



"The word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us"
John 1:14

This half term's virtues are:

Friday 04.11.22

Faith-Filled

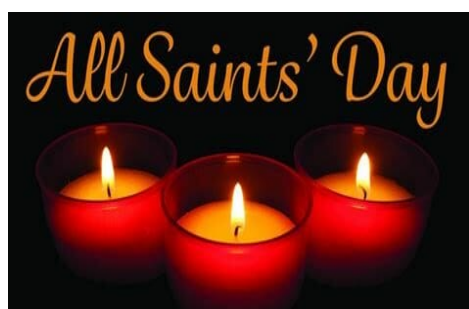
and

Hopeful

Rights and Responsibilities (linking to Mary and Joseph having to travel to Bethlehem and being displaced and International Migrants day 18.12)

All God's people have the right to food, work, clothes, a home, school and medical care. These 'rights' are things that every person on earth needs in order to live a full life. But many people do not have them. Jesus wants people who enjoy these rights to help their sisters and brothers obtain their rights. It is not enough to feel badly for others. Jesus says it is our responsibility to see that everyone receives his or her rights.

Focus Hymns – 'Were you there?' and 'When I Needed a Neighbour'



Another busy week at St. John's; the half term break seems like a distant memory. We attended Mass as a whole school on the Solemnity of All Saints and have reflected on the role models that the saints constantly provide for us, throughout the week.

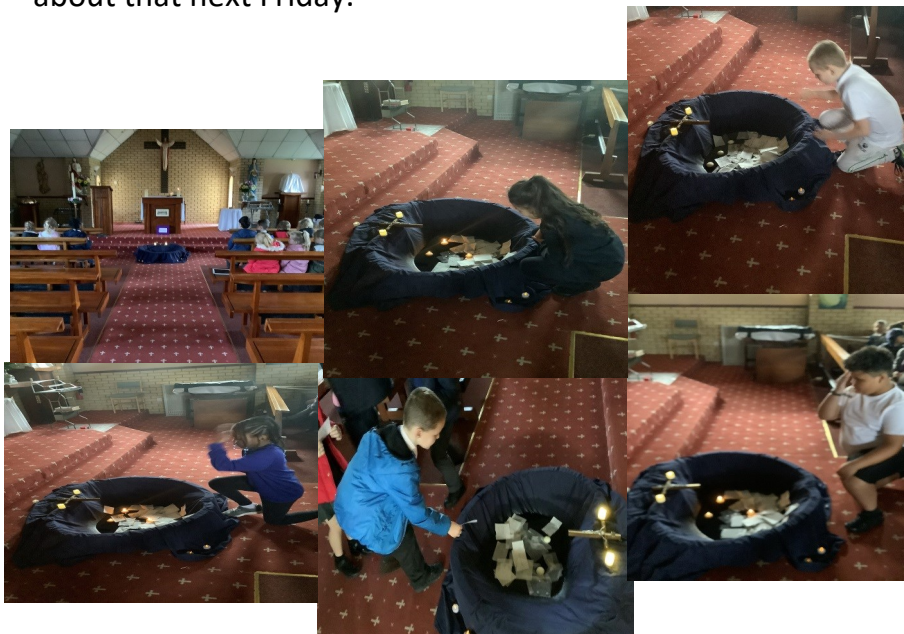
Next week, we have a special focus on Catholic Social Teaching as Sister Eleanor, from CAFOD will be leading a series of workshops in each class. We'll have lots to share about that next Friday.

All Souls' Day

For All Souls' Day, the children visited church to send prayers to heaven for lost loved ones.

They wrote the names of their dearly departed on paper and watched them disappear whilst they said a prayer.

It was very special and a lovely way for our children to remember their lost loved ones.



Class Activities - Early Years

This week EYFS have enjoyed learning about Diwali. They have listened to and retold the story of Rama and Sita, created their own Rangoli patterns and joined in with a Diwali dance. Staff even dressed up to support their learning.

To end the week children enjoyed toasting marshmallows around the campfire




Science Superstars

This week Year 5 have been learning about the life and work of Mary Anning a famous palaeontologist. Therefore, we decided to become fossil hunters!

We collected some fossil sample and used our investigation skills to predict what creature we thought created them.


Which fossil is this?

Use your hand lens or magnifier to carefully record your observations about the fossil by looking at each specimen in detail. Use this table to record your findings.

Diagram of fossil	What parts of the original animal or creature can you see?	Is the fossil layered? How many layers? Does it have separate parts?	What type of animal or plant created this fossil?
	I can see the lines of the arm of the starfish.	Yes the fossil has 2 layers. I think it has about 2 separate parts.	The fossil is a starfish.
The fossil was a Rhipid			

Which fossil is this?

Use your hand lens or magnifier to carefully record your observations about the fossil by looking at each specimen in detail. Use this table to record your findings.

Diagram of fossil	What parts of the original animal or creature can you see?	Is the fossil layered? How many layers? Does it have separate parts?	What type of animal or plant created this fossil?
	I think it's an ammonite's shell/helix or a bivalve from a diatom or a bivalve/diatom.	I think there is 1 layer and I think there is 1 layer. I don't think there's separate layers.	I think a bivalve created this.
Echinoid			



Our Pope's Prayer Intentions November

Children Who Suffer

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.



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Mr G's Recommended Reads

This week, I've chosen the theme of Bonfire Night...

For our younger readers...

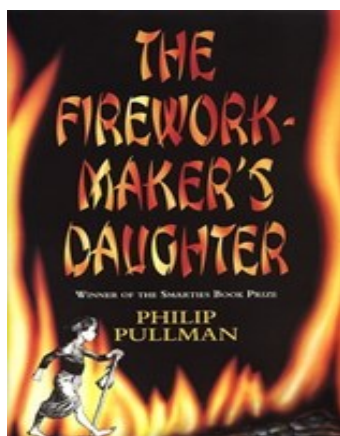
'Bonfire Night' by Eliza Berison



Bonfire Night is a story about a family celebrating the joy of Bonfire Night together. In a world where families are often split apart by many miles, this story shows how families can share times together from very far away. Because a family is a family after all.

For our older readers...

'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman



Lila wants to be a Firework-Maker! But firework-making is not just about being able to make Crackle-Dragons and Golden Sneezes. There is also one special secret: every Firework-Maker must make a perilous journey to face the terrifying Fire-Fiend!

Not knowing that she needs special protection to survive the Fire-Fiend's flames, Lila sets off alone. Her friends, Chulak and Hamlet - the King's white elephant - race after her. But can they possibly reach her in time?



Thank You! - Harvest Donations

To the students, parents & staff at

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Thank You

for collecting donations for

**SIFA
fireside**

at Harvest Festival 2022

Your donations will allow us to serve breakfast
and lunch at our Drop In centre for homeless
and vulnerable people in Birmingham

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

The response to our Harvest donation was absolutely amazing and we would like to say a big 'thank you' to all who donated.

Some of the food has already been taken to SIFA, as pictured they have also sent their appreciation. The remaining food was donated earlier today to Kingfisher who of course were equally appreciative.

Your donations will make a huge difference to the people who access these services and again, we thank you for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

We are extremely pleased to announce that we will be holding our Christmas Fayre this year on Friday 9th December. Our Christmas Fayre has always been a fantastic opportunity for the St John's Community to come together to celebrate Christmas.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Christmas
DINNER

Children will have the chance to enjoy a delicious Christmas dinner on Wednesday 14th December, on offer will be a traditional turkey dinner or a vegetarian option along with desert. The price of a school meal is £2.30 for children in Year 3 to 6, and £2.15 for children in nursery. Please note, there will not be a cost if your child is free school meal entitled.



School Photographer

School photographs will take place on Wednesday 23rd November, Parents/Carers wishing to have family photographs will need to arrive at school for 8.40am please.



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Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 23rd November

8.40am - School Photographs

Thursday 24th November

6.30pm - Year 6 Confirmation

Friday 9th December

3.15pm - Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 14th December

School Christmas Dinner

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

AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls; essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION
While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a cause for concern for parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT
Within minutes of signing up for our trial at Amigo, users of the app have received suggestive statements such as "You're lucky babe" and "I've been thinking about you". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take these relationships in more mature and explicit directions.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS
Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to buy a VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. Charges can also be used to "boost" a user's profile, which allows them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION
Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. However, as a young person could simply sign up using a false date of birth, the app's algorithm claims to make users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a false age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE
Amigo gets virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 15 seconds. While there are daily rewards for posting comments, sending a video, getting likes or simply opening the app, it also encourages increasing intimacy between users. Once someone's online friendship reaches intimacy level 5, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MONITOR DOWNLOADS
As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they're enjoying doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they're installing. The strict option could be to enable "ask to buy" (Android) or "purchase approval" (iOS) on their device, meaning your authorization is needed to download any apps.

RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS
Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of creating a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS
Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whenever communication goes bad, Amigo users must sure they're all aware that they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

ACTIVE LISTENING
If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the feasible solutions. This empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Fetherston 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 concerning internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nator@nesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.11.2022



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National School Meals Week

7th – 11th November 2022

What's on?

Join us to celebrate National School Meals Week

Your Kitchen Team are pleased to offer you the following delicious food choices:

Monday – All Day Breakfast  **Vegetarian All Day Breakfast** 

Tuesday – Ham & Cheese Pinwheel  **Tomato Pasta Bake** 

Wednesday – Roast Beef & Gravy  **Omelette**  **or Fishcake**

Thursday – Sweet & Sour Chicken  **Cheesy Jackets** 

Friday - Fish Fingers  **Cheese and Tomato Pizza** 



Attendance



Our school strives for 100% attendance. This week the class with the highest attendance was Year 1 with 100%. *Well done!*

Ready to learn Award



Congratulations, our most punctual classes this week were Reception, Year 2, Year 4 & Year 6.

Birthdays



Happy birthday this week to: Liam O'K, Dolly-Mae W, Brooke F, Owen H, Kayden C and Erik K-D.



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Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

God of heaven and earth, your Kingdom has room for us all. May we see each other through your eyes.

In this Sunday's gospel, we hear how a group of religious leaders try to catch Jesus out but he shows them and us a different way of thinking.

Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

Then some Sadducees, who say that people will not rise from death, came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, Moses wrote this law for us: 'If a man dies and leaves a wife but no children, that man's brother must marry the widow so that they can have children who will be considered the dead man's children.' Once there were seven brothers; the eldest got married and died without having children. Then the second one married the woman, and then the third. The same thing happened to all seven—they died without having children. Last of all, the woman died. Now, on the day when the dead rise to life, whose wife will she be? All seven of them had married her."

Jesus answered them, "The men and women of this age marry, but the men and women who are worthy to rise from death and live in the age to come will not then marry. They will be like angels and cannot die. They are the children of God, because they have risen from death. And Moses clearly proves that the dead are raised to life. In the passage about the burning bush he speaks of the Lord as 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' He is the God of the living, not of the dead, for to him all are alive."

In today's story, we hear how the Sadducees asked Jesus a question. The Sadducees were a group of religious leaders who were from rich families, and they did not believe in resurrection - that people would be raised from the dead to be with God in heaven after they had died.

The religious leaders asked Jesus a question to trap him, to catch him out. They asked him about who a woman would be married to in heaven, if she had been married seven times in her life. But Jesus says that in heaven everything is different from on earth.

He is showing us that our rules only go so far and that his Kingdom is bigger than this world. If we believe in Jesus we see things differently, we see people differently and we act differently. Because we believe that all people are special and loved by God.

This week can you make sure you treat everyone fairly and with respect, whether they are a boy or a girl, no matter what colour they are or where they come from? If we all treat each other fairly and as we would like to be treated, perhaps we can start to reflect a little bit of God's Kingdom here on earth.



God of heaven and earth, in this life and the next you are with us. Thank you for protecting us and guiding us as we journey towards you. Amen.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.