

St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School



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

Friday 18th September 2026

LEADERSHIP



It has been a particularly enriching week at St. John's. We were delighted to welcome Big Brum Theatre this week, who delivered an engaging performance of 'Stone Baby' to both our Key Stage One and Key Stage Two classes. The production proved thoroughly enjoyable for all pupils and provided a valuable enrichment opportunity, offering them an interesting and culturally stimulating experience that extends learning beyond the classroom.

We have introduced an expanded range of enrichment activities during Friday afternoons.

These opportunities are designed to enhance our pupils' cultural capital whilst providing them with engaging and meaningful experiences that complement their academic learning. This week has also afforded us the opportunity to witness democracy in action through the election of our new House Captains. Mrs Dixon and I also conducted interviews with a considerable number of applicants for the positions of Head Boy and Head Girl. Throughout these interviews, we were impressed by the children's confidence, creativity, and maturity, which reflected their readiness to take on these important roles.

Both events this week have reinforced our commitment to developing pupil leadership opportunities and emphasising the significance of having a voice and utilising it to effect positive change within our school community. I look forward to seeing all successful candidates grow into their new- found roles.



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



THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM



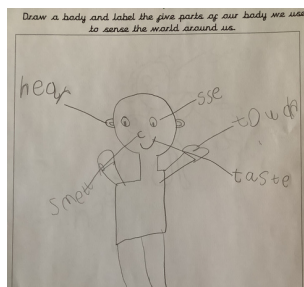
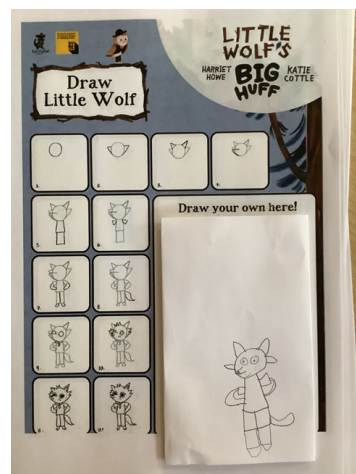
Key Stage One

Year 1

This week, year 1 participated in the Bookmark Reading event with Harriet Howe.

First we listened to the story 'The Wolf's BIG HUFF'.

Then we joined in with drawing little wolf. We have some super artists in Year 1!



In science, we are learning about our different senses, this links to our RE branch about God's creation and discovering the world around us.

Year 2



Year 2 have enjoyed learning all about 'The Bear Under the Stairs', we've been helping the bear to solve mathematical problems and also using our actions to retell the story.





Reflection

The Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A landowner went out to hire some workers for his vineyard. He took on new workers at the start of the day and three more times later in the day. He promised them all a fair wage.

The workers who arrived first expected to be paid more than the workers who arrived near to the end of the day. After all, they were hot and tired and had worked very hard all day, while some of the others had only worked for one hour. They thought it was unfair. They were angry and complained. Do you agree with them? Why/why not?

The landowner says that he has paid the first workers exactly what they agreed was fair at the beginning of the day. He says that they have no reason to be cross that he is generous to the other workers, that he can do what he likes with his own money.

Through this parable, Jesus is showing us that God's idea of fairness is different from ours. God's fairness is about making sure that every single person gets what they need, no matter what their situation.

God gives us what we need and not just what others think we deserve. God is generous and created a world with enough for absolutely everyone.

Our Virtues

*Compassionate
and
Loving*

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

Catholic Social Teaching

Family and Community

The person is not only sacred but is a social being in relationship with other people. How we organise our societies in economics, politics, law and policy directly affects our capacity to build community.

Marriage, family life and relationships are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened. All people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking the common good and well-being of all.

Our Pope's Prayer Intention

**September: For
the care of
water**

Pope Leo asks us to pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.





Awards

Star of the Week

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



Our Star of the Week for Key Stage Two is Praise A

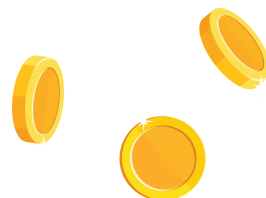


Mission Awards



Ophelia K	A thirst for knowledge
Caleb A	For being a Christ centred pilgrim of hope.
Noah P	A thirst for knowledge
Koby J	A thirst for knowledge
Isla- Mae M	For having a hunger for justice.
Emmanuella C	For being a Christ centred pilgrim of hope.

Star Readers



Aarie M	Ophelia K
Ellie – Rose T	Leon W
Nathan O	Daniel E
Adesewa A	Bonnie B
Luna Q	Hallie K
Frederika S	Niamh W
Jed T	Roy K-T
Jerusha N-J	Shay M-W
Lily- Rose J	Arlo B
Jasmine McN	





Celebrations



Birthdays



Freddie E - Year 2

Daeshia J - Year 3

Elizabeth B - Nursery

Tobias H - Rec

Louie M - Year 3

**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...

Years

3 & 5

**Well
Done**

Attendance

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

Year 2 &

Nursery

100%





Important Reminders For September

When we return to school in September:

Please ensure that your child is wearing full and correct school uniform, including sensible black shoes (not black trainers). We will be returning to white shirts and school ties, so please don't send your child in wearing a polo shirt.

Please ensure your child is wearing a white t shirt and black or blue shorts for their PE kits. Once it gets cooler, children should only wear dark blue or black tracksuits – without logos or branding.

Please encourage your child to return to school with the mindset that they can be successful and to be ready to follow our simple school rules which are:

- Be respectful
- Be responsible
- Be ready to learn
- Act first time, every time.

Please consider your child's attendance from day 1. It only takes 7 days before a child's attendance becomes a 'cause for concern.'

Please ensure that your child arrives to school between 8.35am – 8.45am. Being late can cause upset, anxiety and a feeling that you have missed out.

Please consider the conduct of your whole family. If you have a concern or are unhappy about something, share this calmly and professionally with staff and we will do our very best to resolve your concerns. All school staff have your child's best interests at heart. If they have to share a difficult message with you, please remember that, although not always easy, this is done with good intentions.

We look forward to welcoming all our lovely school community back in September. Have a great summer holiday.



Park and Stride



We are promoting the carpark at the Sports and Social club on Mull Croft as alternative parking away from school and are displaying railing banners showing the location of the alternative parking and suggested routes. Leaflets have been handed out to parents/ carers this week and more are available in school if needed. Thank you to those who have already shared that they are supporting this initiative as away of improving safety for our children.



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.

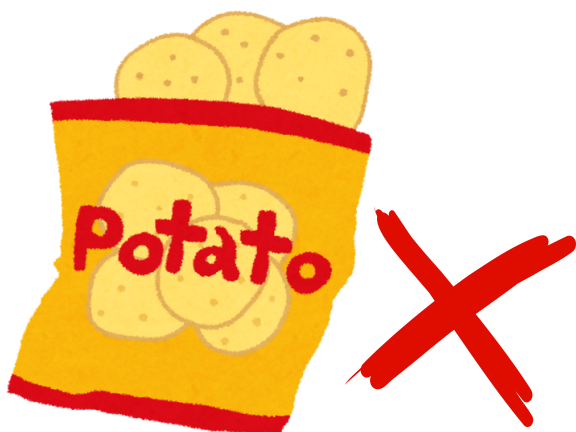
This is not permitted.

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.





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



What impact has your meal had on planet Earth today?



LUNCHTIME

PRIMARY FUSION



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
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
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
Broccoli	Sweetcorn	Carrots and Peas	Mixed Greens	Baked Beans and Peas
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
Maple Oaty Cookie	Chocolate Concrete Cake	Carrot Cake and Custard	Chocolate Cinnamon Cake	Vanilla Shortbread

DAILY SANDWICHES AVAILABLE

AVAILABLE DAILY

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

PASTA TWIRLER AVAILABLE EVERY DAY
TOPPED PASTA HOT PASTA TOPPED WITH HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & CHEESE



**ST JOHN
THE
BAPTIST
SCHOOL**

www.sjb.solihull.sch.uk

SEPTEMBER 2026 NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE



WHERE LEARNING COMES TO LIFE!

- We offer a high quality education for all children.
- We provide a nurturing, safe and vibrant learning environment.
- Our children feel loved, safe and happy.
- We provide fun, hands-on learning indoors and outdoors.
- We provide rich, meaningful first hand experiences in which children are encouraged to be curious, creative and active learners.

We have a newly developed outdoor provision. Please arrange to come and have a look at our amazing provision.



Scan the QR code to see
our wonderful provision.

For more details or to arrange a visit contact the school
office on 0121 770 1892 or email office@sjb.solihull.sch.uk

**15 & 30
HOUR PLACES
AVAILABLE FOR
3 & 4 YEAR
OLDS**



Online Safety

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators HELPING NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN NAVIGATE THE ONLINE WORLD

Neurodivergent people tend to be early adopters of technology, and many influential innovators in this space are neurodivergent themselves. It's therefore likely that a neurodivergent child or young person may be drawn to the online world from an early age. This isn't a concern in itself, but understanding both the benefits and potential risks is essential. Here are ten key considerations to support safe and positive online experiences for neurodivergent children.

1 TREAT ONLINE LIKE THE REAL WORLD

You wouldn't allow a child to cross a road without guidance – you'd hold their hand, use a pedestrian crossing, and model safe behaviour. In the same way, a neurodivergent child's first experiences online should be supported by an adult who can guide and explain safe and responsible digital behaviour to them from the outset.

2 MODEL RESPONSIBLE USE

Children learn from what they see. Show all children, regardless of neurotype, what responsible internet use looks like. Reflect on your own use of social media and AI. Consider how often you use them and your own understanding of these platforms. Talk openly about when and why you use these tools, helping all children develop a balanced and informed approach.

3 KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Current government guidance suggests no solo screen use below the age of two, with a maximum of one hour per day for two- to five-year-olds. Screen time can support communication and connection when shared with an adult. However, passive watching can affect neurodivergent children's attention and language skills. Focus on the type of content they watch, encouraging slower-paced and meaningful material rather than fast-paced, overstimulating content.

4 CONSIDER AGES AND STAGES

For older children and teenagers, agreed limits are important. Screen time can be beneficial, but it should form part of a balanced lifestyle. Neurodivergent children may find online communication easier than real-world conversation, supporting their social interaction. However, it shouldn't be their only option. Encourage a range of activities, including creative play, physical exercise, and opportunities for real-world connections.

5 KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Discussions about online safety should begin early and continue as children grow. However, neurodivergent children may worry about getting things wrong or being misunderstood, meaning these kinds of conversations should feel open and fair, rather than like a lecture. If a child encounters a problem – such as a scam or inappropriate content – they need to feel able to speak to a trusted adult without fear of judgement or embarrassment.

6 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

You aren't expected to be an expert, but it's important to stay informed about the platforms, games, or apps neurodivergent children use in order to provide practical support. Social media platforms have age limits, and many apps and games offer parental settings that can control access. Schools and families should work together to understand these tools, helping neurodivergent children use them safely while keeping up to date with new features and changes.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Children and young people often know more about current technology than adults, meaning it's important to recognise that controls may be bypassed. Clear, predictable boundaries should be used, based on trust and consistency. Involving children in discussions that affect them helps them feel heard. This is particularly important for neurodivergent children, who may respond strongly to perceived unfairness.

8 UNDERSTAND AI CONTENT

The internet now includes large amounts of AI-generated content, including images, videos, and stories. These can be difficult to identify. Children should be encouraged to question what they see and check the information using trusted sources. Neurodivergent children may interpret content literally, meaning adult guidance is important in helping them recognise what's real and reliable – and what isn't.

9 EXPLAIN AI LIMITATIONS

AI isn't the same as a search engine. It generates responses based on prompts and patterns, and its accuracy depends on how it's used. Sometimes, it produces incorrect or unrealistic information, known as 'hallucinations'. Both adults and children need to understand this and learn how to check information carefully using reliable and trusted sources.

10 CLARIFY AI RELATIONSHIPS

AI can feel conversational and personal, but it's not capable of real relationships. It learns from patterns in user input rather than human understanding. Some neurodivergent children may experience a sense of connection with AI chatbots, particularly if they find social situations challenging. It's therefore important to explain that these are simulated conversations and aren't a substitute for real, human relationships.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a neurodivergent former SENCO and Advisory Teacher who works with nurseries, schools, colleges, and businesses to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She is the Founder and Director of Neuroteachers and the author of "The Other 29 – How Supporting Your Neurodivergent Learner Can Improve Teaching and Learning for the Whole Class".



The National College

See full reference list on our website



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Term Dates

2026 - 2027

Autumn Term

Term begins: Tuesday 1st September

Half term: 26th - 30th October

Term ends: Friday 18th December

Spring Term

Term begins: Monday 4th January

Half term: 15th - 19th February

Term ends: Thursday 25th March

Summer Term

Term begins: Monday 12th April

Half term: 31st May - 4th June

Term ends: Wednesday 21st July

Inset Days 2026/ 2027

Tuesday 1st September

Wednesday 2nd September

Monday 2nd November

Monday 18th January

Friday 12th February

Monday 21st June



Diary Dates

Tuesday 29th September - parent/ carer consultation - GIFT Programme

Thursday 1st October - Slip into Slippers PJ Day

Wednesday 21st October - Parent/ carer consultation evening