



St John's Church of England Academy

I Will Shine

Issue 4:
Friday 29th
September
2023

We have enjoyed another excellent week at St John's, full of learning and fun. Reception have settled in beautifully to school life and we are all very proud of how well they are learning the school values and making friends. Year 1 enjoyed hosting our first 'stay and play' event for families this week; the children loved sharing all the wonderful activities that they can experience every day. Year 2 have worked very hard as usual this week and have been working especially hard to get to the rainbow star and celebrate with a certificate. Year 3 has been a hive of activity with some exceptional creative writing. I thoroughly enjoyed reading their work and was very impressed with the range of sentence structures and extensive vocabulary. I can't wait to see what the Year 3 authors write next! Year 4 particularly enjoyed their outdoor learning this week, designing and building boats then testing them to see how well they would float. Huge thanks to all our volunteers who come and support outdoor learning on Fridays for lots of year groups, and to the team who worked so hard to clear the area. It is looking fantastic and the classes love using the space. Year 5 have been scientists this week, designing and testing parachutes, then recording their results after their fair tests. Finally, our Year 6 class continue to be exceptional role models for our school as well as working hard in class and producing work to be very proud of. We have also had time to worship and reflect together about God's purpose for all of us and how we can work together to share God's Word through our vision 'I will shine' and values of Identity, Stewardship, Identity, Character, Excellence and Teamwork.

Congratulations to our Maths, Reading, Sports Award and Star of the Week certificate winners this week!



Congratulations to Dory, Mary, Aron, Lucy, Carys, Joshua, Katie, Karmen, Kara, Aron, Alfie, Ethan, Joel, Archie, Iona, Holt, Woody, Heidi, Maisie, Elijah and Ava. We are very proud of you all!

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02476 674092
Headteacher: Mrs Laura Stevenson



**The Diocese of Coventry
Multi Academy Trust**
Together, pursuing life in all its fullness



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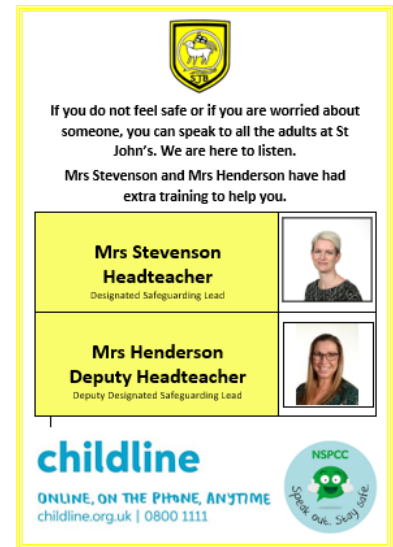
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Safeguarding

Mrs Stevenson and Mrs Henderson are the safeguarding leads in school. If you have a concern about a child, please speak to us. We have a safeguarding poster for children so that they know they can speak to any of the adults in school if they have any worries. We are here to support families so if you need support or advice, please reach out.

Reminders

We have children with nut allergies at St John's so we are a nut-free school. All food prepared on the premises is strictly nut-free. Please ensure any packed lunches and snacks from home do not contain any nuts.



Children should be bringing a water bottle to school every day which they can refill at our cold-water machines. Teachers will remind children to take them home so that they can be cleaned ready for the following day.

Stewardship

September has been a very busy month of fundraising as a school and for individuals. Miss Ward has been running every day in September and has so far raised £840 for Cancer Research! A group of children and staff joined her penultimate run during Friday lunchtime – running a mile around the school field in the sunshine. Well done Miss Ward! If you would like to donate to support Cancer Research, Miss Ward's page is here: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/joanne-ward-1693648620778> Thanks to the generous donations of cakes and treats from our school community, Mocha Lounge, Tailor Made and the One Stop, Winsford Avenue, our fundraiser for Macmillan has so far raised £276.44. We do have cakes left and will be selling them again on Monday after school. Thanks to the Ava and Alfie, we raised £106.50 for Rally for Hallie with their stationery sale and Golden Ticket competition. Jaxon is raising money for the Little Princess Trust by collecting sponsorship and donating his hair to make real hair wigs for children who have lost their hair during cancer treatment. If your child is raising money or raising awareness to support a cause in need of help, please share and we will feature all acts of stewardship in our newsletter.

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Dates for your diaries

Monday 2 nd October	Year 6 Bike-ability session 4
Tuesday 3 rd October	10.00: Reception and Year 2 school nurses lesson about washing our hands well
Wednesday 4 th October	9.00 – 10.00: Reception 'stay and play' for families 9.00: Year 6 Wellbeing Ambassadors leading worship for children 10.00 – 10.30: Mental Health in Schools Team coffee morning for parents and carers 1.30 – 2.30: Mental Health in Schools Team 'Anxiety Awareness' workshop for Year 5 2.00 – 3.00: Year 4 visit to St Christopher's Church for RE lesson
Thursday 5 th October	9.15 – 10.15: Year 6 leading Harvest service at St Christopher's Church – all welcome Pm: Water Aid visitor for Year 4 5.00 – 6.00: Reception parent/carer meeting with phonics information
Friday 6 th October	9.00: Celebration Worship – please join us to celebrate together
Monday 9 th October	Year 6 Bike-ability session 5
Tuesday 10 th October	World Mental Health Day The theme for 2023, set by the World Foundation of Mental Health, is 'Mental health is a universal human right'.
Wednesday 11 th October	Year 2 visit to Coventry Transport Museum
Thursday 12 th October	PA meeting: Christmas event planning committee – all welcome.
Friday 13 th October	9.00: Celebration Worship – please join us to celebrate together
Monday 16 th October	Year 6 Bike-ability session 6
Tuesday 17 th October	9.00: Year 4 leading worship – Identity. All welcome to join us in the hall.
Wednesday 18 th October	Year 3 visit to Compton Verney
Thursday 19 th October	
Friday 20 th October	9.00: Celebration Worship – please join us to celebrate together
Monday 22 nd October	
Tuesday 23 rd October	Flu immunisation day for Reception – Year 6. Details to follow.
Wednesday 24 th October	3.45 – 6.30: Teaching and Learning Conferences – appointment details coming soon
Thursday 25 th October	3.45 – 6.30: Teaching and Learning Conferences – appointment details coming soon
Friday 26 th October	9.00: Celebration Worship – please join us to celebrate together PA non-uniform day for donations of chocolate for Christmas Fayre Whole school RE focus day 'Growing Peace for our Planet'

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Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary; emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.



Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upcombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VO247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.



#WakeUpWednesday