



"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 21.10.22

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'



GOOD LUCK!

Today the St John's community said 'Good Bye and Good Luck' to Mr Smith who leaves us to start his retirement, this morning Mr Smith was treated to a 'This is Your Life' themed assembly! Where we all got to look back together at all the wonderful times throughout his years here and in his personal life.

Lexia-Rae H read a beautiful speech which really sums up the feelings of all our children and staff, that Mr Smith has been an inspirational teacher who will be missed so, so much. From the bottom of our hearts Mr Smith, we wish you a happy retirement full of new and exciting ventures!



Miss Jackson leaves us today to start her maternity leave, there really is no better gift than that of new life, and I am sure you will all join us in wishing Miss Jackson 'Good Luck' as she excitedly awaits the birth of her precious baby daughter.



Class Activities - KS2

This week, Year 3 welcomed parents and carers into school to join us for a Godly Play work shop.

Children and adults worked alongside each other, exploring the parable of the Lost Son. They thought carefully about the meaning behind this parable and how forgiveness was shown. They then reflected on what that meant in their own lives.



The Year 4 Prayer and Liturgy Parent workshop was so such a lovely time to invite our families back into our classroom. The children worked with their adults to create special Our Lady prayer bags. They took them home to set up a prayer service with their families.



Year 5 were so lucky this week that we have had the opportunity to do our bikeability course! The children loved taking part and we now know how to be safe riding on the road!

We also had a beautiful prayer service led by Samuel and Olly based around the Rosary. We said a decade of the Rosary focussing on the glorious mysteries.



Year 6 have been learning walking fingers. They have been learning how to play F sharp too!



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.

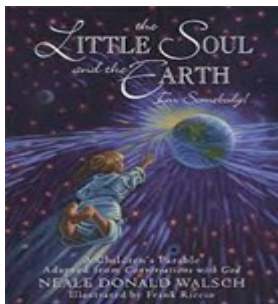


Our Lady and All Saints
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Mr G's Recommended Reads

This week, due to the obvious change in season, I've selected two books that consider how nature and our surroundings help us to develop our spirituality.

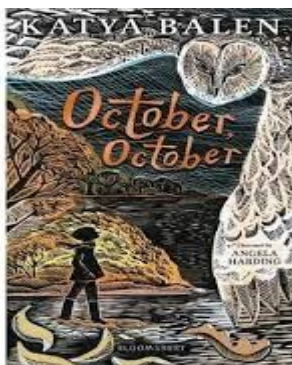
For our younger readers...



'Little Soul and the Earth' by Neale Donald Walsch

The Little Soul and the Earth is a delightful, vividly told and illustrated tale. It exemplifies the vital truth that God is with us always, no matter where our own adventures lead and no matter how many times we may forget that truth. Gently reminding us that beauty and love are all around, the world of the joyous Little Soul is a place your child will want to visit again and again.

For our older readers...



'October, October' by Katya Balen

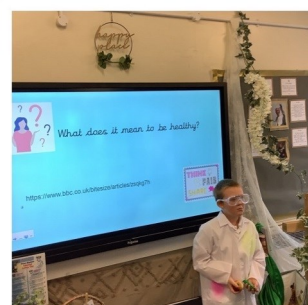
October and her dad live in the woods. They know the trees and the rocks and the lake and stars like best friends. They live in the woods and they are wild. And that's the way it is.

Until the year October turns eleven. That's the year October rescues a baby owl. It's the year Dad falls out of the biggest tree in their woods. The year the woman who calls herself October's mother comes back. The year everything changes.

This book is a feast for the senses, filled with the woodsmoke smell of crisp autumn mornings and the sound of wellies squelching in river mud. And, as October fights to find the space to be wild in the whirling chaos of the world beyond the woods, it is also a feast for the soul.

Science Superstars

The children have been fantastic this half term investigating so many intriguing questions about the Human Body. They loved coming up with their scientist names for their turn as super scientist of the week.



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Dates for your Diary

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 SENDIT

Sendit is an add-on to Snapchat, not a standalone app. It requires users to have an active Snapchat account, which they then connect to Sendit. It's important that trusted adults realise, therefore, that any risks associated with Snapchat also affect children using Sendit. Within the app, people play question games like 'Truth or Dare' and 'Never Have I Ever'; users select a question to share on their Snapchat story for their friends to reply to. All responses are anonymous, although – for paying subscribers – Sendit reveals hints about who sent which messages.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ANONYMOUS RESPONSES**
Anonymity online encourages people to say things and act in ways that they wouldn't in real life. It's harder to track who sent a message. Research has highlighted that children perceive anonymous messages as being more credible than if the same message had come from a friend. Any app that lets children communicate anonymously should be treated with caution.
- MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT**
Categories of questions such as 'Ask for something' or 'Rate me' – coupled with the app's anonymity – mean there is a likelihood of some friends or strangers (if the account is set to public) responding in a negative manner. These critical comments, especially if there are several in total, can be very harmful to the mental health of young people, leading to self-harm and affecting their mental health.
- MEMBERSHIP COSTS**
Currently costing £4.49 per week, Sendit's booming membership offers clues about who sent a particular message, such as their approximate location, the type of phone used and any mutual friends. Membership also provides exclusive games and an ad-free experience. Young people may well be curious to find out who certain messages are from and therefore sign up for membership.
- BULLYING AND HARASSMENT**
Open-ended questions which allow personal info to be shared, such as 'What's your favourite food?' or 'What's your favourite colour?' are all opportunities for malicious bullying and harassment. Additionally, hidden and locked icons hide behind the anonymity that Sendit offers, leaving more powerful and able to intimidate their friends with their comments, texts, hurt, victimised and helpless.
- POSSIBLE GROOMING**
If your child doesn't have their Snapchat account set to private, or they have previously added strangers as friends, there is a possibility of predators responding to their Sendit questions. They do this in an attempt to gather information about your child – or to make a friendship with them, which could lead to them being groomed or exploited in the future.
- REPEATED ENGAGEMENT**
On Sendit, users receive trophies for receiving a particular number of questions and for posting their own. This means a young person could become a young person to be active on Sendit more frequently, spending more time on their phone or tablet as they may naturally want to collect all of the trophies or might be competing with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- ENCOURAGE EMPATHY**
If your child has already downloaded Sendit, it might be wise to have a discussion with them about the impact that being anonymous online could have on others. Encourage them to think about how they would feel if they were on the receiving end of a particular comment. Reminding them to stop and re-read messages before sending could reduce the number of regrettable situations.
- TALK IT OVER**
Before allowing a young person onto a social networking app, it's a good idea to talk with them about the possibility of being cyber-bullied. Explain that not everyone online is nice; that people often say things they don't mean; and that posts get visible pretty quickly. Teach your child not to reply to any offensive users on Sendit and simply block instead. Tell them the three dots in the top right of the screen.
- BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES**
If you do allow your child to use Sendit, you might want to consider talking to them in advance about whether they really need it. Remind them that if they are on the receiving end of a particular comment, reminding them to stop and re-read messages before sending could reduce the number of regrettable situations.
- ONLY PLAY WITH FRIENDS**
Have the reassurance of your child playing Sendit games only with their close friends and not having strangers on their contacts list. This should help to keep the nature of the questions sign-based – and if the games are being played among a small group, it will be easier for the responses to figure out who gave certain answers if someone's been left feeling hurt or uncomfortable by any responses.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutcliffe is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Sports Star of the Week

This week's Sports Star of the Week is Liam O'K in year 3 for a great term in PE.



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PERCY THE PARK KEEPER

HALF TERM FAMILY FUN AT THE GARDENS



 **Sat 22nd – Sun 30th**
EVERY day, 10.30 – 4.30

  Castle Bromwich
Historic Gardens
B36 9BT

 **Children £2**
Adults £5/£4.50

IDEAL FOR AGES 2-11
Lots of free activities included with entry fee
Plus bookable nature sessions
More details overleaf

 **Check website here**

Follow Percy's new story trail adventure



A great place to run around and let off steam in the autumn sunshine.
Explore the Percy the Park Keeper activity trail to discover more about the gardens and nature.

Attendance



Our school strives for 100% attendance. This week the class with the highest attendance was Year 2 with 93.9%. *Well done!*

Ready to learn Award



Congratulations, our most punctual classes this week were Year 6..

Birthdays



Happy birthday this week to: Harley C-H, Ashton B, Ava-Rose B, Grayson G, Anna K-D, Jax R, Kelsey H and Amari H-P.

We would also like to wish a happy birthday to those children who celebrate their birthday during the half term break: Dexter C, Marley-Rae R and Lacey-Rai N.



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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

St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · 16h
In the Year 4 #Burgandprayer Workshop, Kushell and his Mom created this beautiful image of @OurLady. In this special month of the Rosary may we give thanks for our own Mothers. May Mary our Mother bless them all! 🙏
#CatholicLife #SJBFamily @OurLadyandAllSaints @BCPP...



Who to follow

- stgandtschool and 12 others follow
Father Hudson's @FatherHudsons Follows you
We provide services and local projects that offer support, advice & care to some of the most vulnerable people in society.
- Pope Francis and 3 others follow
Papa Franciscus @Pontifex_in
Tuus adventus in paginam publicam Papae Francisci breviloquentis optatissimus est.
- stgandtschool and 13 others follow
Cardinal Nichols @CardinalNichols
Cardinal Vincent Nichols is Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster @westminster & President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales @catholicuk

St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Oct 19
After her Year 4 Prayer and Liturgy parent workshop, Destiny is at home using her prayer bag she created to say the Hail Mary with her family before bed. #PrayerandLiturgy #CatholicLife #SJBFamily @OurLadyandAllSaints @BCPP...



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · 16h
Our Year 4 artists have been busy painting and annotating their work. They have developed a love for water colours. #Lightanddark #SJBWeAreArtists #GodGivenTalents @OurLadyandAllSaints @NationalGallery



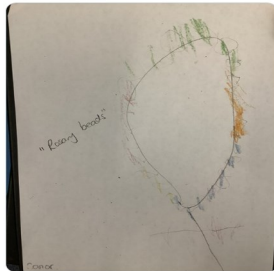
St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Oct 19
After her Year 4 Prayer and Liturgy parent workshop, T is straight home using her prayer bag she created to pray the Holy Rosary with her family. #PrayerandLiturgy #CatholicLife #SJBFamily @OurLadyandAllSaints @BCPP...



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Oct 19
Our Year 4 Prayer and Liturgy parent workshop happened today! It was so wonderful to welcome our families into our classroom. The children created their own Prayer and Liturgy bags to take home. #CatholicLife #CollectiveWorship #SJBFamily @OurLadyandAllSaints @BCPP...



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Oct 19
Conor has been learning about the special Rosary beads in nursery. He independently went and drew his own special rosary today! What a beautiful way to use his #GodgivenTalents. #RE @CatholicLife #SJBFamily @OurLadyandAllSaints @BCPP...



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Oct 19
It was wonderful to welcome our Year 3 parents into school today to work alongside the children. We explored the parable of the Lost Son through Godly Play and everyone had a great morning. Thank you to all who attended! #RE @OurLadyandAllSaints



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Oct 19
During #collectiveworship the children in Year 1 have been using the Rosary beads. They thought about ways that they could open up their heart to God. #RE @OurLadyandAllSaints @BCPP...



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Oct 19
Children in Year 3 leading the Rosary prayers as part of our #collectiveworship this week. #RE @OurLadyandAllSaints @BCPP...



You Retweeted
Catholic Church @catholicEW · Oct 16
For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. 1 Corinthians 3:9
#GodWhoSpeaks #Scripture #BibleVerse #God #BibleVerses



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Oct 16
Great to see 2 of our past pupils doing so well! Good luck in the next round @JHNOCC_Solihull

John Henry Newman Catholic College @JHNOCC_Solihull · Oct 16
Year 7 - Smithwood Academy 0-3 JHNOCC
After great win against Smithwood, they face Handsworth GS in the next round of the Birmingham Cup. A big thank you to Mr Stokes and Mr Clarke for the time they have committed to support the team.



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Oct 16
Our Year 4 class were lead in prayer. These boys show such strong faith and encourage prayer to their classmates. #JHNOCCtheRosary #Collectiveworship #SJBFamily #RE @OurLadyandAllSaints @BCPP... @Pontifex



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Oct 16
In such a special month of the Rosary the Year 4 children used their #GodgivenTalents to make their own rosary beads. They made their own and made more for other special people to them in our school. #CatholicLife #SJBFamily #RE @OurLadyandAllSaints @BCPP...



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Oct 16
Our #Year4 children are using their God given talents to read. They really have a love for reading 📖 @OurLadyandAllSaints @EmsBeauBooks #SJBEarlyReaders



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Merciful God, you know us through and through, and you forgive us when we have done wrong. Help us to know when we have made a mistake and to come to you with them in prayer each day.

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus tells us a story about a Pharisee and a tax collector which teaches us how to pray and have a good heart.

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Jesus also told this parable to people who were sure of their own goodness and despised everybody else. "Once there were two men who went up to the Temple to pray: one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood apart by himself and prayed, 'I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, or an adulterer, like everybody else. I thank you that I am not like that tax collector over there. I fast two days a week, and I give you a tenth of all my income.'

But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even raise his face to heaven, but beat on his breast and said, 'God, have pity on me, a sinner!' I tell you," said Jesus, "the tax collector, and not the Pharisee, was in the right with God when he went home. For those who make themselves great will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be made great."

Through this parable, Jesus wanted the Pharisees (religious leaders) and us, to understand that the things we say when we pray are not as important as what is in our hearts, what we're thinking and feeling deep down.

The Pharisees thought that the way to enter God's Kingdom was by keeping a lot of rules and making new rules. They thought that all the people who didn't keep their rules were bad and unacceptable to God.

Rules are here to guide us and help us not to hurt ourselves or others. Rules should help us to keep ourselves safe and to think about what other people need. Yet there is something wrong with thinking that we are better than other people just because we keep the rules. We all do things wrong sometimes. We need to own up, say sorry and accept that although others are different to us, they are still loved by God.

This week try not to judge others just because they are different to you. Try to treat all people you meet with kindness and respect.



All-powerful God, help us to know when we are being proud or when we have forgotten to be forgiving towards others. Help us to do what is pleasing to you. Amen.

Wishing you all a lovely half-term break!