

St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School



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

Friday 27th March 2026



During this season of Lent, our Mission Week—Living Week—has provided our school community with a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the values of almsgiving and compassion towards others. This initiative represents a significant moment in our liturgical calendar, offering pupils and staff alike the chance to engage in purposeful charitable action.

Throughout the week, each class has undertaken a dedicated fundraising event in support of Father Hudson's Caritas, an organisation whose work embodies the principles of Catholic social teaching. These activities have enabled our pupils to develop a practical understanding of what it means to serve those in need, moving beyond theoretical knowledge to tangible acts of kindness and generosity.

This period of preparation during Lent serves as a vital reminder of the profound sacrifice made by Jesus Christ for humanity. By engaging in these charitable endeavours, we are not merely collecting funds; rather, we are cultivating in our pupils a deeper appreciation for the spiritual significance of this holy season. The commitment demonstrated by our school community—from the youngest pupils to our staff members—reflects the values upon which St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School is founded.



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



THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM



Reflection

Palm Sunday

In this Sunday's gospel, we celebrate the story of Palm Sunday. We heard how Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The donkey was a very humble animal – not very special for such a special person like Jesus.

Jesus rode on a donkey to show people that he was the Son of God. Despite how important he was he chose a humble animal – to show that his power comes from God and not from riches.

All the people were so happy to see Jesus that they laid their cloaks on the floor and cut branches from palm trees to lay before him to show their respect. This is why today is called Palm Sunday and why we have palms. They shouted to show their joy and praise for God.

God made all of us, no matter where in the world that we come from. Jesus is in all of us. So, every time we meet someone, and welcome them, we are welcoming Jesus.

Jesus is in all people, so we should treat all people with the respect, love and kindness that we would show to Jesus. We should try to welcome people into our lives and treat them as we would like to be treated.

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.'





Goodbyes

Today we say goodbye to two very valued members of staff. Firstly Mrs Volante, our Senior Office Administrator is leaving us for a promotion. We thank her for her hard work and commitment during her time at St John's and wish her well in her new role.



Mrs Dolphin also leaves us today, after 25 years of dedicated service to the St John's community. The majority of this time has been in the role of Early Years Leader. We are rightly proud of our excellent Early Years provision and this is almost entirely down to the vision, enthusiasm and hard work shown by Mrs Dolphin.

She will be greatly missed by her colleagues, friends and our children but she leaves us with every good wish as she goes on to her dream role of working with Warwickshire LA, supporting many school across their authority.



Living Week

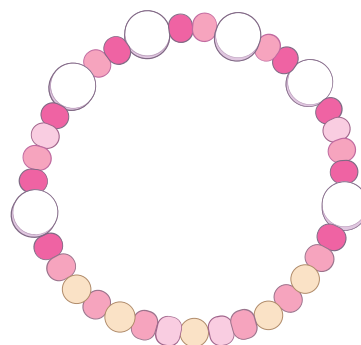
To mark our last time together in school, during Lent, we held one of our Mission Weeks. This time we celebrated 'Living Week.' Our focus was alms-giving, charity and thinking of others. Each class was tasked with developing a fundraising activity. The children have had great fun trying out each

The range of activities included: biscuit selling, sponsored bunny hop, penalty shoot out, a disco led by Year 6 and soak the teacher (and headteacher!)



A special mention must go to Ruby G and Remi A in Year 3 who asked if they could sell homemade bracelets to raise money for charity. They did this independently, a few weeks ago.

We're so proud that they showed the intention and commitment to do this. In the end they raised £14 which is excellent!





Awards

Star of the Week

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



Our Star of the Week for Key Stage Two is Oniellia F

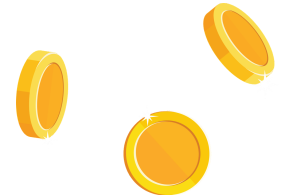


Virtues



| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Nursery | Carter B |
| Reception | Sienna McS |
| Year 1 | - |
| Year 2 | Lennon K |
| Year 3 | Ruby G & Remi A |
| Year 4 | Kingsley C |
| Year 5 | Ava- Rose B |
| Year 6 | - |

Star Readers



| | |
|----------|-----------|
| Thalia C | Thaniel C |
| Kupa N | Noah P |
| Remi A | Jasper B |
| Ellis M | Ire T |





Celebrations



Birthdays

Crimson I - Year 5
Harry E - Year 4
Luna Q - Year 1
Tayvon B - Reception
Ruby G - Year 3
Ariela S - Reception
Adesewa A - Year 1



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

Ready to Learn

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

Nursery

Year 1

Year 3

Year 6

Well Done

Attendance

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

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.

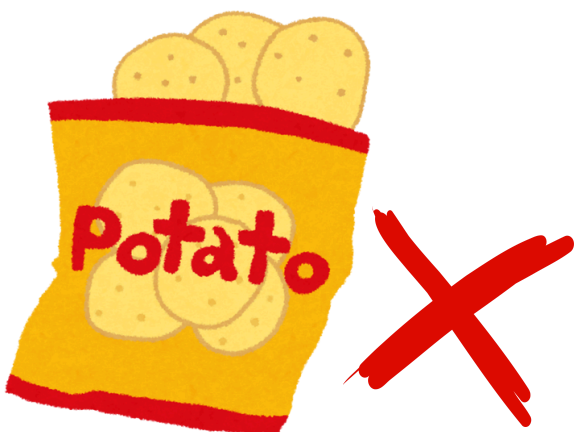
This is not permitted.

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.

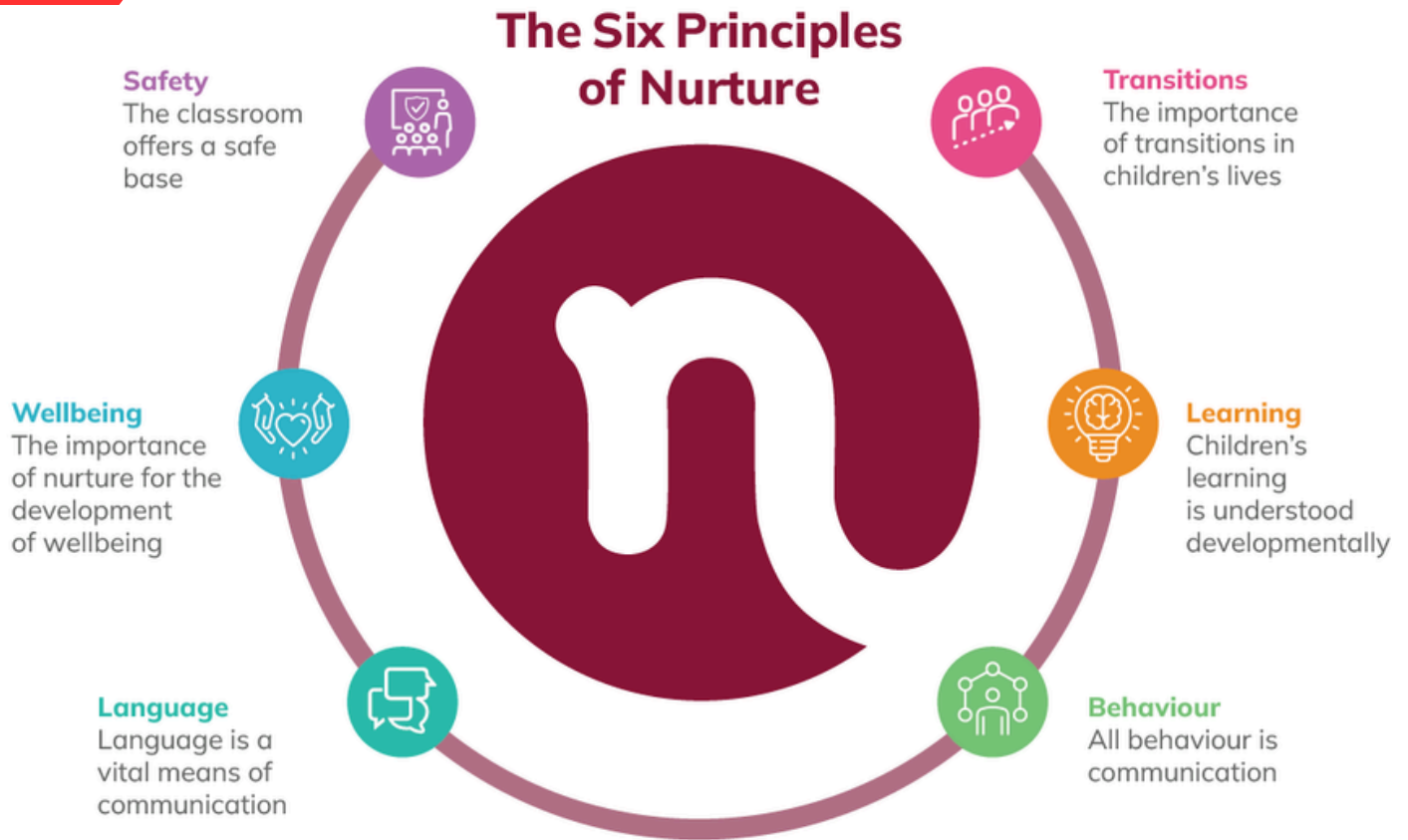
Another problem which has resulted in the increase in unhealthy snacks, is an increase in litter on our school site. Where possible, we ask that snack choices avoid items that are contained in plastic bags or wrappers.

Thank you for your support in this matter.





Principles of Nurture



Our school is proud to be working in partnership with Nurture UK to embed the Six Principles of Nurture across our whole community. Through this collaboration, we are strengthening our commitment to creating a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where every child feels valued, understood, and ready to learn. By implementing these principles in our daily practice, we aim to promote emotional wellbeing, positive relationships, and a nurturing culture that enables all pupils to thrive both academically and personally.



Inclusive ∞ coffee morning

Does your child or a child you care for have additional needs or disabilities?
Do you feel your child or a child you care for may have an additional need?

Join us for our inclusive coffee mornings to chat to likeminded parents and carers.

We will be meeting on the following dates
from 8.45-10.15

- Wednesday 15th April
- Wednesday 6th May
- Wednesday 3rd June
- Wednesday 1st July

Children you may have at home are more than welcome to attend

Please let us know if you have any access requirements or need any support to attend



Lunch Menu

FOOD FESTIVAL

by Aspens

WEEK 1
Spring/Summer 2026
13/04/26, 04/05/26, 25/05/26,
15/06/26, 06/07/26, 27/07/26,
17/08/26, 07/09/26, 28/09/26,
19/10/26



THE MAIN EVENT



MEAT-FREE MAGIC

Veggie Dish



RAINBOW ALLEY

Vegetables and Salads



BIG TOPPING

Filled Jackets



DESSERT TROLLEY

LUNCHTIME

PRIMARY FUSION



| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| THE MAIN EVENT | Macaroni Cheese | Butter Chicken Curry with Rice | Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy | Chilli Con Carne with Rice | Fish Fingers or Salmon Fingers and Chips |
| MEAT-FREE MAGIC | BBQ Veggie Wrap with Rice | Vegetable Curry with Rice | Cauliflower & Broccoli Cheese Bake, Roast Potatoes and Gravy | Vegetable Bean Chilli with Rice | Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Chips |
| RAINBOW ALLEY | Broccoli | Sweetcorn | Carrots and Peas | Mixed Greens | Baked Beans and Peas |
| BIG TOPPING | 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 | Maple Oaty Cookie | Chocolate Concrete Cake | Carrot Cake and Custard | Chocolate Cinnamon Cake | Vanilla Shortbread |

What impact has your meal had on planet Earth today?



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





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.



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



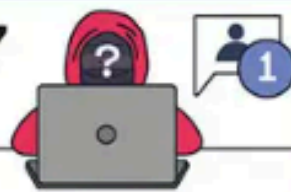
6

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

Wednesday 15th April 8.45am Parent Carer Coffee Morning



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>12:30 – 14:30 ESOL Conversation Club Riverside 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>09:30 – 11:30 Functional Skills Maths Adult maths course Riverside Family Hub</p> | <p>12:30-14:30 Sensory Play Elmwood Family Hub</p> |
| | | <p>13:00 – 15:00 Cooking on a budget Riverside Family Hub</p> | |