



St. John the Baptist
Catholic Primary School

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



"The word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us" John 1:14

Newsletter



This half term's virtues are:

Friday 18.12.20

Intentional

and

Prophetic

Christmas Celebrations

Wow! What a term!

Together we have experienced certainly the most challenging term of my twenty one year teaching career. However with all the hard work, planning and constant changes of advice from the government, I feel we should end with some celebrations and thank yous.

Firstly, our children have been amazing! They returned to school in September with an enthusiasm I could have only hoped for. They have followed every new routine and social distancing measure consistently and sensibly and above all they have remained smiling, worked hard and behaved impeccably. We didn't know what to expect in September but again it has taught us never to underestimate children, no matter what their age!



To our wonderful staff, so many changes have added considerably to their workload and they have had to adapt to completely new ways of working. They have shown commitment and flexibility and have put their own health concerns aside for the benefit of providing outstanding care and education to every child in our school. Thank you, you truly have been working on the front line.

Thank you to Mrs Dixon, Mrs Righton and Mrs Rodgers, for working tirelessly in the background to produce endless rotas, risk assessments, letters, emails and texts to ensure everyone has remained safe and well informed.

And finally, thank you to the vast majority of you, our parents and carers, who have supported the systems we have had to introduce. We have appreciated your patience and overwhelmingly positive feedback of our handling of this crisis.

Of course, we are not over this yet. In January, all social distancing measures will remain and no doubt we may see others who might have to self-isolate but we will get over this and after a period of clouds and greyness; the sunshine will return.



Dates for your Diary

Monday 4th January

All day - Inset Day (school closed to children)

Tuesday 5th January

8.55am - Children return to school

Friday 12th February

2.00pm - Break up for half term

Monday 22nd February

All day - Inset Day (school closed to children)

Tuesday 23rd February

8.55am - Children return to school

Online Safety - tip of the week!

Online safety hero says...



Before you give a device as a Christmas present make sure you set it up first. Switch on parental controls and make sure the apps and games are suitable for the age of your child

#staysafethischristmas

#parentalcontrols



**internet
matters.org**

Follow the link to find out how to set parent controls on a range of different devices <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

Sports Star of the Week

This week's Sports Star of the Week is Jack L in Nursery for brilliant effort.



STARS OF THE WEEK!



Congratulations to Malala H in

Year 2

and Caitlin O'K in

Year 6.

We're all really proud of you.

This week's virtues awards were given to

Harry E

NN

Mia D

Reception

Zach P & Millie-Mai P

Year 1

Tiani S

Year 2

Tyler-James C

Year 3

Ini A

Year 6



For being intentional and prophetic.



Attendance

Our school strives for 100% attendance. This week the class with the highest attendance was Year 1 with 97.9%



Well done!

Ready to learn Award

Congratulations, our most punctual classes this week were Year 4.



Birthdays

Happy birthday this week to: Baylie K, Kalem M-W, Jacob N, Ryah McN and Sophie H.

We would also like to wish Happy Birthday to those children who celebrate their birthday during the Christmas holiday: Saffire M, Abigail M, Joshua C, Jack L, Carter H-B, Bella B-R, NJ L, Scarlett M-P and Briana McC.





An absolutely fantastic well done to all those children who received 100% attendance. Well done!



Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Harry E	Ruby B	Evelyn H	Harry E	Toby B	Ella A	Peyton B	Ini A
Evangeline F	Ashton B	Chloe H	Malala H	Tyler-James C	Ren D	Logan B	Amiela A
Abbasyn H	Ava-Rose B	Lilly M	Nikolaj J	Amari H-P	Brooke F	Cassidy G	Jordan C
	Mia D	Jasmine Mc-J	Aisha McN	Emilia K-D	Aidan H	Quinten G	Jody-Jean C
	Carter H	Liam O'K	Scarlett M-P	Baylie K	Jessica K	Lilly-Mae M	Brodie D
	Ameera I	Millie-Mai P	Ryan M	Olivia K	Connie K	Alissia M	Charlie G
	Anna K-D	Zach P	Destiny S	Logan M	Billy M	Conal S	Kayleigh G
	Ava-Rose L	Taylor S		Riley M	Ryah McN	Lexi S	Brooke H
	Amelia M	Tia S		Lacey-Rai N	Harvey-James M	Tyler T	Mazie H
	Lilly-Mae M			William N	Laceymae S		Kian H
	Jenson-Jay N			Samuel O			Emily K
	Jacob N			Arcange P			Caitlin O'K
	Marley-Rae R						Laikyn R
	Demi-Liegh S						
	Rui Jie W						



Virtual Christmas Cards

Children have created virtual Christmas cards for parents/carers to view via YouTube.



FKS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIJzscL21mg&feature=youtu.be>

Year 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qfa7SFXybzU&feature=youtu.be>

Year 2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGpB_R3v-xw&feature=youtu.be

Year 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6O1Yd2ysZM&feature=youtu.be>

Year 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4jXrAMlITc&feature=youtu.be>

Year 5

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aFlncaLcrw&feature=youtu.be>

Year 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9psQrojAWQk&feature=youtu.be>



Results from our Covid Questionnaire

'Feedback on St John's Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic'

Thank you for your overwhelmingly positive feedback about our school's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are proud to have one of the best records in Solihull, in terms of how little our children's education has been disrupted during this term at St John's.

I am satisfied with the way the school has dealt with Covid-19 related issues

Yes 100% No 0%

Are you satisfied with the school's morning and after school drop off and pick up arrangements?

Yes 89% No 11 %

Do you feel that you have been able to maintain appropriate contact with school, when you've needed to?

Yes 100% No 0%

Do you feel confident that the school has ensured consistent 'class bubbles' and provided adequate hygiene measures throughout the term?

Yes 100% No 0%

If you have had to access remote learning for your child, please provide us with feedback below. We welcome both positive comments and suggestions for how we can improve this offer in the future.

- *Dojo and teams have been good to keep access to the work and communication.*
- *Teams has helped my child to the homework and keep in touch if needed.*
- *Year 3 did teams meetings during the isolation period. The teams meetings were twice a day and kept engaged with his teacher, his peers and with learning. Thank you to the Year Three team.*
- *We have used the online materials for a short isolation period, thank you all for all your hard work to keep our children safe!*



Class Activity



This week's class activity comes from Year 3 who have been learning about the Jesse Tree and making decorations that tell the story of the family tree of Jesus.



Christmas Raffle

Our Christmas raffle was a great success, congratulations to all our lucky winners!

Well-Being

Please find the YouTube links for Healthy Budget Meal and yoga exercise from Unity Trust

<https://youtu.be/QOeqlZc9NI>

<https://youtu.be/M7sUZpzY4LA>

<https://youtu.be/pCbdq7YBhEY>

Nativity Scene Competition



Children recreated the Nativity Scene, the results are truly beautiful. Each entry had so much thought and effort put into it that it was really difficult to choose winners. Congratulations to the winners!

Reception, Year 1 & 2 created class scenes.

Year 4 - Lexi-Boe N, Ella A and Connie K

Year 5 - Hydrie P & Grace D

Year 6 - Dewa H





SJB Sports



Here are the sports captains, Kian and Mazie holding their Christmas presents. Kian and Mazie work hard throughout the week promoting sports around the school and set good examples to other children. Thank you for all your help. I wonder if you can guess what their presents are ;-)



The Year 4 children in the picture are proudly showing off their Silver medals which they won in a virtual school games competition. Fantastic effort and well done to all of the children who took part.



On Tuesday this week the children watched a virtual sports presentation presented by our sports captains Kian and Mazie. The PE video highlighted some of the action during the Autumn Term. Children have enjoyed a range of physical activity and virtual sports competitions. Well done and thank you for all of your efforts. Thank you to all of the staff who support PE and sport throughout school to ensure that the children are given high quality provision and lots of opportunities.

Have a lovely Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Coach Steve





Christmas Mass Schedule

Times of Holy Mass and Liturgies, at Mother of God and Guardian Angels

Saturday	19 th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	Maurizio & Teresa Bonaccorsi
<u>Sunday</u>	20 th	9.45 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
Monday	21 st		Advent Feria	Tony McDouald (RIP)
Tuesday	22 nd		Advent Feria	Geraldine Delaney (RIP)
Wednesday	23 rd		Advent Feria	Teresa Lipsett
Thursday	24 th	5:00 pm.	Vigil of the Nativity of The LORD	Doreen Nicholson
		6:30 pm.		Mc Farlane Family (INT)
Friday	25 th	12:00 Midnight	Nativity of The LORD	Kate & Martin Moylan (RIP)
		9:45 am.		Murphy Family (INT)
<u>Saturday</u>	26 th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	Peter & Bridget Thornton
Sunday	27 th	9.45 am	Feast of the Holy Family	People of the Parish

N.B. Saturday evening Vigil Mass if we have stewards available

Times of Holy Mass and Liturgies, at St. John the Baptist

Sunday	20 th	12:00 Midday	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Catherine Samuel (INT)
Thursday	24 th	8:30 pm.	Vigil of the Nativity of The LORD	Parishioners of MoG&GA and St John the baptist
Friday	25 th	12:00 Midday	Nativity of The LORD	Sarah and Moira Collins (INT)
Sunday	27 th	12:00 Midday	Feast of the Holy Family	Mary & William Crotty



Giving Tree



We have been overwhelmed by the generosity shown by so many members of our school community. We have received an incredible amount of donations for our giving tree. Thank you, your acts of kindness will really make some else's Christmas special!



Christmas Parties



It was party time on Thursday as all classes got the chance to let loose during their Christmas parties!

There was dancing galore, tasty food and games aplenty!



After some initial problems all our children eventually got to enjoy a fabulously funny version of Cinderella performed by Panto Live. They all had a great time interacting throughout the performance with the chance to Boo, Cheer, Clap and of course shout 'Behind You'!





Merry Christmas for all at SJB



twitter

Our fabulous tweets continue!!! Have a look at some of our most recent tweets! Please don't forget to join our tweeting community by tweeting us @SJBsolihull



National Online Safety @natonlineafety - Dec 16
Nine more sleeps! 🎅🏻 If Santa's bringing new devices for the young ones in your life, "yule" want to check out this week's #WakeUpWednesday guide... stuffed with safety tips!

Apple: hubs.ly/HOCF9910
Android: hubs.ly/HOCF99g0
Desktop: hubs.ly/HOCF99mq0



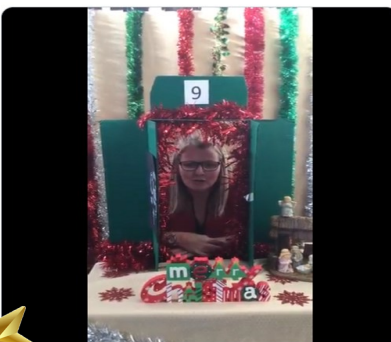
St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull - 2h
Day 10 of our staff advent calendar, finally a kind inn keeper took pity on Mary and Joseph...



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull - Dec 15
Year 3 have been learning about the Jesse tree. We have decorated our tree with wonderful decorations telling the story of the family tree of Jesus'.



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull - Dec 15
Day 9 of our staff advent calendar - an angel appears to the wise men in their dreams...



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull - Dec 14
Day 8 of our staff advent calendar, Mary and Joseph arrive in Bethlehem, only to find there is no where to stay...



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull - Dec 12
Thank you to our Year 6 @eCadets for delivering their lesson.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

God of all, you sent the angel Gabriel as your messenger to Mary. Help us to be your messengers in the world today.

In this Sunday's gospel we hear about how a very special messenger came to visit Mary to tell her that she was going to have a baby. Let's think how we can be God's messengers in the world too.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"

Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!"

Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. For there is nothing that God cannot do."

"I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

The angel Gabriel came to tell Mary that she will have a very special baby, that he will be the Son of God and will be called Jesus. Mary was frightened at first. She was still very young and her life was going to change forever. But she trusted in God and said "yes" to all that He asked of her.



The angel Gabriel was God's messenger to Mary and he brought some very important news. God wants us all to be his messengers in the world. To share the message that God loves everyone and that we are all part His family. There is so much to be excited about during Christmas but try to remember to take some time to spread this message of love.



God of love, help us to be your messengers on earth, showing your love for all people in everything that we do. Amen.

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Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

I. Gallagher

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