



"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 14.10.22

Compassionate

and

Loving

### Catholic Social Teaching Focus

#### Option for the Poor and Vulnerable (linking to Harvest)

Option for the poor and vulnerable reminds us of God's preferential love for the poorest and most vulnerable people and the love we must show too. It is our duty as followers of Christ to help those who are less fortunate in any way we can. This can be through monetary contributions but also through time and acts of service.

*Focus Hymns – 'Lord of the Harvest' and 'Take Our Bread'*



This week has been centred around the UK tour of St Bernadette's relics.

As I mentioned last week, I visited St Chad's Cathedral, on Saturday, and took the opportunity to pray for all members of our school and parish community, while I was there.

Then on Monday, all of our children took part in a special livestreamed service from the Church of the Immaculate Conception, in Bicester. Beautiful music was provided by Dan and Emily from One Life Music to accompany the service which was led by our Archbishop. The time of prayer together included praying the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. It was so powerful to think

that our family of schools across the whole diocese were united in prayer together. A very moving occasion for everyone.

Behaviour in school this week has been excellent, our children really are living our school mission as we have seen so many acts of kindness both in classrooms and in the playground. These actions were also reflected as a theme across this week's Virtues Awards too. Well done children, keep working together to make our school a place of happiness.



# Class Activities - KS1

## Year 1

DT - Tasting smoothies: The children tasted different flavoured smoothies and tried to identify what fruits and vegetables they could taste.

Catholic Social Teaching: Taking care of God's creations. Year 1 decided they would like to look after the Church grounds and go litter-picking.

PE: Ball skills, learning to control the ball while catching, throwing, bouncing and travelling.

Math: We are working really hard with part, part, whole and addition work.

Well done Year 1, for being superstars!



## Year 2

We have had a super busy week in Year 2. In science we have been learning all about the circulatory system and how it works. In PE we really got our blood pumping when we were practicing our jumping skills.

We acted out the Gospel during Wednesday's collective worship and discussed the importance of saying 'please' and 'thank you'. In RE we wrote our own psalms thanking and praising God for His beautiful creations.

We have become poets in English - discussing rhythm and patterns in different poetry, sharing our own thoughts about poems and writing our own lines following the same rhythm and patterns in the poetry we have read.



## Our Pope's Prayer Intentions

### October

#### A Church Open to Everyone

We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.



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# Mr G's Recommended Reads

This week, as we're starting to see a change in the weather and the colour of leaves, my theme is Autumn.

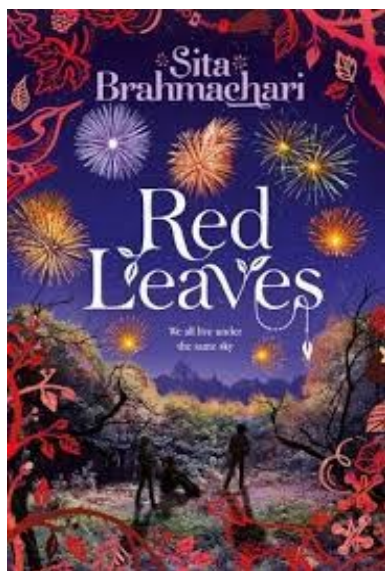
For our younger readers...



'Storm' by Sam Usher

A boy and his grandad decide it's the perfect weather for kite-flying. There's just one problem - first they have to find the kite. Their search brings up lots of wonderful memories of previous adventures together, but when they finally make it outside, their adventure really takes off!

For our older readers...



'Red Leaves' by Sita Brahmachari

Aisha is a thirteen-year-old refugee living in London. Happy for the first time since leaving her war-torn home, she is devastated when her foster mother announces that a new family has been found for her and she will be moving on. Feeling rejected and abandoned, Aisha packs her bags and runs away, seeking shelter in the nearby woods.

Meanwhile, a few doors down, twelve-year-old Zak is trying to cope with his parents' divorce. Living in a near-building site while the new house is being refurbished, he feels unsettled and alone. Discovering a piece of rubble with the original builder's signature set into it, he starts researching the history behind his home - and in doing so finds a connection with a young soldier from the past, which leads him to an old air-raid shelter in the same woods.

Both children, previously unknown to each other, meet in the heart of the ancient city woodland as they come into the orbit of Elder, a strange homeless woman who lives amongst the trees - and, as helicopters hover overhead and newspapers fill with pictures of the two lost children, unexpected bonds are formed and lives changed forever . . .



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## Dates for your Diary

Friday 21st October

3.15pm - Break up for October half term

Monday 31st October

8.55am - Children return to school

Friday 16th December

3.15pm - Break up for Christmas holiday

Wednesday 4th January

8.55am - Children return to school

Inset days 2022 - 2023

Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Monday 27th February 2023

Monday 5th June 2023

# National Online Safety

**What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FIFA 23**

FIFA 23, like its many predecessors, is a massively popular football simulator featuring lifelike recreations of thousands of real-world players, drawn from teams around the globe. While the gameplay is subtly improved year on year, the publisher EA Sports' tweaks tend to focus on FIFA Ultimate Team mode, which can tempt gamers of all ages to spend real money recruiting better players for their side. With each new release of FIFA, comes a host of new players to unlock – meaning that youngsters can feel pressured to keep buying to compete with their friends.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**RELEASE RAZZAMATAZZ**  
FIFA 23 will be the last in the EA Sports series until the EA Sports FC 24 release in the next season. This kind of rebranding is often used to encourage gamers to buy the new release, which can be a costly proposition. EA Sports FC 24 is expected to cost around £60, which is a significant amount of money for a game that is only available on consoles and PCs.

**AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CHAT**  
Based on a popular app, FIFA 23 features a chat system that allows players to communicate with each other. However, this chat system is not moderated, which means that players can be exposed to inappropriate language and behaviour. This is a particular concern for younger players, who may not be able to distinguish between real and virtual worlds.

**IN-GAME PROMOTIONS**  
Unless precautions are taken, children can be exposed to in-game promotions that encourage them to spend real money. These promotions can be disguised as rewards for playing the game, but they are often designed to lure players into spending money on virtual items.

**CIRCLING SCAMMERS**  
The popularity of FIFA Ultimate Team has led to a rise in online scams. Scammers often use social media or gaming forums to lure players into spending money on virtual items. They may offer to sell players rare or valuable items for a low price, but they are often trying to steal the players' money.

**ADDICTIVE NATURE**  
One reason FIFA is so popular is that it is highly addictive. The game features a variety of modes, including a career mode that allows players to manage a team over the course of a season. This can be very engaging, but it can also lead to addiction, which can have negative effects on a player's life.

**GAMBLING-ADJACENT BEHAVIOUR**  
Ultimate Team has become a popular way for players to collect and trade virtual items. This has led to a rise in gambling-like behaviour, as players often spend money on virtual items in order to win real money. This is a serious concern, as it can lead to financial problems and addiction.

**Advice for Parents & Carers**

**BE SELECTIVE WITH CHATS**  
It's enormous fun for FIFA players to chat online with friends, even as they compete in the game. It's important that you talk to your child about the risks of online chat, and that they only chat with people they know. You should also consider disabling chat in the game if you are concerned about your child's online safety.

**STAY ALERT FOR SCAMS**  
There are some key things to remember about potential FIFA scams. Firstly, EA never contacts users via any method other than email. If you receive an email from someone claiming to be EA, it is likely a scam. Secondly, never ask for a player's username or password outside the game itself. EA's Terms and Conditions state that the buying of FIFA coins, as anyone selling them should be treated as suspicious.

**CONTROL SPENDING**  
If your child plays Ultimate Team mode on FIFA, ensure their account isn't linked to your payment methods – so that if they need your permission to make in-game purchases. Alternatively, you could use parental controls to limit their spending. It's also a good idea to set up a separate bank account for your child, so that you can monitor their spending more closely.

**AVOID 'EXTRA TIME'**  
If your child is spending a lot of time on FIFA 23 and seems less interested in other activities in their life, you could consider restricting their play time. You could set a limit on how long they can play each day, or you could restrict their access to the game on weekends or during school holidays. It's important to remember that while FIFA is a fun game, it should not be a distraction from other important aspects of their life.

**Meet Our Expert**  
David Thompson is a former teacher and technology and entertainment writer. He has been working in the gaming media for many years, and is a frequent contributor to various gaming websites. He is also a parent, and has a keen interest in online safety. He has written many articles about online safety, and has been featured on various TV and radio programmes. He is a regular speaker at conferences and seminars, and is a member of several industry organisations.

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**NOS National Online Safety**

**#WakeUpWednesday**

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) [@nationalonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/nationalonlinesafety) [/nationalonlinesafety](https://facebook.com/nationalonlinesafety) [@nationalonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

## Sports Star of the Week

This week's Sports Star of the Week is Ashton B in year 2 for great team work in games.



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# World Mental Health Day 2022

The theme of World Mental Health Day is 'Make mental health and wellbeing for all a global priority.'

This week in school we created opportunities to highlight how important it is to look after our mental health and how important it is to talk about things and to get help if we are finding things difficult.

Thank you to Jane (Solihull Inclusion Support) and Andi (Mental Health Support Team) for taking the time to visit St John the Baptist School to explain the support that they can offer to our community.

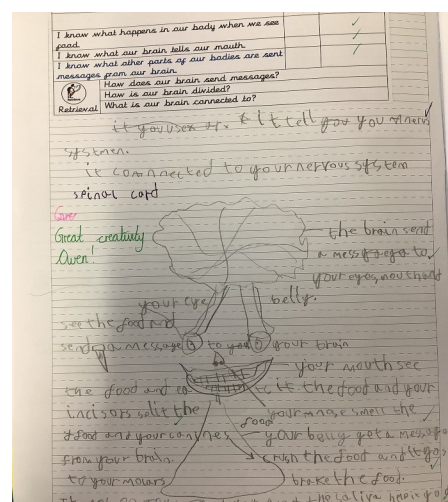
Thank you also to parents and carers for joining our 'Anxiety' information morning and for liaising with the Mental Health Support Practitioner during parents' evening. We hope that you found their information and support helpful.



## Science Superstars

This week, Year 3 continued to look at how our body sends messages. We got to eat some tasty apples, thinking about how these messages prepare our body for eating and digestion.

Next week we will be looking inside our body to see what happens when we eat!



## Household Support - October half term holiday 2022

A payment of £15 per child will be provided as food support for families in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, for the October half term holiday period.

Vouchers will be issued by the start of the holiday. Other support continues to be available to families. Details are available on the [Solihull Here2Help webpage \[link\]](#).



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## STARS OF THE WEEK!

Congratulations to

**Ayda-Grace C**

in

**Nursery**

and **Halina B**

in

**Year 5**

We're all really proud of you

This week's virtues awards were given to

Isla K	Nursery
Theo A	Reception
Sophie H	Year 1
Larcon-Jon B-H	Year 2
Laila L	Year 3
Miley M-D	Year 4
Lincoln C	Year 5
Nikita B	Year 6

For being Compassionate and Loving

### Attendance



Our school strives for 100% attendance. This week the class with the highest attendance was Year 4 with 98%. *Well done!*

### Ready to learn Award



Congratulations, our most punctual classes this week were Reception.



### Birthdays

Happy birthday this week to: Lennon K and Marley P.



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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

**Pinned Tweet**  
**St John the Baptist** @SJBsolihull · Jul 17, 2020  
If your child will be 3 before September we have space's available in our Nursery for mornings only or all day (if you qualify for 30 hours). Please get in touch if you'd like more information.



**St John the Baptist** @SJBsolihull · 1h

EYFS enjoyed learning the words of The Hail Mary. The children created a piece of art work to represent some of the words used and we shared this in a beautiful prayer service, using the illustrations as beads of the Rosary  
[#CatholicLife](#) [#CollectiveWorship](#) [#RE](#) @OurLadyandAllSt



**St John the Baptist** @SJBsolihull · 18h

Year 2 acted out the Gospel story of Jesus Heals Ten Men With Leprosy.  
[#CollectiveWorship](#) [#RE](#)



#### Who to follow



**Football on BT Sport**

@btsportfootball

The home of football on BT Sport

Follow



GuardianAngelsSch and St. Anne's C Primary follow



**Safetyseymour**

@safetyseymour

Carbon Monoxide Superhero! Check out my FREE visits to UK primary schools [bonanza-creative.org/primary](#)

Follow



**Stacey Soleil -Speaker | Writer | Brand Evangelist**

@staceysoleil

Head of Community & PR @Followupboss National Speaker & Trainer | WomanUP! Wavemaker | Inman Ambassador [#RealEstate](#) [#Marketing](#)

Follow



**St John the Baptist** @SJBsolihull · Oct 12

Our Year 1 children listened to the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers and talked about the importance of the words 'please' and 'thank you' during [#collectiveworship](#) They each thought about something they were thankful for. @OurLadyandAllSt [#RE](#) @BCPP\_



**St John the Baptist** @SJBsolihull · Oct 11

Yr3 thought about why it's important to say please and thank you after hearing the story of the ten lepers during [#collectiveworship](#). "It's polite" "Jesus said thank you to John the Baptist after he had been baptised". We thought about things we were thankful for @OurLadyandAllSt



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## Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*God of justice and wisdom, help us to keep on praying and never to doubt that you will be with us always*

In this Sunday's gospel, we hear about a bad judge and a widow who would not give up. And Jesus teaches us the importance of justice, of praying and of never giving up hope.

**Gospel:** Luke 18:1-8

*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to teach them that they should always pray and never become discouraged. "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. And there was a widow in that same town who kept coming to him and pleading for her rights, saying, 'Help me against my opponent!' For a long time the judge refused to act, but at last he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or respect people, yet because of all the trouble this widow is giving me, I will see to it that she gets her rights. If I don't, she will keep on coming and finally wear me out!'"*

*And the Lord continued, "Listen to what that corrupt judge said. Now, will God not judge in favour of his own people who cry to him day and night for help? Will he be slow to help them? I tell you, he will judge in their favour and do it quickly. But will the Son of Man find faith on earth when he comes?"*

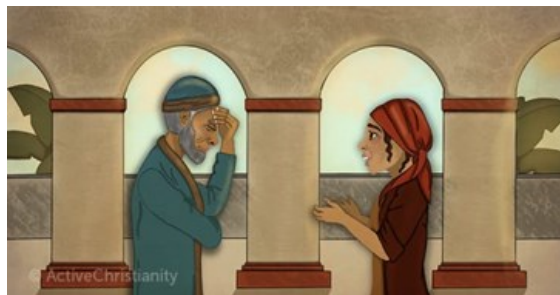
Jesus tells us a story about a bad judge and a widow who wants justice – who wants what is right.

Judges were supposed to be fair and honest, but this wasn't always the case. The prophets in the Bible were always getting angry with bad judges who thought more about themselves than about the people who needed their help. And if the judges didn't sort out the problems fairly then people would suffer again and again.

The widow was ignored by the law, but she didn't give up. She just kept asking the judge to make things right. Eventually, just to get rid of her, he gave her what she wanted, justice. Her prayers were finally answered.

The widow is like us - we call to God in our prayers to give us what we need and want.

Jesus says that God hears the cries of all who call out to him day and night. And God will certainly answer our prayers, even if it's not in the way that we expect. From this we should gain great comfort.



God who always hears us, help us to make a change when we see something that is not right in our world. May we find strength to keep going, even if at first we are not heard. Amen.

Have a lovely weekend.