



"In the beginning the Word already existed;  
the Word was with God, and the Word was God"

John 1:1

This half term's virtues are:

Friday 24.09.21

*Eloquent*

and

*Truthful*

## Season of Creation



We have had such a busy and meaningful week at St John's as we have worked collectively to raise an awareness and an understanding of issues linked to climate change. As you know, Pope Francis has called on Catholics to take action for our common home during the Season of Creation, which lasts from the 1<sup>st</sup> September until 4<sup>th</sup> October (the Feast of St Francis.) Our Holy

Father is encouraging each of us to question the way we live and to turn 'towards lifestyles that are simpler and more respectful to the environment.' This has been the focus for our activities this week and we've all been impressed by our children's knowledge, understanding and passion about all issues relating to the damage we are causing to our beautiful Earth, gifted to us by God.

Children in Reception kicked off the week by litter picking in our school grounds, we really appreciated how lovely our school site looked after their hard work. When sharing their views, they said:

'We need to keep school tidy to keep all the animals safe.' And

'We need to look after our world.'

Year Two also went litter picking to ensure that our local environment was looking at its best.



# Season of Creation

Year One focused on their class saint, St Francis of Assisi. He is well known for his love of the earth and for animals. They decorated their outdoor 'saints tree' and made a beautiful image of St Francis for us all to enjoy. Their efforts reminded us of the words of St Francis himself, written in his Canticle of Creation:

*O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God,  
to you belong praise, glory,  
honour and all blessing.  
Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation  
and especially for our Brother Sun,  
who brings us the day and the light;  
he is strong and shines magnificently.  
O Lord, we think of you when we look at him.  
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,  
and for the stars  
which you have set shining and lovely  
in the heavens.  
Be praised, my Lord,  
for our Brothers Wind and Air  
and every kind of weather  
by which you, Lord,  
uphold life in all your creatures.  
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,  
who is very useful to us,  
and humble and precious and pure.  
Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,  
through whom you give us light in the darkness:  
he is bright and lively and strong.  
Be praised, my Lord,  
for Sister Earth, our Mother,  
who nourishes us and sustains us,  
bringing forth  
fruits and vegetables of many kinds  
and flowers of many colours...*



## Recycled Art Project

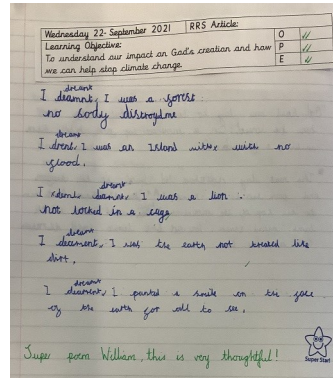
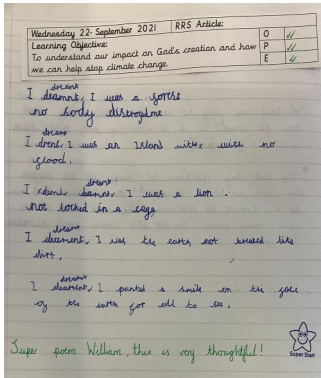
Mrs Turner and a group of children from all our KS2 classes have begun work on a fantastic art project, again linked to our focus on the Season of Creation. They are working collaboratively, using a range of materials that can be recycled and, perhaps more importantly, using many that cannot, to produce a beautiful Sea Turtle. This creature has been chosen, not only for its serene beauty but also because it is one that relies so closely on the fine balance of nature to survive, often against all the odds. We look forward to sharing the finished product next week.





# Season of Creation

Year Four have supported our preparations for our planned awareness raising demonstration which will take place in Birmingham city centre next Monday. They really inspired us by sharing their strong independent views and by producing some excellent banners and placards which will be used to share their collective voices on climate change with the wider community.



Year Five have written formal letters to our local MP, Saqib Bhatti expressing their views and suggestions for how we can work collectively to tackle the adverse effects of climate change.

## Visit to Florilegium

On Thursday, three children, Mrs Turner and myself visited Florilegium, a festival of scripture, art and flowers. The word 'florilegium' literally means a gathering of flowers. There was a strong focus on the 'God Who Speaks' national scripture campaign; some beautiful flower displays and the opportunity to view a relic of St Jerome, the patron saint of translators – the person who first translated the Bible. We really enjoyed our visit and welcomed the opportunity to appreciate the beauty of nature and reflect upon what we must do to ensure this beauty is preserved for generations to come.



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## Dates for your Diary

### Friday 1st October

All day - Non-uniform day - Columbans (£1 donation per family)

### Friday 8th October

All day - Non-uniform day - Harvest donations - see page 6 for requested food donations per class .

### Friday 22nd October

2.00pm - Break up for October Half Term

### Monday 1st November

8.55am - Children return to school

### Friday 12th November

All day - Non-uniform day - Children in Need

### Friday 19th November

All day - Non-uniform day - Donation chocolate for Christmas hamper raffles

### Friday 26th November

All day - Non-uniform day - Donate sweets for Christmas hamper raffles

### Friday 3rd December

All day - Non-uniform day - 50p per child school fund (as no Christmas Fayre)

### Friday 10th December

All day - Non-uniform day - 50p per child school fund (as no Christmas Fayre)

### Friday 17th December

All day - Non-uniform day (Christmas jumper day) no donation required

2.00pm - Break up for Christmas

### Wednesday 5th January

8.55am - Children return to school

### Inset Days

#### Tuesday 4th January 2022

All day - Inset Day

#### Monday 28th February 2022

All day - Inset Day

#### Monday 6th June 2022

All day - Inset Day

## Sports Star of the Week



This week's Sports Star of the Week is Riley T in Reception for being very sensible and working well in PE.



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# Solihull Parenting Team



## FREE online Solihull Approach Parenting Courses

Solihull Approach online courses are FREE for ALL Solihull residents to gain knowledge, confidence and skills to support their parenting

A certificate can be downloaded once the course has been completed, although you don't have to do all the modules in one go - on returning to the website and signing in, your account will 'remember' where you have got up to

### HOW TO ACCESS:

- Go to [www.inspireplace.co.uk](http://www.inspireplace.co.uk)
- Create an account using an email address & password
- Scroll down to choose a course
- Click on 'Already got a discount coupon?' Select the relevant course:
  - Understanding Your Child's Mental Health & Wellbeing
  - Understanding Your Child
  - Understanding Your Teenager's Brain
  - Understanding your child with additional needs
  - Understanding Your Baby
  - Understanding Your Pregnancy

Insert the access code - **APRIL2020**

Click 'Apply coupon'



The courses work on laptops, PCs, smart phones and tablets. Please note: a modern browser is required (e.g. Google Chrome, Firefox, Explorer 10)

For any technical issues, please contact the Solihull Approach team on 0121 295 4448 or via email to [solihull.approach@heartofengland.nhs.uk](mailto:solihull.approach@heartofengland.nhs.uk)

For further information please contact the Parenting Team via email to [bonnifit.parenting@nhs.net](mailto:bonnifit.parenting@nhs.net) or follow us on our Facebook page - Solihull Parenting Team

Believe in children  
Barnardo's



## Support for all Parents in Solihull

### BEING A PARENT GROUPS

New 'Being a Parent' groups will be starting in September and will be delivered virtually:

Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	10am - 11.30am	0-8 years
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	6pm - 7.30pm	9 years plus
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	6pm - 7.30pm	0-8 years
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	1pm - 2.30pm	9 years plus

Re-assuring to know other parents have worries & concerns and it's not just me



I thought I might be judged, how wrong I was - it was relaxed, open and non-judgemental

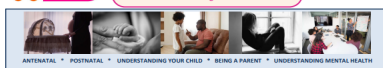
Click on the link to find out what parents think of the groups: [Being a Parent summary](https://www.bonhillsolihull.co.uk/being-a-parent)

The 'BEING A PARENT' Groups are led by trained parent volunteers, and aim to help you to manage challenging behaviour, improve communication, build and understand your relationship with your child.

A supportive group where parents & carers of children aged 0-18 years can meet in a relaxed & friendly environment without their children, the sessions will run for 90 minutes via Microsoft Teams.

The groups run weekly for 8 weeks, giving parents the opportunity to support one another and share knowledge & experiences with the help of tried and tested resources from the 'Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities' programme.

Book your place now, or find out more by contacting the Solihull Parenting Team at: [bonhillsolihull.co.uk](mailto:bonhillsolihull.co.uk) 0121 301 2773 or by finding us on Facebook - Solihull Parenting Team



# Solihull Music Group

**Creative Sounds Solihull**

An inclusive music group for ages 7 to 18

MAC makes music Solihull Music  
YOUTH MUSIC ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Wednesdays

5pm - 6pm & 6pm - 7pm

at The Core Theatre Solihull

**Creative Sounds** is a free, inclusive music group delivered by Solihull Music and MAC Makes Music. It is an after-school opportunity for young people aged 7 to 18 who are interested in learning to play new instruments, write songs, experiment with technology and make new friends.

Creative Sounds is open to young musicians of all abilities and with the aim to help support people with additional needs and disabilities with their musical ambitions.

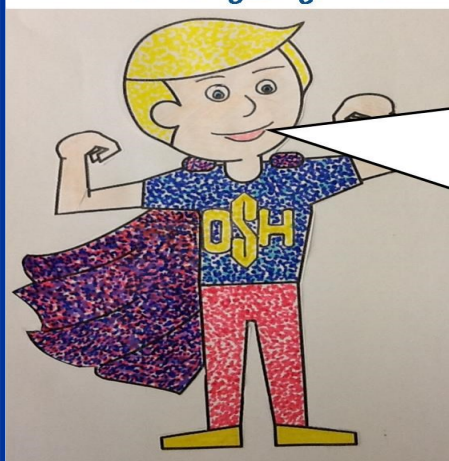
There is no need for any previous experience, just a desire to get creative and have fun!

### For more information contact:

[macbirmingham.co.uk/mac-makes-music](mailto:macbirmingham.co.uk/mac-makes-music)  
[solihullmusic@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:solihullmusic@solihull.gov.uk)  
0121 704 6500

**Creative Sounds Solihull**

## Online safety hero says...



Always check that someone is happy for you to post a photo of them online.

Think about what information your photo could tell someone who doesn't know you.

#staysafe



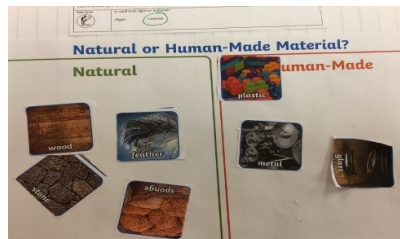
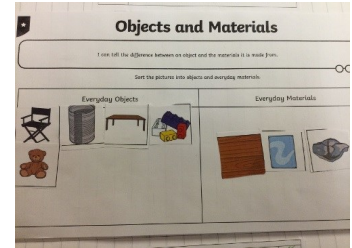
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# Science Superstars

This week Year One have learnt the difference between objects and materials. We then extended the activity to explore natural and man-made materials in our outdoor environment.

The children could tell me which objects were made from natural materials and which were made from man-made materials. Remembering that natural materials are part of God's creation.

Well done, Year One!



## Harvest Donations - Classes

For our non-uniform day on Friday 8th October we are kindly asking for the below donations.

Early Years - Pasta

Year 1 - Rice

Year 2 - Tinned soup

Year 3 - Tinned vegetables

Year 4 - Sugar

Year 5 - Tea

Year 6 - Coffee



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# Excellent Work

I am the wind...  
I love crashing through windows  
Fairly whistling in peoples ears  
Stealing peoples balloons  
I am the wind...  
I love freezing peoples homes  
Silently knocking nature over as I pass by  
Picking up food and delivering it  
I am the wind...  
I love taking the leaves for a drive  
Blowing peoples hair everywhere  
Cooling people down  
I am the Sea...  
I love ruining people's sandcastles  
Splashing children's faces  
Lifting boats towards me  
I am the Sea...  
I love taking people everywhere  
Rushing out and disappearing  
Waving at the children  
I am the Sea...  
I love making people drip  
Crashing against mountains  
Pulling fish under me  
I am the Stars...  
I love twinkling in the night sky  
Making couples evenings special  
Winking my eyes at children  
I am the Stars...  
Lighting up the night  
Glistening in the distance families  
Peering over the city listening to families converse

This week's excellent work comes from Amelia E in Year 5 who wrote a poem about the natural world.

## Camera, Lights, Action!

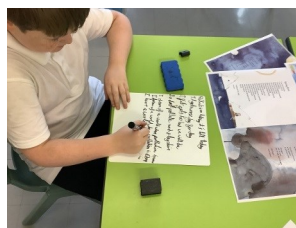
This week we had a visit from the cameraman that will be creating a special video of all of the schools in our MAC family! We are excited to see the final video!



## Visit to St Anthony's - Season of Creation

Ren and Dylan had a brilliant time at St. Anthony's School. They worked collaboratively with the children in our MAC family to use their poetry to create a hymn.

We can't wait for next week!



## Non-Uniform Day

Next Friday will be a non-uniform day to raise money for the Columbans. We are kindly asking for donation of £1 per family.



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## STARS OF THE WEEK!

**Congratulations to**

**Tommy K**

**in Year 1**

**and Rosebella P-S**

**in Year 4.**

**We're all really proud of you.**

**This week's virtues awards were given to**

<b>Ruairi T</b>	<b>Nursery</b>
<b>Abigail M</b>	<b>Reception</b>
<b>Ruby B</b>	<b>Year 1</b>
<b>Harrison S</b>	<b>Year 2</b>
<b>Mikel B</b>	<b>Year 3</b>
<b>De'On M &amp; Toby B</b>	<b>Year 4</b>
<b>Amelia E</b>	<b>Year 5</b>
<b>Cassidy G</b>	<b>Year 6</b>

**For being Eloquent and Truthful**

### Attendance



Our school strives for 100% attendance. This week the class with the highest attendance was Year 3 with 96%

*Well done!*

### Ready to learn Award



Congratulations, our most punctual class this week was Nursery.

### Birthdays



Happy birthday this week to: Jaxon R, Harley H and Danielle McG.



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## Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*God of love, strengthen our faith and help us to make the right choices even when it is difficult.*

This Sunday, we will reflect on how believing in Jesus can sometimes mean we have to make hard choices. As we are currently focusing on Pope Francis' Season of Creation, we will also think about the choices we need to make to protect and care for the beautiful planet earth, which is our home.

**Gospel:** Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

*John said to him, "Teacher, we saw a man who was driving out demons in your name, and we told him to stop, because he doesn't belong to our group."*

*"Do not try to stop him," Jesus told them, "because no one who performs a miracle in my name will be able soon afterwards to say evil things about me. For whoever is not against us is for us. I assure you that anyone who gives you a drink of water because you belong to me will certainly receive his reward.*

*"If anyone should cause one of these little ones to lose his faith in me, it would be better for that person to have a large millstone tied around his neck and be thrown into the sea. So if your hand makes you lose your faith, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life without a hand than to keep both hands and go off to hell, to the fire that never goes out.*

*And if your foot makes you lose your faith, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life without a foot than to keep both feet and be thrown into hell.*

*And if your eye makes you lose your faith, take it out! It is better for you to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to keep both eyes and be thrown into hell. There 'the worms that eat them never die, and the fire that burns them is never put out.'*

Jesus told the disciples that anyone who was not against him, who was not his enemy, was his friend. And He said that anyone who treated people well because they followed him would be loved by him and be rewarded in heaven. Jesus also has a message that might be a bit scary or confusing as he told the disciples that they should cut off their hand or foot rather than losing faith in him. Now of course, we can't really go around cutting off parts of our body but Jesus is saying that if we are going to be his followers, if we are going to have faith and believe in him, sometimes we will have to do things that are very hard.

Just as Jesus cares for us all, he asks us to care for one another. This means being kind and generous and friendly and helpful. It can mean making sure everyone has enough food to eat, and clean water to drink. But it can also mean a bit more than that, like sticking up for what is right and what we believe in. We might have to choose to do the right thing when others are doing something wrong. We might need to speak out when we see something happening that we know is not right



God's wonderful gift of creation has been given to all people to share, both now and in the future. We need to speak up now to make sure it looked after now and preserved for future generations.

*Generous God, we thank you for creating such a beautiful world. May we do all that we can to protect it for all people today and in the future. Amen.*

Have a lovely weekend.

*I. Gallagher*

Mr I. Gallagher  
Headteacher