



"Here is the light you will reveal to the nations"

Luke 2: 32

This half term's virtues are:

Friday 20.01.23

Eloquent

and

Truthful

Catholic Social Teaching Focus

The Dignity of Work (linking with Fairtrade Fortnight 21.02-06.03)

Everyone's work is of value. There are many kinds of work. In each job, workers deserve to be treated with respect; work safely; work reasonable hours, and earn fair wages. They deserve this because they are made by God. Our work gives us the means to live, but it is also a chance to use the talents God gives us. Our work is our way of cooperating with God to help create a better world.

Focus Hymns – 'Lord of the Dance' and 'You are my Brother'

Welcome Father Paul Smith

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Parish Priest, Father Paul Smith. As before, Father Paul will preside over the churches of Mother of God and Guardian Angels and St John the Baptist.

As a school and parish community, I'm sure we'll all support him as he settles in. Father Paul's first school Mass, at St John's, will take place on Friday 27 January, at 9.30am.

As ever, everyone is welcome to join us.

Happy & Productive Week!

It has been a cold but happy and productive week here at St John's. So many children have visited my office (for good reasons) to show me their excellent work.

It's always a pleasure to see how proud they are of their efforts and to share a coveted Headteacher's Award sticker!



Dates for your Diary

Friday 17th February 2023

3.15pm - Break up for February Half Term

Tuesday 28th February 2023

8.55am - Children return to school

Friday 31st March 2023

3.15pm - Break up for Easter Holiday

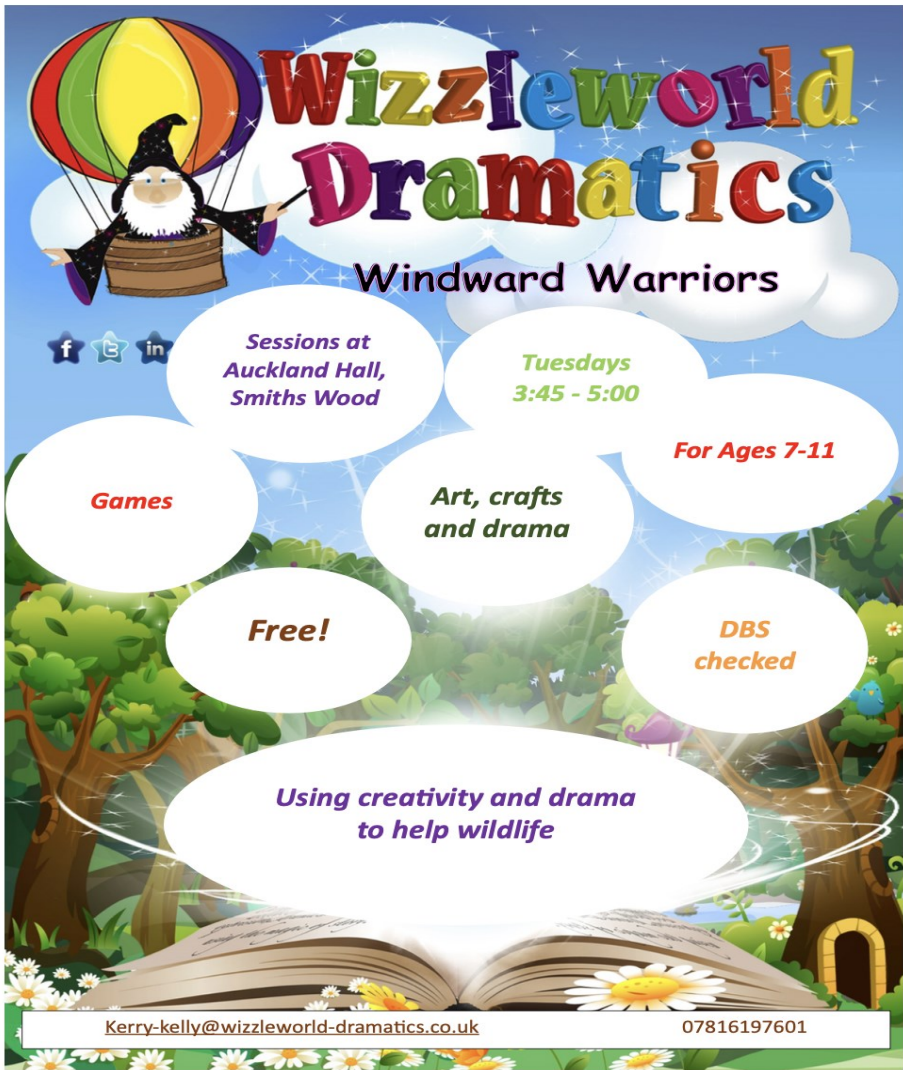
Monday 17th April 2023

8.55am - Children return to school



Inset days 2022 - 2023

Monday 27th February 2023

Monday 5th June 2023



Wizzleworld Dramatics
Windward Warriors

*Sessions at
Auckland Hall,
Smiths Wood*

*Tuesdays
3:45 - 5:00*

For Ages 7-11

Games

*Art, crafts
and drama*

Free!

*DBS
checked*

*Using creativity and drama
to help wildlife*

Kerry-kelly@wizzleworld-dramatics.co.uk 07816197601



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STARS OF THE WEEK!

Congratulations to

Harry E

in

Year 1

and Erik K-D in

Year 3

We're all really proud of you

This week's virtues awards were given to

Connor McS

Leo M

Abbasyn H

Lilly-Mae M

Tia S

Eloise M-S

Ryah McN

Nursery

Reception

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 6

For being Eloquent and Truthful

Ready to learn Award



Congratulations, our most punctual classes this week were Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

Attendance



Our school strives for 100% attendance. This week the class with the highest attendance was Year 1 with 98.5% *Well done!*



Birthdays

Happy birthday this week to: Kya C and Jaymee-Lee F



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Science Superstars

In science, Year 1 have been researching the weather and seasons.

They went to the library to look at relevant information books, found information on the internet and are now starting to explore the different ways to measure and forecast the weather.

Well done Year 1, true Science Superstars!



Class Activities - EYFS

During the last 2 weeks the children in Early Years have really enjoyed exploring the story of 'Goldilocks and the three bears'. It all started with an unannounced visit from Goldilocks who left our classroom a little messy! As you can imagine we were all extremely excited.

Throughout the week we have made and tasted porridge, made new chairs for baby bear, re-enacted the story and retold the story using Makaton signs. We have had a very busy week full of excitement, new learning and fantastic storytelling!



Our Pope's Prayer Intentions

JANUARY - For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.



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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](#)



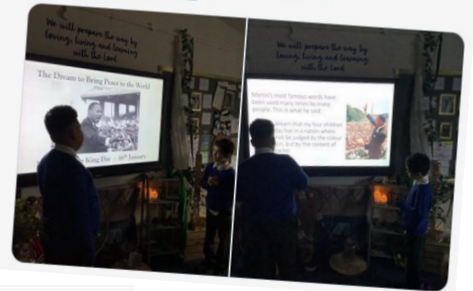
St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · 17 Jul 2020
If your child will be 3 before September we have space's available in our Nursery for mornings only or all day (if you qualify for 30 hours). Please get in touch if you'd like more information.



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · 11 Jan
Y1 listened to part of Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech during #collectiveworship. They thought about their own dream speeches. "I dream no matter who it is I will help people" "I dream whatever skin colour people have I will help them" @OurLadyandAllSts @BCPP_



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · 16 Jan
In #PrayerandLiturgy this week Year 4 prayed for Peace. May we remember the strength of Martin Luther King on this day. Year 4 wrote their own thoughts for their speech. #MartinLutherKingJrDay #SJBRE @OurLadyandAllSts @BCPP_



St John the Baptist Retweeted



Pope Francis @Pontifex · 15 Jan

John the Baptist sets his disciples in Jesus's footsteps. He is not interested in having a following for himself, but he bears witness and then takes a step back, so that many would have the joy of meeting Jesus. #GospelOfTheDay (Jn 1:29-34)

331

1,131

8,318



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · 18h

Year 6 had lots of fun in their OAA PE lesson where they used their teamwork and communication skills in problem solving activities. They really enjoyed playing 'Human Hatstand!' #PEatSJB @GetSet4Ed



1

79



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · 14m

Y1 listened to the story 'The baptism of Jesus'. They talked about the different ways we use water and learnt about those less fortunate than ourselves. "We could give them some money" "We could get them a tap" were some of their ideas of how they could help. #collectiveworship



7



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · 25m

Y2 reflected on what we use water for after listening to the gospel Matthew 3:13-17 the baptism of Jesus. They talked about ways they could help those in other countries that do not have easy access to water



10



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · 18h

Year 6 are drawing and painting symbols of Christ that resonate most with them #REatSJB 🎨🖌️



1

76



St John the Baptist @SJBsolihull · 11h

Year 4 explored the 'Presentation of Jesus at the Temple' in Godly Play. They looked at the word 'Salvation' and how Jesus was the salvation of the world. #SJBRE @OurLadyandAllSts @BCPP_ @BhamDES



4

136



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National Online Safety

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TWITTER

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Twitter is a social media network which allows users to post short messages ('tweets') of up to 280 characters. Tweets can consist of text, photos, videos, audio, links, polls and GIFs – often linked by hashtags if they share a common theme or message. Hashtags receiving high levels of interest are said to be 'trending'. Twitter users can engage with other people's posts by liking, retweeting (sharing) or tweeting back (commenting on). Since the entrepreneur Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022 for \$44 billion, he has implemented several major changes to the platform.

INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS

Tweets are public by default, meaning that anyone can view and interact with posts, follow someone and send direct messages. The concern here is that young people may therefore connect and communicate with strangers. Some individuals may follow a young person's Twitter account simply because they have similar interests; however, others may turn out to have more sinister intentions.

FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT

Twitter has recently introduced a 'view count' feature – telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven't reacted to it). Previous research has found that unfavourable comparisons with other social media users can cause young people to experience feelings of insecurity, jealousy and low self-esteem – leading to an obsession with increasing their numbers.

TROLLS AND BULLYING

The anonymity offered by fake profiles encourages some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction; to disrupt conversations; to spark an argument; or to harass the recipient. Such trolling and bullying can impact the mental wellbeing of both the target and anyone who witnesses it. Encourage your child to come to you if they experience such behaviour on Twitter, or if they see it taking place.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

PAID-FOR VERIFICATION

Previously, if a Twitter profile displayed a blue tick icon, it meant that the owner – usually a celebrity or a major organisation – had been verified as genuine. Now, however, anyone can pay for a Twitter Blue subscription to receive the tick, with the platform carrying out limited checks on the account's authenticity. This could easily lead to more fake accounts impersonating real people or companies.

CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES

In late 2022, Twitter stated that their 'policy' enforcement will rely more heavily on de-amplification of violative content: freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach. No policies have changed yet, but this wording suggests they may limit who can see posts rather than removing them. While supporting free speech, this could encourage an environment where some toxic content remains online.

HJACKED HASHTAGS

The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter's most recognisable facets, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly distort a hashtag's meaning: an initially innocent search term can quickly end up returning inappropriate results. This is common with 'trending' hashtags, as people know that using them will get their tweet seen by a larger audience.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE

To reduce some of the fear of your child's tweets being seen and shared by anyone, you can always make their account protected. This means that your child has to give approval for another user to view their posts. You can change Twitter's privacy settings so that your child can't be messaged directly by other people on the platform and their geographical location won't be shared.

FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

It can be difficult for anyone to ascertain if something online is real or false, but particularly for young people. Encourage your child to check several reputable sources to determine if a story they've seen is true; remind them to watch out for scams and think about the message's possible motive. Emphasise that it's not a good idea to retweet something if they aren't sure it's correct.

ENGAGE SAFETY MODE

When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or spammy behaviour such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these suspect accounts and blocks them from responding to your child's tweets. The autoblock function then prevents these accounts from interacting with your child's again for seven days.

EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS

Previously, any user could reply to anyone else's tweets. However, the new conversation settings let your child determine who can reply to their posts – either by selecting everyone (the default option), people they follow or only people they mention (using the @ symbol). This improvement has given users extra control, providing them with more protection from trolls and online abuse.

PAUSE BEFORE POSTING

It's important that young people think about what they're about to post and whether they might regret it later. Twitter has developed 'nudges': little prompts which appear if someone is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language. These nudges promote more positive online behaviour by giving users an opportunity to pause and consider their words before they post something.

BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE

If someone is upsetting your child on Twitter, you can block and report them. Blocking stops them from messaging or following your child, while reporting an account alerts Twitter to investigate possible misuse. The 'mute' feature, meanwhile, keeps tweets from a specific account (or which include certain words) out of your child's timeline. The other user won't know that they've been muted.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland 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

BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

As accounts are no longer being as rigorously verified under the 'blue tick' system, it's essential that young Twitter users understand what this means, in terms of people not necessarily being who they claim. Anyone your child only knows online is still a stranger, regardless of how long they've been communicating for. Remind your child never to disclose personal information on social media.

Source: <https://blog.twitter.com/common-thread/en/topics/stories/2022/how-twitter-is-nudging-users-healthier-conversations> | https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/product/2022/twitter-blue-update | https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2022/twitter-2-0-our-continued-commitment-to-the-public-conversation | <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2131&context=etd>



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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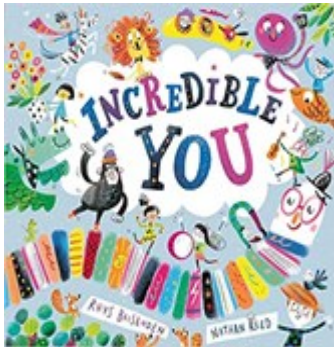
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Mr G's Recommended Reads

This week as I reflect on the amazing children who make up St. John's, my theme is based on being extraordinary.

For our younger readers...

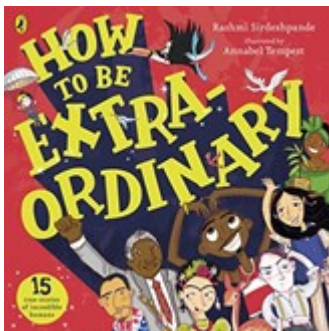
'Incredible You' by Rhys Brisenden and Nathan Reed



This lovely picture book encourages the reader to think of all the amazing things that they can do! It brings a breath of fresh air filled with positivity, zest and energy, encouraging children to see themselves as dancers, musicians and more.

For our older readers...

'How to be Extra-Ordinary' by Rashni Sirdeshpande



From around the world and throughout history, discover unsung heroes - and some well-known faces - brought to life with astonishing story-telling and illustration.

Meet an artist, scientist, medic, environmentalist, musician, activist, writer, politician, and even a spy . . . above all, discover that there are MANY ways to be extraordinary and to make a real difference in the world.



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

God of light, shine in our hearts so that we can bring joy and hope to other people, especially those who are frightened, sick, lonely or hungry.

In this Sunday's gospel, we reflect on what it means to 'live in the light.'

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he went away to Galilee. He did not stay in Nazareth, but went to live in Capernaum, a town by Lake Galilee, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. This was done to make what the prophet Isaiah had said come true:

"Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,

on the road to the sea, on the other side of the Jordan,

Galilee, land of the Gentiles!

The people who live in darkness will see a great light.

On those who live in the dark land of death

the light will shine."

From that time Jesus began to preach his message: "Turn away from your sins, because the Kingdom of heaven is near."

This gospel talks about people who 'live in the darkness.' One way of thinking about this is that when we are sad or lonely, everything feels dark and gloomy. This is the dark. But then when someone does something nice for us, everything seems brighter again. This is the light. This is the light that Jesus brings into the world.

We can try to bring light back into everyone's lives, by being kind and considerate. Small actions; even just sharing a smile can make a huge difference and bring light into the lives of others.



What will you do this week to make the light of God's love shine for someone, either here or in another part of the world?

God of hope, share your light with all your children, as we try to help others who are in need. Amen.

Have a lovely weekend.

I. Gallagher

Mr I. Gallagher
Headteacher