



This half term's virtues are:

Friday 16.12.22

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'

We find ourselves at the end of the first term of this academic year and what a busy term it has been! We finally held our 'Our Lady and All Saints MAC' launch Mass and have introduced our 'We Are All Saints... Children's Charter.'

We have been thrilled to see so many parents and carers invited back into school for a variety of workshops, including: an Early Years nursery rhyme workshop; a Year 1 workshop with the theme of St Nicholas; workshops in Year 4 examining varied representations of Our Lady and a design and technology themed afternoon too. Lastly, our Confirmandi had the chance to complete their Confirmation preparation, in school, with their family members by making some beautiful banners.

Our Confirmation Mass was a wonderful representation of our Faith and an event where all the children did us proud.

We have further increased our focus on Catholic Social Teaching and welcomed Sister Eleanor from CAFOD to lead CST workshops in every class. And last but certainly not least, we had our Catholic Schools Inspectorate Inspection, the outcomes of which confirm what a wonderful school community we have. The report, which is now on our website, clearly celebrates the hard work and expertise of all of our staff and highlights the exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm shown by all of our children. I am extremely proud and thankful to be part of St John's and to work alongside such wonderful and talented people.

Anyway, after all that, it's definitely time for a rest before we start all over again in January!

May I take the opportunity, on behalf of everyone at St John's, to wish you a very holy, happy and healthy Christmas.

Let's take some time, particularly after the week's tragic events, to appreciate and celebrate those around us, even if this year we may be struggling to afford to celebrate in the way that we would wish.





Father Hudson's Care (a local charity based in Coleshill) were recently contacted by the supermarket chain Aldi to ask whether they would be interested in a donation of reading books for school children – needless to say they agreed that they would be!

The idea behind this donation of books was from Marcus Rashford MBE (Manchester United & England footballer) who wanted to get 100,000 school children reading over the summer. Marcus teamed up with Aldi to set this campaign rolling – he arranged for 100,000 copies of his book 'The Breakfast Club Adventures – The Beast Beyond The Fence' to be given to Aldi for them to then share within the local community and as a charity that works

closely with Aldi in Coleshill they contacted Father Hudson's.

The books are ideally for ages 8-11 so they are really for junior school children in Years 3-6.

Father Hudson's staff members Andrew Penny (Registered Manager, Domiciliary Care) and Paul Reynolds (New Routes Fostering) have been contacting local schools to offer them copies of the book – they have already given out over 7000 books to schools in the Coleshill, Water Orton, Kingshurst, Smiths Wood, Castle Bromwich, Bromford and Shard End areas. In total, Father Hudson's have distributed over 10,000 copies of the book to various schools and projects.

Your school were keen to receive a supply of the books and we are grateful that you were able to accommodate us and agree to a photo being taken of your school receiving the books.

We hope that your children enjoy reading their copy.

Science Superstars

This half term Year 5 have been investigating materials. We have looked at temperature, magnetism, transparency and separating materials. Well done Year 5!



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Christmas Festivities!



Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre was a great success, not only did it provide an opportunity for us to come together as a community, but thanks to the generosity of our families, we raised £763 for our school! Pictured are Year 4 children who raised £56.40 which they will use to buy a coat for their donkey, Shocks! Thank you again for your contributions and to staff and PTFA who worked so hard to organise the Fayre.



Christmas Meal

On Wednesday, staff and children enjoyed a delicious Christmas meal cooked by our catering team. Thank you to the team for cooking such a scrumptious meal.

Christmas Treats!

Mr Gallagher and Mrs Dixon have been treating all staff this week to hot chocolate and scrumptious bacon baps! Thank you both, this really helped spread the Christmas joy !



Christmas Sing-a-Long!

Children and staff joined in the hall this morning to have a good old Christmas Sing-a-Long! What a great way to celebrate the start of our Christmas holiday.



Headlines

weekly bulletin for school leaders



Special Edition

14 December 2022

Colleagues

The events on Sunday at Babbs Mill in Kingshurst have left us all shaken and deeply saddened. Our hearts go out to the family and friends of those children who sadly lost their lives.

We have been working with those schools directly involved and with the wider community of schools to try to support our colleagues to support the families of Kingshurst.

As we move towards the end of term and schools close for the Christmas period, we want to ensure that children and their families know where to find support and are able to grieve and process these events.

It is so important that children are supported in the right way and at the right time and the educational psychology service have been working with those directly and indirectly involved with the incident. There may be children and families in your school who are also needing extra attention and support right now.

[Winstons Wish-0163-schools-info-pack.pdf](#)

[Support following a bereavement.pdf](#)

[A Guide for education staff following a serious traumatic event.pdf](#)

[A Guide for parents relatives and friends following a serious traumatic event.pdf](#)

We are attaching some information and resources from the educational psychology service which you may like to use with your pupils both before the end of term and also after the Christmas break. There is information and resources for you to use in school and also to share with your parents/carers and support is being offered from Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust. Details are below.

[BSMHFT Press Release \(003\)TH2.docx](#)

Many of you already work with Kooth and Ordinary Magic who are also extending offers of support during this difficult time and their information is also attached.

[Support Flyer - Schools.pdf](#)

[Significant Incident Resource Students U18.pdf](#)

[Significant Incident Resource EducationStaff U18.pdf](#)

There is a wealth of information about where people can get advice and support with mental health and bereavement on the Here2Help pages on the [Council website](#).

If you have any issues accessing these resources, please email edims@solihull.gov.uk and we will email them to you.



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Babbs Mill Lake



Helplines if you need support

Birmingham Mind 24/7 0121 262 3555


Solihull Mind 0121 742 4941

Cruse Bereavement Support Birmingham 0121 687 8010

Living Well UK 0121 663 1217

Samaritans 24/7 116 123

Text SHOUT to 85258 For Text Support

 mind Birmingham



Whole School Mass

We prayed in whole school mass for all the children and their families.

May God hold them in the palms of his hands.



Our Pope's Prayer Intentions

December

Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



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A Guide for Parents, Relatives and Friends following a serious traumatic event

What can we say to our children?

Helping children cope with their feelings.

Some of the ideas given below can be shared with your children and might help them understand their feelings a little better. It will be important to express these ideas in words the child will understand.

- This was a terrible event and what you are feeling is quite normal.
- In the early stages you may have been in shock and felt confused and helpless. You may also have felt fear and sadness.
- As you thought about what happened you may have felt angry with yourself, with the school or with others. You may even have felt guilt and shame.
- Often physical reactions follow such events e.g tiredness, sleeplessness, bad dreams, headaches and short temper.
- Try not to bottle up your feelings. Your feelings are important to others. Crying is natural and often gives relief.
- As well as talking, be ready to listen to others.
- You may need to have time on your own for private thoughts- explain to your family and friends they will understand.
- Accidents are more likely to occur when you are under stress, please be careful and take your time.

WHERE YOU CAN GET HELP

Children's reactions to what has happened will vary a great deal. For some, the feelings of distress will be short lived as they and the people around them gradually adjust to the tragedy. For others, the reaction may be more severe and long-lasting. There will also be those who seem to have recovered but who will begin to suffer later on.

Some children and their parents might benefit from talking to someone outside the family.

All those involved in the incident will have been affected in some way, though each person's experience of the event will be personal and therefore different.

As an adult, you may have thoughts and feelings which you have not experienced before. Children are likely to experience similar kinds of thoughts and feelings.

Continued on next page

Behaviours you might expect from children

Children may have a need for support in coming to terms with traumatic events, but they might not be able to express feelings when they cannot find words. Young children in particular, often show their feelings through behaviour.

These behaviours might include:

- Increased misbehaviour, aggression and 'younger' behaviour.
- Becoming more withdrawn.
- Lots of 'pretend' play including desire to act-out details of what took place in the original incident. This may even involve the use of props.
- Sleep disturbance, including bad dreams, fear of being alone, and fear of the dark: clinginess, including a desire to sleep with parents.
- Difficulty concentrating especially in school. Children might forget things or have toileting accidents.
- Heightened alertness to danger, including sensitivity to loud noises.
- Change in appetite.
- Fears for own safety or the safety of family and friends.
- Reluctance to talk. Older children in particular may choose not to talk for fear of upsetting family or friends.
- Being easily upset by everyday events.
- And unwillingness to go to school.

ADVICE ON HELPING CHILDREN COPE

Here are some ideas that might be useful to you as a parent, relative or friend in helping children cope at a time of stress:

- Try to answer questions as honestly and accurately as you can in words your children will understand.
- Maintain familiar routines and structures as these provide a sense of security.
- Be patient and calm, if possible. Your child, or children you have contact with, may behave in a 'younger' way and may become difficult to manage. This is natural.
- Allow children opportunities to talk about their feelings and let them know it is OK to cry. Do not hide your own feelings from your children. It's OK for children to see you are upset. Explain, in simple terms, that everyone gets upset by such events.
- Try to treat your children in your usual way. You may wish to be especially protective. This is a natural reaction but in the longer term being too protective can make your child feel insecure.
- Be ready to listen, but do not be upset if your children choose not to talk. They might express their feelings in another way, through play or in their behaviour.
- Make time for yourself and make sure that you have other adults available to talk over your feelings and concerns. Your child will benefit from this.



Merry Christmas from all at SJB!



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Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 4th January

8.55am - Children return to school

Friday 17th February

3.15pm - Break up for February Half Term

Monday 27th February

8.55am - Children return to school

Friday 31st March

3.15pm - Break up for Easter Holiday

Monday 17th April 2023

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 SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

- TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS**
Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's a tougher – but not impossible – task. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play of video standards app on [fightingback.org.uk/games](https://www.fightingback.org.uk/games).
- CHECK THE SPECS**
To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like [systemrequirements.com](https://www.systemrequirements.com) can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.
- 'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE**
The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.
- DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING**
It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.
- APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO**
Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 5, for example.
- CONSIDER STORAGE**
Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.
- WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS**
Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (for might rather than Fortnite, for instance), or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.
- LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW**
There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but it can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.
- IN-APP REGISTRATION**
It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.
- STAY UPDATED**
Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with games. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.
- BE WARY OF GIFTS**
Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

Meet Our Expert
Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, The Telegraph and Computerworld. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 live and ITV News at Ten. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



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Class Activities - EYFS

EYFS enjoyed a fun packed Christmas party on Thursday this week and it was very well deserved after a fantastic production! We had party food, games and lots of dancing!



Attendance



Our school strives for 100% attendance. This week the class with the highest attendance was Year 2 with 88.6%. *Well done!*

Ready to learn Award



Congratulations, our most punctual classes this week were Reception and Year 1.



Birthdays

Happy birthday this week to: Paisley McK, Baylie K, Lexi-Jane T, Kalem M-W, Jacob N and Ryah McN. We would also like to wish happy birthday to those children who celebrate their birthday during the Christmas holiday: Sophie H, Saffire M, Abigail M, Joshua C, Jack L, Freya M, Carter H-B, Ruairi T, Nj L and Scarlett M-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



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Dec 14
Thank you 🙌👍👏

New Routes Fostering @newroutesfoster · Dec 14
@FatherHudsons have now delivered over 10,000 copies of @MarcusRashford book to local schools.

Andrew & Paul pulled on their #christmasjumpers to deliver to @smithswoodpri @SJBsolihull & #castlebromwich junior school.

#Thank you @AldiUK

Neighbourly



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Dec 12
Year 6 are learning how to play Texas Rock in their guitar lesson. They learnt how to play Es and F sharps with bars that contain 4 beats #MusicatSJB



Who to follow



Stacey Soleil -Speaker | Writer | Brand Evangelist
@staceysoleil

Follow

Head of Community & PR @Followupboss National Speaker & Trainer | WomanUP! Wavemaker | Inman Alumni Ambassador #RealEstate #Community 🌟



bin
@dabin9696

Follow

만남안해요 가게 문의 말고 답장 안합니다.



stgandtschool and 13 others follow

Father Hudson's

@FatherHudsons Follows you

Follow

We provide services and local projects that offer support, advice & care to some of the most vulnerable people in society.



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Dec 9

Year 4 worked hard today getting prepared for our 'Great Christmas Bake Off'! All ready to sell their cookies at the Christmas Fayre. #SJBOT CST @OurLadyandAllSt @BCPP_ 🍪👍👏🌟🎄



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Dec 9

Year 4 and 5 took part in the Be Internet Legends assembly! We tried for a shout out and answered all the questions. #SJBComputing #BeInternetLegends @OurLadyandAllSt @TheParentsZone



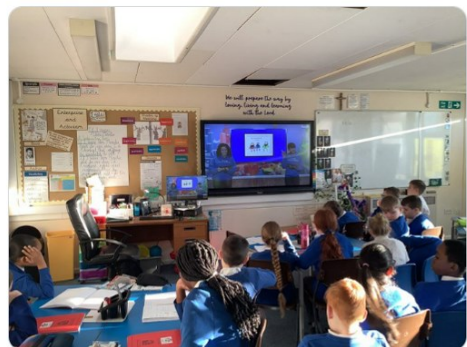
St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Dec 9

A huge well done to our Year 5 tag rugby team who came 2nd in today's competition! The children showed tremendous teamwork and positivity in their actions! 🌟 #PEatSJB



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · Dec 8

Year 6 have enjoyed their Be Internet Legends assembly today! #BeInternetLegends



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Fourth Sunday of Advent

Loving God, as we wait for the birth of Jesus at Christmas, we give thanks for the wonderful gift of new life. We pray for all parents around the world and for their children, that they will be healthy, happy and love one another.

In this Sunday's gospel, we hear how an angel appeared to Joseph to tell him what a special baby Jesus would be.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately. While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus — because he will save his people from their sins."

Now all this happened in order to make what the Lord had said through the prophet come true, "A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Emmanuel" (which means, "God is with us").

So when Joseph woke up, he married Mary, as the angel of the Lord had told him to do. Later, Mary gave birth to her son. And Joseph named him Jesus.

In this story an angel comes to tell Joseph that everything will be all right and that Jesus is not just an ordinary baby, but is very special. He is the son of God.

God loves us all, and Joseph was called to show his strength of love for both God and his wife to be. Thankfully Joseph remained strong and trusted in the word of God. Just like Mary, Joseph is an example of bravery and strength of faith. In accepting God's will, they played their part in the joy that is the Christmas story

God of light, you sent your angel to tell Joseph that Jesus was a special baby. Help us to remember that all children are special because they are all part of your family and you love us all. Amen.



Please also continue to pray for the families of the four boys who tragically lost their lives in Babbs Mill Lake. We hope that they can gain some small comfort in knowing that our faith community and family of schools are joined together in prayer and support for them during this unimaginably difficult time.

Wishing you all a Christmas filled with love, peace and family.