



"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 22.10.21

*Eloquent*

and

*Truthful*

## ROSARY of the MONTH

October is the month of the Rosary, a time where we say our prayers and reflect. As St. Therese of Lisieux said, "The Rosary is a long chain that links Heaven and Earth".

The children all said a decade of the Rosary after they had created their giant edible Rosary.



As we are in October and it is Black History Month, Year 6 researched the life of Nelson Mandela.

We created artwork inspired by the work of Chuck Close. The children worked collaboratively to create the final piece. [#SJBWeAreArtists](#)  
[#BlackHistoryMonth](#) [#ProudToBe](#)



# Absence Reporting

Some parents/carers are using Class Dojo to report their child's absence from school, whilst we appreciate that on occasion this may be a more convenient method, you must report your child's absence to the school office in the first instance. Messages on Class Dojo are not always picked up immediately, particularly at the start of the school day, which can mean that your child's absence is marked as an unauthorised absence.

## Science Superstars

Year 5 enjoyed a fabulous day studying the food chains in a pond environment at Hams Hall. Here Harvey is checking his findings against some examples.

Then, as part of the current topic of "Decay and Decomposers" they went to investigate and tally up as many types of fungus, worms and other decomposer creatures that could be found in the woodlands. They were everywhere!

Brilliant work from all of the class.



## Polite Reminder - Dogs on School Premises

We are noticing an increasing number of parents/carers bringing their pet dogs to school. Please can we remind you that dogs are not permitted on school premises. This is to protect the safety of not only other parents/carers, but the safety of our children.





## Dates for your Diary

### 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

*Online safety hero says...*



*Think before you share  
something online.*

- \* Is it something you would share face to face?*
- \* Are you sharing personal information?*
- \* Will it hurt or upset someone else?*

*If you answer Yes to these questions don't  
share online!*

*#beinternetsharp*

## Sports Star of the Week



This week's Sports Star of the Week is Paisley McK in Year 1 for brilliant effort in PE.



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# Year 5 Bikeability



This week our Year 5 children participated in Bikeability sessions over the course of four days.

These sessions provide children with the skills they need to cycle safely on today's roads.

The children really enjoyed it, displaying such maturity and confidence during the sessions.

They really did us proud, well done Year 5!

# Harvest Donations - Thank you!

To the students, parents & staff at

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*Thank You*

for collecting donations for

**SIFA  
fireside**

at Harvest Festival 2021

We are so proud of our community here in Birmingham and grateful to have you standing by us.

SIFA Fireside is registered in England & Wales under charity number 1049728

On Thursday we delivered the Harvest donations to the SIFA Fireside charity. The SIFA Fireside charity provides invaluable support to homeless people, helping them rebuild their lives.

The charity was absolutely blown away by the generosity of our parents/carers, as are we. You have all made a real difference to those who are vulnerable in our community and we thank you all!



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# Excellent Work

Dear Diary,

Today has been phenomenal. I have actually witnessed a true miracle! I can't believe my eyes and my family sat in a field with no food at all, we were praying.

Suddenly, we spotted a group of people strolling towards us. In no time they reached us. It was Jesus and his disciples. Is this really him? This can't be. I wondered. It was! Jesus' disciple suggested that they should send us out into the village to buy some bread. No! I thought. Jesus then declared with saying, "How many loaves do we have?" The disciples replied, "5 loaves and 2 fish." "Bring them here," Jesus proclaimed.

He prayed to God, giving thanks. Suddenly, over 5,000 bread and fish appeared in front

day!

I still can't believe this happened! I'm so lucky to have witnessed this glorious miracle. It has really helped me to get a good understanding and has really helped with my beliefs and faith. I really hope and wish to get another special and wonderful day like this!

This week's excellent work comes from Elisha I in Year 5.

Who wrote a diary piece from the viewpoint of a bystander who witnessed Jesus perform a miracle.

## FREE Maths Webinar for Parents/Carers

### FREE Webinar: *Help Your Child DO Maths, Even If You DON'T*

Parents know how important it is for their child to be confident in maths, but many feel worried by their own struggles with it.

Solihull local authority is pleased to be working with Dr Rosemary Russell who will be delivering a free online event for parents on **Wednesday 17th November 2021, 7:30- 8:30 pm.**

In this Microsoft Teams session, Rosemary will show how any parent or care-giver (even those who think they are 'rubbish' at maths) can help give their child a can-do attitude to it. Based on her latest book, 'Help Your Child DO Maths, Even If You DON'T', Rosemary addresses how parents can build up their child's confidence and give them the positive attitude that is so important to learning the subject. Rosemary will share 10 things from her book that ANYONE can do to help their child with maths - without doing any maths at all. So, whatever your own feelings about maths, you can help!

For parents to book their place at this free event, parents should email [inset@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:inset@solihull.gov.uk) or call 0121 704 6620 stating the name of the event, their name, school name (optional), email address and telephone number. A link to the event will then be forwarded to the parent closer to the event.



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# Class Activities - KS1

Year 1 have been exploring maps, google, google earth and a world globe. The children then created their own maps of key stage one playground using symbols to indicate trees and the wooden playhouse.

As our topic is 'Swamps' the children explored google earth to find swamps in Florida and North Carolina. Then they wondered if they could find a swamp near our school, so we searched google earth for an arial view of the school and plotted a path to go searching for a swamp. The children discovered that there are no swamps around St John the Baptist school.

In music, the children listened to the 'Hey You' tune/song and composed their version using the musical instruments.

Year 2 - Last week you may have met some of our cheeky aliens. We have been using adjectives and expanded noun phrases to write descriptions of them and this week we have been writing stories about their antics on the moon.

As part of Black History Month we have been listening to and appraising music from different artists and genres.

In computing, we have been practicing using the mouse.



## **St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy**

The Governors wish to appoint a caring, committed and creative person to join our friendly, hardworking school with welcoming, supportive staff and enthusiastic children.

This part-time post is a key role, and is offered at 7.5 hours per week, supporting children at lunchtime whilst eating and playing. You will have the ability to supervise children and be a committed team player. Experience of working with young children is preferred but not essential.

This post is offered on a fixed term contract basis, term time only plus 5 INSET days, at Salary Band A: £17,843 - £18,562 (pro-rata), depending on experience. The hours of work for this post are 11.45am – 1.15pm, Monday to Friday.

The closing date for applications is Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November, at 12.00 noon. Only applications submitted on an official SMBC application form, preferably via e-mail to the school office, will be considered. If you wish to obtain an application form, or a copy of the person and job spec please visit the school office.

Visits to the school are welcomed and further information regarding St Johns can be found on our website – <https://www.sjb.solihull.sch.uk/>

If you would like to discuss this vacancy or arrange to visit the school, please contact:  
Mr Ian Gallagher, Headteacher, St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School,  
Arran Way, Smiths Wood, Birmingham. B36 0QE  
Tel : 0121 770 1892 or email: [office@sjb.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@sjb.solihull.sch.uk)

Appointment will be subject to a satisfactory, enhanced DBS check.

***"This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all its staff and volunteers to share this commitment".***

**Closing Date: 12.00 noon on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November  
Interviews will be held on: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November**





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**Does your child struggle at school?**  
**Do they need extra help? - Would you like to help them?**  
**(and other children with similar needs?)**

Could you spare an hour each month volunteering to helping Our Lady and All Saint's Multi Academy Company establish a Carers group for parents of our Children who attend our family of Catholic schools? The purpose of the carers group is to support all children, but specifically Children with a disability or children who have been adopted to achieve the very best in their school life?

Our family of Catholic schools is committed to providing the very best inclusive education for all our children and young people. We are guided by our faith, Gospel values and our commitment to our OLAAS MAC Children's Charter.

Your commitment requires you to:-

- o Be the **parent/ guardian/ or adoptive parent** of a child who has a disability/special need **and** attends one of the schools within our MAC group.
- o Have a home lap-top and access to the internet. (Please do let us know if this is an issue for you).
- o Devote an hour or so each month to the project meeting/discussion, so that your views are listened to.
- o Comply with agreed ground rules to maintain strictest confidentiality.
- o Meetings will be held via "Zoom" (*\*we will supply written instructions on how to download/ access such software*).

But key is that you have a say and give us feedback and that we listen to what you tell us.

The group will commence meeting during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of November and thereafter during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of each month.

**Purpose**

- Given our Catholic vision and purpose establish a clear and purposeful link between the MAC and parents/carers of our children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities,
- Facilitate two-way communication between parents, carers, and professionals,
- Provide the basis of discussion and links with appropriate bodies (ie local Authorities; Education; Health etc)
- Work together with schools/ various agencies to provide feedback on services; offer constructive challenge to current services and input into decision making and planning for future service provision,
- Contribute to improvements in the services delivered for our young people,
- Provide parent/ carers with enough information to be able to decide whether they wish to be involved in a specific piece of work/consultation.
- The group will provide diverse membership/representation to ensure representation for all our children; parent/carers from all backgrounds; with all needs and across all sectors of our community.

**If you are interested in offering your services, please contact: -**  
**[communications@olaas.co.uk](mailto:communications@olaas.co.uk)**



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## BUILDING STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR CHILD

Bonding and attachment is the way we describe the powerful development of feelings that you have for your child.



Some dads may express this as their 'super-power', giving them an ability to move mountains as soon as their new baby arrives. Others may find it takes a little longer to have the same emotions.

It is important to remember that dads get tired too and that is perfectly normal, so here are some tips to help promote a healthy relationship between you and your baby whether you're feeling over the moon or overwhelmed:

- Lots of cuddles and skin to skin contact is best - it's a myth that babies get spoilt by too many cuddles.
- Talk to your baby, tell them about your day, respond to their sounds, read stories and sing songs; they don't care if you sing out of tune and neither should you!
- Using a sling to carry your baby benefits them due to the close contact between you both; it will help to soothe them as they will feel safe and secure. This feeling also helps their brain grow and develop.
- Play regularly, have fun and enjoy spending time together. Give your child your attention and try not to be distracted by other things. Set aside some one-on-one time, maybe to go for a walk or play a game together, even try some cooking. Try and remember that every child should feel like an only child, even if it is only for 15 mins a day.

To find out more about  
**'Encouraging your child's educational development',**  
**'Managing behaviour, from tots to teens' and 'Being a Step Parent'**  
just click on the following link: <https://families.barnardos.org.uk/families/dads>

## NEW SUPPORT GROUP FOR DADS



The group offers a safe and social space for dads to meet with other dads to share experiences, gain advice and find support.

There is no charge to join the group, which will meet at:

**Three Trees Community Centre**  
**Chelmsley Wood**

**B37 7TP**

**On a Monday evening from 7pm – 8.30pm**

To book on to the group, or for more information, contact:  
Andy Warmington: 07886271954 or [andy@inclusivesportsacademy.org](mailto:andy@inclusivesportsacademy.org)

**Dads Need 2 Talk**

**Why?**

- Suicide is the biggest cause of death in males under the age of 45
- 27% of all UK males are living with one of the common mental disorders
- 2.9 million males from the age of 16 have experienced some form of domestic abuse... however many cases go unreported, so it could be much higher.

**What can be offered:**

- ✓ Safe space to talk and share experiences
- ✓ Peer support and advice
- ✓ Access to mental health services
- ✓ Support to access other services
- ✓ Access to a range of resources

**Aims:**

- To provide a safe space for dads to talk and share experiences
- To provide peer support and advice
- To provide access to mental health services
- To provide support to access other services
- To provide access to a range of resources

For more information about the support available for parents in Solihull, please contact the parenting team via email to [bsmhft.parenting@nhs.net](mailto:bsmhft.parenting@nhs.net); by phone on 0121 301 2773; or by finding us on Facebook



ANTENATAL \* POSTNATAL \* UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD \* BEING A PARENT \* UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH





## STARS OF THE WEEK!

Congratulations to

Ivan W

in Reception

and Lilly S-L

in Year 6

We're all really proud of you.

This week's virtues awards were given to

Keesha M	Nursery
Daisy-Mae W	Reception
Roman-Ray F	Year 1
Taylor S	Year 2
Annaleigh H	Year 3
Amari H-P	Year 4
Jessica K	Year 5
Lilly-Mae M	Year 6

For being Eloquent and Truthful

### Attendance



Our school strives for 100% attendance. This week the class with the highest attendance was Year 3 with 91% *Well done!*

### Ready to learn Award



Congratulations, our most punctual class this week was Nursery and Year 5.

### Birthdays



Happy birthday this week to: Anna K-D, Ashton B, Ava B, Grayson G and Joseph D.

We would also like to wish a happy birthday to those children who celebrate their birthday during the half term: Lacey-Rai N, Dylan R, Marley-Rae R and Liam O'K.



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## Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*God of healing power, help us to see what is not right or fair in our world. Open our eyes to see the changes we can make so that everyone can have hope for a fairer future.*

In this Sunday's gospel, we hear about how Jesus helped a blind man called Bartimaeus to see again. Sometimes we see things that are not fair or right, but it can be a lot harder to see how to change these things.

**Gospel:** Mark 10:46-52

*They came to Jericho, and as Jesus was leaving with his disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus son of Timaeus was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus! Son of David! Take pity on me!"*

*Many of the people scolded him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, take pity on me!"*

*Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."*

*So they called the blind man. "Cheer up!" they said. "Get up, he is calling you."*

*He threw off his cloak, jumped up, and came to Jesus.*

*"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.*

*"Teacher," the blind man answered, "I want to see again."*

*"Go," Jesus told him, "your faith has made you well."*

*At once he was able to see and followed Jesus on the road.*

For those of us who are not blind or visually impaired, we might take our gift of sight for granted. We might not realise just how wonderful the trees, birds, flowers and people we see are, because we see them every day.

We might also have times when we try to ignore things that we see, or we pretend that we can't see them. For instance, we might pretend not to see the toys we have left scattered all over the floor when we are asked to tidy up. We might ignore the homeless person that we see asking for money.

Sometimes we know what we have seen isn't fair or right, but we don't know what to do about it. It can be easier to pretend that we haven't seen the problem than to work out what to do to make it better. We can all play a part in trying to build a fairer world, just as we did together during the Season of Creation. We can tell others and help them to see that there is a problem, but also that there are ways to make our world a fairer place. If we all work together, you and me, world leaders and big businesses, and people from all around the world, we will see what difference we can really make.



*Christ Jesus, help us to see what we can do to make a change, so that our world may be a fairer place for all. Amen.*

Wishing you all a lovely half term break.

*I. Gallagher*

Mr I. Gallagher  
Headteacher