



*'And a voice came out of the cloud, saying "this is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!"'  
(Luke 9:35)*

This half term's virtues are:

Friday 24.03.23

*Learned*

*and*

*Wise*

### Catholic Social Teaching Focus

#### Stewardship of God's Creation (links to World Wildlife Day 03.03)

The earth and all life on it is God's creation. We are called to take care of it because it is a holy gift from God and the only place we can live. When we make bad or thoughtless use of the world's resources, many people suffer. When we make good choices about how we treat other living things (people, animals, plants) we help all living things to live as God intends. Making wise choices about the care of God's creation is called good stewardship.

*Focus Hymns – 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' and 'From the Highest of Heights'*

## Farewell to the Sisters of St Gilda's

Today we said a sad but fond farewell to the Sisters of St Gilda's who have supported the parish and school of St. John the Baptist, for an incredible 53 years! They have been a constant and very reassuring presence for everyone in our community and they will be missed by us all. We wish them well as they begin new chapters in London and France but memories of their dedicated service will remain with us. We enjoyed a 'morning tea' today to express our thanks.



## Parents' Evening

The sunshine has brought more positive vibes to St John's this week. Thank you to all of our parents and carers who attended parents' evening on Wednesday. Your positive comments are always really valued by our incredibly hard-working staff team. Working together in a strong home/ school partnership is the best way to ensure success for your child so we hope you have taken away some useful ideas to assist you at home.

## Parent Workshops

Next term, we have a series of parent workshops and initiatives planned, particularly focused to help you support your child to be a successful and confident reader. These workshops form part of our plans to ensure that St John's can confidently call itself a 'Reading School.'

## Next Week



Next week, we have our Easter Bonnet Parade which will take place on the KS1 playground at around 9.10am on Thursday - all parents/ carers are welcome to attend. For Key Stage 2, we have our 'decorate an egg' competition. There will be a prize for the best bonnet and decorated egg in each year group so get creative!



# Class Activities - KS1

Year 1 has been busy with assessments this week, but they have still had time to enjoy their learning.

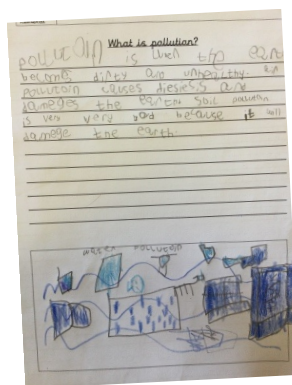
The children have been exploring how to join materials together using staples, glue and pins ready to create their puppets in DT. They decided to use glue to join their puppets together, they just need to decorate them now.



Over the last ten weeks, we have been lucky to have Ashley from Aston Villa teach us defending and attack techniques, the children have loved these sessions. So a big thank you to Ashley and Aston Villa.



**THANK  
YOU**



In science, the children are continuing their learning on how to take care of our planet. They now know a lot about the different kinds of pollution and how we can take part in caring for the world we live in.



In Maths we linked Global Money Week with science, PSHE and Catholic Social Teaching. Looking after God's creations and learning how to save money through reusing and repurposing, saving money and saving our planet.

## Year 2

This week Year 2 have been exploring volume and capacity in maths. In PE we have been honing our tennis skills and even managed to get outside now the temperature is increasing.



In History, we have been learning about life in the Tudor times. We have been finding out about Henry VIII and understanding how some of his actions as King have impacted on religion and the Monarchy today.





## STARS OF THE WEEK!

Congratulations to

Carter H  
in Year 2

Lilly M  
in Year 3

and Freya M  
in Year 4

We're all really proud of you!

Niamh W	Nursery
Dexter C	Reception
Jack L	Year 1
Anna K-D	Year 2
Owen H	Year 3
Issac A	Year 4
Antoni K	Year 5
Ren D	Year 6

For being Learned and Wise

### Ready to learn Award



Congratulations, our most punctual classes this week were Year 4

### Attendance



Our school strives for 100% attendance. This week the class with the highest attendance was Year 2 with 98.2% *Well done!*



### Birthdays

Happy Birthday this week to: Ruby G, Harry E, Adeola A, Lilly M, Leo R, Adewusi A, Tyler-James C and Olivia K



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# Science Superstars



Year 2 are conducting an investigation to find out 'What do healthy plants need to grow?'

We began with some healthy cress that we had grown ourselves from seeds. We observed the seeds germinate until they became seedlings and then grow to healthy cress plants.



## School Menu w/c 27th March



### WEEK TWO

Week Commencing: 12 September, 03 October, 31 October, 21 November, 12 December, 16 January, 06 February, 6 March, 27 March

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Oven Baked Sausages	 Beef Bolognese	Roast Chicken Breast and Gravy	Pork & Carrot Meatballs with Pasta	Oven Baked Fish Fingers
Vegetarian Sausage (V)	Vegetable Nuggets (V)	 Macaroni Cheese (V)	 Mexican Vegetable Fajitas (V)	Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V)
Mashed Potato Spaghetti Carrot Batons Peas Mixed Salad of the Season Garlic Bread	Oven Baked Potato Wedges Savoury Rice, Oven Roasted Vegetables Broccoli Florets Mixed Salad of the Season Herb Bread	Roast Potatoes Creamy Mashed Potato Chunky Carrots Vegetable Medley Mixed Salad of the Season Wholemeal Bread	Boiled Potatoes Herb Diced Potatoes Sweetcorn Peas Mixed Salad of the Season Twin Bread	Chunky Chips Crushed Potatoes Baked Beans Fruity Summer Coleslaw Mixed Salad of the Season White Bread
 Cinnamon Cake with Custard Fruit Yoghurt Seasonal Fresh Fruit Platter	Jelly and Ice Cream Fruit Yoghurt Seasonal Fresh Fruit Platter	 Chocolate Sponge With chocolate Sauce Fruit Yoghurt Seasonal Fresh fruit Platter	 Apple Flapjack Fruit Yoghurt Seasonal Fresh Fruit Platter	Chocolate & Vanilla Mousse Fruit Yoghurt Seasonal Fresh Fruit Platter

#### AVAILABLE DAILY

Baked Potato Bar/Cold Sandwiches and Baguettes  
Seasonal Fruit Platter, Fresh Salad Bar, Home Baked Breads and Freshly Made Yoghurts available daily in addition to the above Menu offering.



Denotes freshly prepared dishes.

Menus may change to meet customers' preferences, a promotional event and seasonal variation.

A range of locally sourced products are used when available and seafood with this mark comes from an MSC certified sustainable fishery. [www.msc.org](http://www.msc.org)

Allergies - please contact your school cook for more information about the content of menu items.

MSC-C-54995



Fresh Cook



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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](https://twitter.com/SJBsolihull)





Solihull  
Chat Health  
Parent Text Line

07480 635 496





WORKING HOURS  
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm  
Excluding Bank Holidays

If you message out-of-hours we will reply when we are next in. If you need help in the meantime call NHS 111 or if it is an emergency dial 999.








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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 issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## Ten top tips for STRONGER PASSWORDS

Passwords continue to be the most common way to prove our identity online. A combination of a username and a password known only to the user provides access to our online accounts and data – and hopefully keeps unauthorised individuals out. As a security measure, though, passwords are relatively weak. People are often predictable in how we choose our passwords, for example – making them less secure. With increasing volumes of usernames and passwords being leaked online, what can we do to keep our data more secure? Here are our top tips for stronger passwords.

### BE UNPREDICTABLE

We often choose passwords which are easy to remember: featuring the name of our favourite sports team or favourite film, for instance. These are predictable passwords. Cyber criminals will routinely try various combinations of passwords relating to sports teams, actors, musical artists and the like – and they often focus on these during major sporting events or around high-profile movie releases.

### AVOID GETTING PERSONAL

Many of us use passwords relating to our family, such as children's names or favoured holiday destinations. The problem here is that we also typically post about our holidays and our family on social media – making that information potentially visible to cyber criminals and supplying them with clues which could help them in narrowing down possible passwords we might have set.

### NEW PLATFORM, NEW PASSWORD

Where cyber criminals gain access to an online service through a data breach, they often use the data they've stolen to try and access the victim's other accounts. This is because the criminals know that, for convenience, people often use the same password across different services. When we reuse passwords, our security is only as strong as the weakest site where we've used it.

### LONGER IS STRONGER

Our passwords are often stored by online services in an encrypted format, in case the service suffers a data breach. The strength of this encryption, however, is dependent on the length of the password you've selected. If your password is only a short one, cyber criminals are significantly more likely to be able to break the encryption and identify your password.

### CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA VISIBILITY

Staying up to date with friends and relatives on social media is part of everyday life now. We need to ensure, though, that we limit who can see our posts via each platform's privacy settings. It's also wise to consider what we're posting and if it's really safe to share online. If we restrict what cyber criminals can see, we reduce the chance of them using that information to identify our passwords.

### Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK. Having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East, with a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.

Source: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/>

CCTV  
IN OPERATION

### 'DOUBLE LOCK' YOUR DATA

It's possible that cyber criminals may eventually discover your username and password. Enabling multi-factor authentication (MFA) on your accounts, however, reduces the chance of them obtaining access to your data, as they'd also require a code which is provided via an app, SMS message or email. MFA isn't infallible, but it does definitely provide extra protection and security.

### DELETE UNUSED ACCOUNTS

Data breaches occur when cyber criminals gain access to an online service and all the data contained within it – including usernames and passwords. Whenever you stop using a service, it's wise to make sure that you delete your entire account and not just the actual app. If the service no longer has your data, there's zero risk of it being leaked should they suffer a data breach in the future.

### TRY PASSWORD MANAGERS

Even though most of us have numerous online accounts to manage these days, it's advantageous to avoid password re-use. Specialist password management software (like Dashlane or OnePass, among others) can help by storing a different password for every online service that you have an account with: the only one you or child will need to remember is the single master password.

### GET CREATIVE

The British government's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) recommends the 'three random words' technique. This method helps you create a password which is unique, complex and long – yet which is memorable enough to stay in your mind ('FourBlueShoes', for example). The NCSC website, incidentally, also offers plenty of other useful information relating to personal cyber security.

### STAY VIGILANT

The best way to protect your accounts and your data is to be vigilant and careful. If you receive an email or text message that's unusual or unexpected, treat it as suspicious until you're able to verify whether it's genuine and safe. Starting from a position of vigilance and caution will reduce the likelihood of you or your child being tricked by a malicious email, text or phone call.

**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national\_online\_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.03.2023



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## Dates for your Diary

### **Thursday 30th March 2023**

Easter Bonnet Parade (EYFS & KS1)

Decorate an egg competition (KS2)

### **Friday 31st March 2023**

3.15pm - Break up for Easter Holiday

### **Monday 17th April 2023**

8.55am - Children return to school

### **Friday 26th May 2023**

3.15pm - Break up for May Half Term

### **Tuesday 6th June 2023**

8.55am - Children return to school

### **Saturday 10th June 2023**

10.00am - First Holy Communion

## Inset days 2022 - 2023

Monday 5th June 2023



## **Sponsored Read**

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in and contributed to our recent Sponsored Read. We raised an amazing **£514.90!** With the money raised from the sponsored read plus commission and the commission from the book fair on parent's evening, Usborne books will contribute £421.60 giving us a grand total of **£936.50** to spend on books.

A special thank you to Emily from Usborne books who helped organise the events and of course to all our families who supported us. It is very much appreciated.

THANK  
YOU!



## **Our Pope's Prayer Intentions**

### **March - For victims of abuse**

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.



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# IF YOU WERE A SUPERHERO FOR A DAY!

PUPIL VOICE  
COMPETITION  
2023

WHAT  
WOULD YOUR  
SUPERPOWER  
BE?

## WHAT SHOULD YOUR ENTRY INCLUDE?

Tell us what superpower/s you would have! How would you help others? How would you help children and young people with a physical disability? You can be as creative as you like! Your entry can be written, a drawing, a presentation and more!

HOW WOULD  
YOU HELP  
OTHERS?

CLOSING  
DATE

FRIDAY 26TH MAY 2023

Email entries to: [emma.sheasby@sdsa.net](mailto:emma.sheasby@sdsa.net)



**3 PRIZES TO BE WON!**  
Winners from each category will receive a certificate and a prize!

## AGE CATEGORIES

Primary, age 4 - 11  
Secondary, age 11 - 16  
Post 16, age 16 - 25

## JUDGING CRITERIA

Following the closing date the judging panel will meet to select their winners (one from each category). Winners will then be contacted via email with details of how to claim their prize. The winner from each age category will receive a gift voucher to the value of £50 and a certificate. All entrants will receive a certificate to recognise their achievement.

# BIKE IT Solihull



## Cycle Confidence Training

To develop mastery in cycle handling in an off-road environment and prepare riders for cycling on the road. Riders must be 7 years + and be able to cycle (i.e. pedal and glide independently) to participate.

Date: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Time: Various 90-minute sessions available

Location: Tudor Grange Cycle Track

Cost: £10

Booking: <https://solihull.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking>

## At Level 1 you will learn to:

- Prepare yourself and your bike for cycling
- Get on and off your bike without help
- Start off, pedal and stop with control
- Pedal along, use gears and avoid objects
- Look all around and behind, and control the bike
- Share space with pedestrians and other cyclists

**#OWN THE RIDE**

If you would like further information please email [cycling@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:cycling@solihull.gov.uk)



# GET PEDALLING Solihull



## April Half Term

Solihull Council are hosting Balance Bike & Learn to Ride sessions for children aged 5 years +

Date: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>.

Time: Various sessions available

Location: Tudor Grange Cycle Track

Cost: £10

Bikes and helmets available to borrow, please request on booking page.

To book a slot please visit :

<https://solihull.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking>



If you would like further information please email [bikeability@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:bikeability@solihull.gov.uk)



Make Easter 'eggstra' special and join us for a fun-packed day at Blossomfield Rose Care Home, in beautiful Blossomfield Park.

- Easter bonnet judging - 3:30pm. Bring along your best creation!
- Easter egg hunt indoor and outdoor (weather permitting)
- Easter crafts
- Facepainting
- Magician entertainer
- Prizes to be won



COST £5 PER CHILD. PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND UNDER 2s GO FREE. Complimentary glass of fizz for adults and refreshments included for children.



Tickets to be booked in advance at <https://blossomfield-rose-easter-fun-day.eventbrite.co.uk>  
Limited tickets available on the door  
All proceeds go to Age UK Solihull



PARKING ON-SITE (limited).  
For Info: [lorraine@macccare.com](mailto:lorraine@macccare.com) Call: 0330 107 5947  
[macccare.com/blossomfieldrose](http://macccare.com/blossomfieldrose)



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Castle Bromwich  
Historic Gardens

# Easter holiday Family Activities

**1ST - 16TH APRIL - 7 DAYS A WEEK**

We're open EVERYDAY for Percy Trails and Egg Hunts  
No need to book for these.



There's a new **Percy the Park Keeper Adventure Trail** based on the story "*One Springy Day*".

Follow the **Egg Hunt Activity Trail (£3)** and pick up your chocolate egg prize too.  
(non dairy alternatives available)

*Outdoor Cafe open each day. Picnics welcome*

**also on... SAT 8TH AND SUN 9TH APRIL (EASTER WEEKEND)**

## Colonel Pickering's Regiment of Foote

Living History encampment: sights, sounds and smells! English Civil War re-enactors takeover for the weekend. (free with entry)

### Bookable sessions:

**4TH & 11TH APRIL**

#### Pond Life & Minibeasts

Adventurers and explorers, this ones for you, discover the tiny world of bugs at your feet

**5TH, 6TH & 13TH APRIL**

#### Percy's Spring Workshop

Activities, Crafts and Stories with Percy the Park Keeper

**7TH & 12TH APRIL**

#### Woodland Wizards

Witness the magic of nature, train as a Wizard's apprentice and carve your own wand.

**IDEAL FOR AGES 2-11**



Pick up a picnic lunchbox. Just like Percy's

£5 at the Cafe Cabin Available everyday



**Children £3**

**Adults £5/£4.50**

**Lots of free activities included with entry fee**



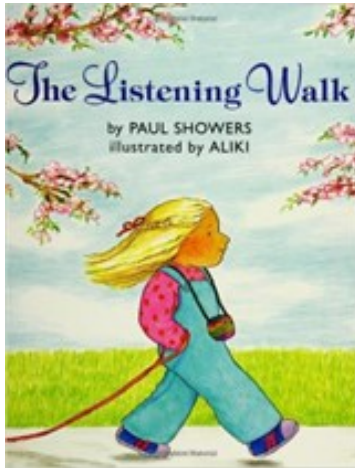
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# Mr G's Recommended Reads

As the clocks finally go forward this weekend, my chosen theme, this week, is Spring and new beginnings.

For our younger readers...

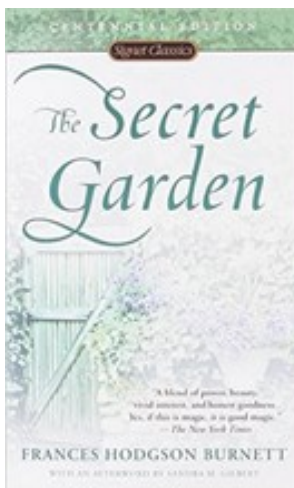
'The Listening Walk' by Paul Showers



This is the story of a little girl taking a walk around her local area, going slowly and paying careful attention to everything she can hear. This is a great book to accompany a spring nature walk

For our older readers...

'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett



Treat your child to this wonderful example of classic literature. The transformative power of nature is a central aspect of this story of Mary Lennox, sent to live at the remote Misselthwaite Manor after her parents die. It weaves together overcoming loneliness, making friends, a hidden key, a robin guide and of course the secret garden itself.



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## Fifth Sunday of Lent

*God of light and power, we give thanks to you for the gift of life. Help us to do what we can so all people throughout the world can enjoy this gift.*

In this Sunday's gospel, we hear about an amazing thing that Jesus does when his friend Lazarus becomes sick and dies.

**Gospel:** John 11:1-45

The sisters sent Jesus a message: "Lord, your dear friend is ill." When Jesus heard it, he said, "The final result of this illness will not be the death of Lazarus; this has happened in order to bring glory to God, and it will be the means by which the Son of God will receive glory."

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he received the news that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was for two more days. Then he said to the disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been buried four days before.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died! But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask him for."

"Your brother will rise to life," Jesus told her. "I know," she replied, "that he will rise to life on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and all those who live and believe in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord!" she answered. "I do believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

Jesus saw her weeping, and he saw how the people who were with her were weeping also; his heart was touched, and he was deeply moved. "Where have you buried him?" he asked them.

"Come and see, Lord," they answered.

Jesus wept. "See how much he loved him!" the people said.

But some of them said, "He gave sight to the blind man, didn't he? Could he not have kept Lazarus from dying?"

Deeply moved once more, Jesus went to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone placed at the entrance. "Take the stone away!" Jesus ordered.

Martha, the dead man's sister, answered, "There will be a bad smell, Lord. He has been buried four days!"

Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believed?" They took the stone away. Jesus looked up and said, "I thank you, Father, that you listen to me. I know that you always listen to me, but I say this for the sake of the people here, so that they will believe that you sent me." After he had said this, he called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" He came out, his hands and feet wrapped in grave clothes, and with a cloth round his face. "Untie him," Jesus told them, "and let him go."

Many of the people who had come to visit Mary saw what Jesus did, and they believed in him.

God gives life to us all. God created us and wants every single one of us to live a happy life, with all the things that we need to grow and be the best people we can be.

Jesus came to show us how to live, how to treat others. This Lent we can look at our own lives and think about the changes that we can make so that everyone can live their lives to the full.



*Loving God, show us how to reach out with love and hope to others around the world, and to help them as they work to build a better life. Amen.*

Have a lovely weekend.

*I. Gallagher*

Mr I. Gallagher

Headteacher