



"I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said"  
Luke 1:38

This half term's virtues are:

Friday 18.03.22

*Intentional*

**and**

*Prophetic*

## A message from Mr Gallagher

Another lovely week at St John's, filled with hard work, fun and (mostly) sunshine!

Yesterday we celebrated the feast of St Patrick; wearing green to raise money for the people of Ukraine. Saint Patrick was born in England, but when he was a teenager, he was captured by Irish pirates who took him to Ireland as a slave. After six years, Saint Patrick escaped and returned to England and his family.

When Saint Patrick became a priest, he travelled back to Ireland as a missionary so that he could teach the people about God. He used examples to explain the mysteries of the faith in simple ways. Saint Patrick famously compared the Trinity to a shamrock. He said that the shamrock has three leaves, but it is only one plant. In the same way, God is three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - but one God.

God used Saint Patrick's kidnapping to convert the Irish people. In our lives, God uses the bad times to bring about a good we do not always see. We must be patient and trust Him and always try to look for good in others and in all situations.



Tennessee D from Reception in her splendid St Patrick's day outfit!

## RED Teds



We're very excited to announce that our RED Teds have arrived and are waiting patiently in my office, eager to befriend everyone in Early Years and Key Stage One, who show that they are reading every day.

Reading at home is one of the most important ways in which you can help your child. At school we can teach children the skills they need to decode words but to consolidate these skills and grow more confident they need lots of practice. Children who read with their parents/carers develop these skills much more quickly and develop a love of reading that can last a lifetime. At St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School we recognise the really important role parents/carers have and want to support this in every way we can, and we hope this scheme will really motivate children to read at home.

The scheme is very simple. All children have to do is read their **school reading book** at home and have their Reading Record Book signed by an adult. We recognise the importance of all reading experiences, like bedtime stories, but for the purposes of our scheme we only reward when children read their school reading book. The Reading Record book will be checked and a stamp given when a child has read at home 3 times (only one stamp will be given for 3 separate days, even if the book has been read more than once in a day). When children have received 8 stamps they will earn their first reward, a Red Ted teddy bear. They can then start working towards their next reward, a golden token which enables them to choose a book from our book vending machine and badges for their Red Ted bear.

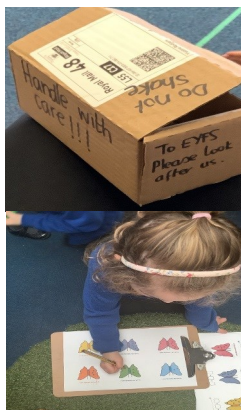
Our RED Teds are ready and waiting to make friends, so make sure you're reading every day!



# British Science Week

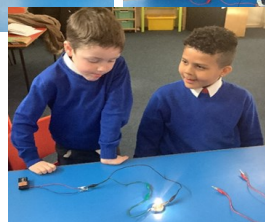
Early Years have had a very busy science week! We read the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and then received a special delivery of caterpillars.

We need to help care for them in our classroom whilst they grow. We can't wait to watch all four stages of their life cycle before we release them into the springtime weather! We have also made our very own mini beast area so we can observe lots of other interesting mini beasts!



Year 1 children have been learning the names of animals and their young. Sorting and grouping the different types of animals such as reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, fish and invertebrates. Through learning about what the different animals eat, the children now understand the difference between carnivore, herbivore and omnivore eating animals.

For Science Week, Year 2 have been learning about electricity. We have been constructing electrical circuits and investigating materials that make good electrical conductors and good insulators.



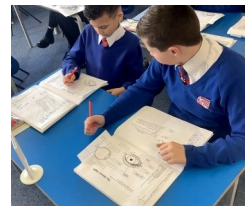
Year 3 dissecting a flower and labelling the parts of a plant



Year 4 have been learning about the water cycle. We used play dough to create our own water cycle and presented it to our class, making use of all of the scientific vocabulary we have learnt.



For our topic on Forces, Year 5 have worked all week to investigate friction using our shoes, air-resistance using paper spinners and buoyancy with classroom objects floating or sinking. We used I-pads to take timings, recorded data in tables and diagrams and related our work to the real world. We also watched Neil Armstrong dropping objects on the moon.



Year 6 had fun learning all about light.



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## Dates for your Diary

### Friday 8th April 2022

2.00pm - Break up for Easter Holiday

### Monday 25th April

8.55am - Children return to school

### Monday 2nd May 2022

All day - May Day Bank Holiday (school closed)

### Friday 27th May

2.00pm - Break up for May half term

### Tuesday 7th June 2022

8.55am - Children return to school

### Saturday 11th June 2022

11.00am - Holy Communion at St John's Church

### Wednesday 29th June 2022

7.00pm - Confirmation at Mother of God & Guardian Angels Church

### Inset Day

### Monday 6th June 2022

All day - Inset Day

### Online safety hero says...



Your children are growing up in a digital world which is an exciting and fun place that offers so many opportunities; but it can also be a scary and unsafe if you are shown how to use it safely. Try to look for the positives and the negatives of being online and support your child to make good choices so they can use the internet in a positive, safe and enjoyable way.

#digitalworld #excitingandfun  
#staysafe #usetheinternetpositively



## Sports Star of the Week



This week's Sports Star of the Week is Lilly S-L in Year 6 for great individual tennis skills.



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# Our Pope's Prayer Intentions

*March: A Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges*

*We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.*

## Lent - Family Activities

Week 4 of our Lent family activities.

**SCOTTISH SILENT SOCIETY**

**Wonder Walks**

**WEEK 4**

**1. Mark 6:32-34** NEW

'So, they went away by themselves in a boat to a quiet place. But many people who saw them leaving recognized them. They ran from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When Jesus came ashore, he saw a large crowd. He felt deep concern for them. They were like sheep without a shepherd. So, he began teaching them many things.'

**2.** Think of something e.g. an object, an animal, a person, a place and then describe it to the people you are walking with, without mentioning the name of that thing.

See how long it takes for someone to guess. Take turns to describe something.

After you have played the game chat about why you think the people recognised Jesus and his friends as they were leaving in their boat?

**3.** Pretend that one of you is a shepherd and the rest of you are sheep.

The person who is the shepherd must give the directions for the walk; you can swap over so that someone else gets a chance to be the shepherd.

After you have done this wonder together about why Jesus said the crowds were like 'sheep without a shepherd'?

**4.** Decide on an object that you see regularly on your walk e.g. a lamppost, a tree, a bin!

Every time you reach one of these things on your walk talk together about one of the 'many things' that Jesus might have taught the crowd that day.

How many can you think of? Which is your favourite?

You can walk anywhere! Just pick a local route, and follow activities 1-4

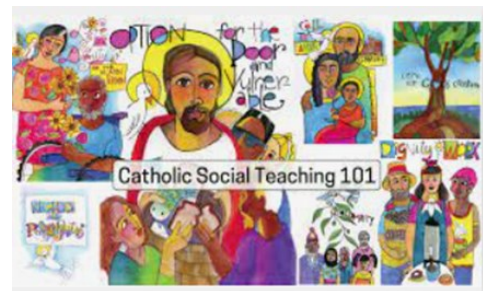
## Year 5 Fundraising

For part of our Catholic Social Teaching, we are intending to raise money to support those who are displaced.

The Year 5 children will be selling biscuits at morning break-time throughout next week. These will be 20p each.

All money will go towards helping those in need.

Thanks. (Mr Smith, Miss Lowe and Year 5)



There are still tickets left for the big shows at Solihull BookFest: a day for meeting your favourite authors, discovering new books and sparking young imaginations!

- **How to Grow A Unicorn** Illustrator Steven Lenton tells the story from the funny picturebook – and you can draw along and learn to sketch your own unicorns.
  - **Shakespeare's Stories** A gorgeous introduction to Shakespeare's best-loved characters. Illustrator James Mayhew paints scenes live on stage whilst pianist Alex Kirk plays famous music inspired by Romeo & Juliet and A Midsummer Night's Dream.
  - **Fantastically Great Women Artists and Their Stories** Kate Pankhurst uncovers the stories of talented artists in fun and fascinating detail. Perfect for young artists, boys and girls alike.
- It's all taking place at The Core Theatre on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March. **Tickets:** [www.solihullbookfest.com](http://www.solihullbookfest.com)



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# Class Activities - Early Years

EYFS have had a very busy week this week during science week and also celebrating St. Patrick's day. The children loved dressing up in green!

We learned all about St Patrick during our Godly play and retold the story of his life and call to be a saint using the resources.



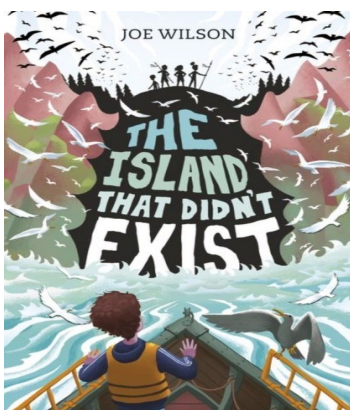
## Mr G's Recommended Reads

For our younger readers... 'Grandad's Island' by Benji Davies



At the bottom of Syd's garden, through the gate and past the tree, is Grandad's house. Syd can let himself in any time he likes. But one day when Syd comes to call, Grandad isn't in any of the usual places. He's in the attic, where he ushers Syd through a door, and the two of them journey to a wild, beautiful island, where Grandad decides he will remain. So, Syd hugs Grandad one last time and sets sail for home. Visiting Grandad's house at the bottom of the garden again, he finds it just the same as it's always been — except that Grandad isn't there anymore... A lovely story that can also help children come to terms with loss - done in a very sensitive manner. A beautiful reminder that our loved ones live on in our memories long after they're gone.

For our older readers...



'The Island that Didn't Exist' by Joe Wilson

When twelve-year-old Rixon's great-uncle leaves him an island in his will, Rixon can't quite believe it. Things get even more confusing when the mysterious island can only be located on a very ancient map, and only then by using a big magnifying glass. Does the island actually exist? And if so, does it really belong to him? There's only one thing for it. Rixon is going to have to go there and find it for himself. And what he finds when he gets there might just hold the key to the future of the planet: four children hidden away from society with an altogether different set of values. But soon Rixon is fighting for his own life, left in a cave with a rising tide, floating out to sea on a leaky inflatable and fending off the attacks of a multimillionaire tech giant and his super yacht.

Can Rixon keep the island's secrets? And will he even want to ...?



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## STARS OF THE WEEK!

Congratulations to

Jax R

in Year 1

and

Riley M

in Year 4

We're all really proud of you

This week's virtues awards were given to

Kyrie D

Nursery

Noah-Lee B

Reception

Natalia D

Year 1

Ara F

Year 2

Eloise M-S

Year 3

Lacey-Rai N

Year 4

Amelia E

Year 5

Joseph D

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 94.5% *Well done!*

### Ready to learn Award



Congratulations, our most punctual class this week was Year 1.

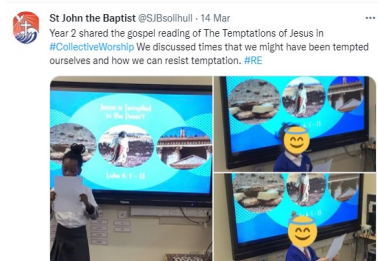
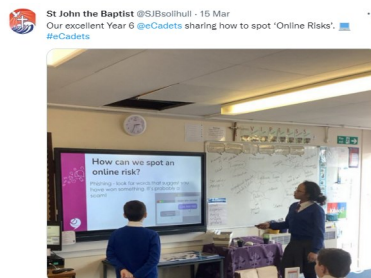
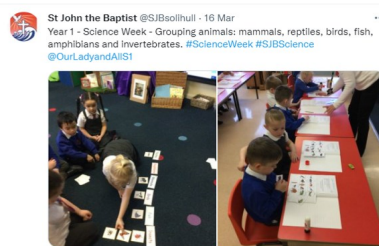
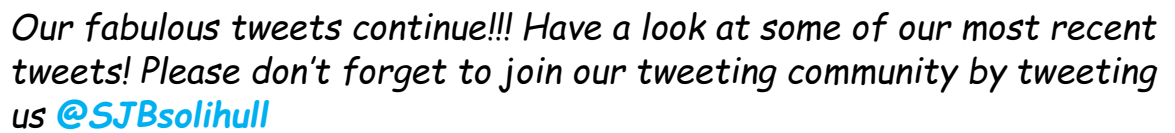
### Birthdays



Happy birthday this week to: No birthdays this week.



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## Third Sunday of Lent

*Forgiving God, we thank you for the love and care that you show for us all. Help us to grow in that love, and to do all that we can to help each other to live free from poverty and hunger. Amen.*

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus tells a story about a tree that did not bear any fruit and all the things that the gardener planned to try to make it grow better. People are like trees, they need certain things to grow and be healthy too.

**Gospel:** Luke 13:1-9

*At that time some people were there who told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices to God. Jesus answered them, "Because those Galileans were killed in that way, do you think it proves that they were worse sinners than all the other Galileans? No indeed! And I tell you that if you do not turn from your sins, you will all die as they did. What about those eighteen people in Siloam who were killed when the tower fell on them? Do you suppose this proves that they were worse than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No indeed! And I tell you that if you do not turn from your sins, you will all die as they did."*

*Then Jesus told them this parable: "There was once a man who had a fig tree growing in his vineyard. He went looking for figs on it but found none. So he said to his gardener, 'Look, for three years I have been coming here looking for figs on this fig tree, and I haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it go on using up the soil?' But the gardener answered, 'Leave it alone, sir, just one more year; I will dig round it and put in some manure. Then if the tree bears figs next year, so much the better; if not, then you can have it cut down.'"*

Just like the fig tree, people need the right conditions to live their lives well too. Everyone needs enough food and water to stay healthy and strong. How we treat other people can also help them to grow and develop or stop them from doing so. We all have a responsibility to look after each other: our friends, our family and even people that we haven't met around the world.

Even though there is enough food for everyone in the world, not everyone has enough to eat. Some of us don't have clean running water. Some of us don't have anywhere safe to live. Some of us don't have the chance to go to school. Some of us are treated badly because of what we look like, where we come from.

When the good things that God has given us are not shared fairly with everyone, those who do not have enough cannot grow and build a better future.

The fig tree in Jesus' story is supposed to share its fruit with the man who planted it, but it is not doing what it is supposed to. Sometimes we are a bit like the fig tree. We do not share as well as we could. God gives us the chance to change, to share what we have and to do all that we can to make sure that all people have the things that they need to live.



What will you do this Lent, to help make a change to our world?

*Creator God, you gave us a world full of wonderful things. May we share these fairly with each other so all people have the chance to grow and live happy lives. Amen.*

Have a lovely weekend.

*I. Gallagher*

Mr I. Gallagher  
Headteacher