 January Citizens Advice provide free, practical advice.</p> <p>Solihull SENDIAS – 09:30-11:30 22 January If you have a child with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and would like free and impartial information and advice, SENDIAS can advise about statutory SEN processes relating to support in schools, Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), and much more.</p> <p>Solihull Lifestyle Service – 11:00-13:00 15 & 29 January Drop-in to get advice and discuss your lifestyle needs, including free height, weight, BMI, blood pressure, and atrial fibrillation readings.</p> <p>Baby massage – 11:15-12:15 Join us for some bonding time with your baby. To book, Email Michelle.meryon@ordinarymagic.co.uk or speak to Hub staff.</p> <p>Musical explorers' early years session – 11:30-12:00 FREE, fun, drop-in music sessions followed by a relaxed stay and play. Suitable for ages 0-5. Delivered by Solihull Music. Siblings welcome.</p> | <p>North Solihull Additional Needs Support Group – 09:30-11:30 9 & 23 January For children with additional needs and their parents or carers. To book, email northsolihulladditionalneeds@outlook.com. For more information, visit www.solihullsendsupportgroup.co.uk.</p> <p>Health visitor clinic – 09:30-12:00 Booked appointments for parents and their babies, and children with the health visiting team. Book by speaking to Hub staff or your health visitor.</p> |

37 Burtons Way, Smith's Wood, Solihull, B36 0UG

Family Hubs | solihull.gov.uk Solihull Family Hubs elmwoodfh@solihull.gov.uk 0121 779 1700

| Afternoon | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| <p>Boys Autism group – 16:00-18:00 Term time only Run by Ordinary Magic for boys with Autism. To book or find out more, email michelle@ordinarymagic.co.uk</p> | <p>EPAS attendance support drop-in – 11:30-13:30 The Education Participation Advisory Service (EPAS) offer advice, support and guidance about school attendance. No appointment required, please pop in to see the team.</p> <p>Family support drop-in – 13:00-16:00 Confidential advice and support to help you make positive changes. Includes a range of advice and guidance about difficult relationships at home, parenting, behaviour management, routines, boundaries, child development, bed wetting, sleep problems, school issues, and more.</p> | <p>Little Brum Youth Theatre Group 17:30-18:30 Big Brum Theatre-in-Education is starting a Youth Theatre – 'Little Brum' - for the young people of North Solihull. We have recently visited schools in North Solihull, exploring with them the story of 'The Little Red Cap', and they were amazing, creative and imaginative. This is why we are starting our 'Little Brum' and hope your child will wish to be part of it. Any local Year 6 child is welcome to come along. We will be engaging our imaginations, exploring stories and making theatre together. Running weekly at Elmwood Family Hub. Please contact katie@bigbrum.org.uk to sign up or for further information.</p> | <p>Stay and play – 12:30-14:00 Every other week – 8 & 22 January There will be a trained parent practitioner at the sessions to offer support and guidance if requested. No booking required, just drop-in. Suitable for ages 0-5. Come and join the fun!</p> <p>The Mum Hub – 13:00-15:00 A warm, supportive space for mums to connect, share, and feel heard. Whether you're expecting or have a little one aged 0-24 months, The Mum Hub is here for YOU! Each week brings a new theme designed to support you through the ups and downs of motherhood, from expert tips to friendly chats over a cuppa'. Babies are absolutely welcome too! For more information, email naomi@positivebirthingandbeyond.org.uk.</p> <p>Solihull Music Service – 16:00-18:00 After school guitar sessions at Elmwood Family Hub! Register your interest here: https://www.solihullmusic.org/our-family-offer</p> <p>West Midlands Police – Beat Surgery – 15:00-16:00 8 January Pop in to see your local neighbourhood officers for any help, advice or for local issues.</p> | <p>Solihull College sensory play – 12:30-14:30 New ideas for activities to engage your children with an understanding of how to support your child's learning through sensory activities and play. FREE for Solihull residents. To book, email jess.orton@solihull.ac.uk or speak to Hub staff.</p> |

Wellbeing and advice

Here2Help
Family Hubs can help with food, toiletries, fuel, money, staying well, and keeping safe. To find out more, visit www.solihull.gov.uk/here2help.

Health visiting
To speak to a health visitor, text Chat Health on 0750 733 2563 between 09:00-16:00, Monday-Friday.

Women's Aid
If you or someone you know needs support, call Women's Aid at 0808 800 0028. Available seven days a week, 09:15-17:15.

Mental health support
The Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust provide guidance and reassurance to people of all ages. Call 0800 915 9292 or 0121 262 3555.

Midwives
Please call your midwife using the phone number in your red book.

What else can the Family Hubs offer?

Help and support
Speak to our friendly staff

Stay and play area
Toys, books, and soft play

Sensory room
To book, call 0121 779 6943

Computers and private work pods
Internet and phone access

Community wardrobe
Free clothing

Family Hubs | solihull.gov.uk Solihull Family Hubs elmwoodfh@solihull.gov.uk 0121 779 1700