

# St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th October 2023



Dear Parents,

It's easy to get caught up in the daily busyness of life and forget what life's really all about. However, to assist us on our path through life, God sends messengers to help us remember what is most important. This week's Gospel reminds us through the messengers that God has great plans for our lives.

**Pope Francis reminds us,  
"May you always be messengers  
of peace and goodwill."**

### Recycling

We were pleased to see Stuart Giddings in school this week from Team recycle. He has led workshops for each year group explaining the importance of recycling. It was a pleasure to learn so much about how we can care for our environment by recycling. We now have special recycling bins in school and hope that these will soon be filled.



Congratulations to Year 1 who led a lovely inspire Workshop on St Francis their class saint. They made bird feeders which we hope will be hung in your gardens to attract beautiful birds. We all know Mrs Littlewood's favourite bird is a robin so she will hope that the bird feeders will attract some robins into our Forest School.

Congratulations to Reception who had their Welcome Assembly this week. It always amazes me how much they have learnt in such a short time. We have high aspirations for you all – Keep up this excellent start!

### Library Visits

We have continued to take classes to the local Library and the staff continue to congratulate our pupils on their excellent behaviour. I would also like to say thank you to the staff of Allesley Library for their kindness and enthusing our pupils to read more.



## Uniform

Please remember to write your child's name in their school uniform. We are seeing lots of jumpers and hoodies with no names inside.

## Reminder

PTA meeting in school as soon as the children have been handed to parents in Year 4. We look forward to seeing you there at approximately 3:15-3:30 start.

## Wolf Run 26<sup>th</sup> October



To raise money towards IT equipment for the school our PTA have organised a sponsored Wolf Run on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October in school for all classes – Nursery, Reception, KS1 and KS2. Sponsor forms have been sent home with children.

## Special Mass

On the 27<sup>th</sup> October we will have a special Mass in Church to celebrate the work of Lyn our cook who will be retiring. I am sure that we will entice her back to cook with the children or teach us how to knit.

We will also celebrate and give thanks to Mr Kenny who is moving on to pastures new. If you would like to contribute to a gift please feel free to put money in an envelope and hand it into the office. Many Thanks.



## Parking

Thank you to everyone who heeded my notice last week and kindly parked a little bit away from school and parked on a side road (not across someone's drive). I have made sure that cones have been put out on both sides of the bend and this has helped considerably.

Some people have mentioned that at the front of school parents are waiting in their cars with the engine running which we know causes pollution but also it is just where children are queueing to come into school.

Please be considerate of others.

**Any donations of toys and games in good condition would be greatly appreciated by SJV Owls Club. Thank you!**



### **SJV Owls Club**

SJV Owls Club which provides before and after school care for the children of St John Vianney School. The charges for Owls Club are as follows:

Morning session - 7.30 to 8.30 a.m. - £5.00 (includes a light breakfast)

Afternoon session - 3.15 to 4.15 p.m. - £5.00 (includes a snack)

Late afternoon session - 3.15 to 5.30 p.m. - £7.50 (includes a snack)

If you are interested in your child attending Owls Club and would like more information please email [owls@sjv.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:owls@sjv.coventry.sch.uk) or phone the school office.



### **SJV Owls Activity Club**

Owls Club are now also offering after school sessions as follows:

Maximum number in the group 30. Activities are open to all children in school from Nursery to Year 6

Monday 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. - **Lego Club** – play with Lego and use Lego interactive with the school computers



Tuesday 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. - **Computer Club** - Bee-bots, computers and tablets

Wednesday 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. – **Art Club**

Thursday 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. - **Games night** - Bingo, cards, dominoes, board games



Friday 3.15 - 4:15 p.m. - **Homework club**- reading and support with homework

Sessions will be charged at £5.00 per session payable via Arbor.

Pupils can sign up for a monthly block of sessions but also choose to do the other activities in Owls club if they prefer. If your child would like to sign up for any of these sessions please email [owls@sjv.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:owls@sjv.coventry.sch.uk) for more information and an application form.

### **Late Collection**

If you are more than 10 minutes late collecting your child at the end of the school day, they will be put into Owls Club and you will be invoiced for the session.

### **Free School Meals**

**If you think that you may qualify for free school meals, even if your child is in KS1 or does not want to receive school meals, please take the time to apply as the school will receive additional funding if you qualify.**

**Please apply at: Free School Meals – Coventry City Council**

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as *The Traitors*, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

### CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

### GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

### CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

### DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

### AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

### STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

## Stars of the Week

*Nursery* Reign, Robyn

*Reception* Hope, Amelia

*Year 1* Ray, Sienna

*Year 2* Edie, Liam

*Year 3* There will be 4 stars next week

*Year 4* Taylor, Emily

*Year 5* James, Derry

*Year 6* Ethan, Charlee



### Reminder:

We are a nut free school, please do not pack any nuts in your child's lunchbox.



### Reading Books

**Reading books to be brought into school everyday**



### Reminder

The school gates are open every morning between 8.30 and 8.40 a.m. Please ensure your child arrives in school between these times.

### Starting Nursery School in September 2024

Application forms and information are available from the school office for parents wishing to apply for their child to start in Nursery in September 2024. Children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 can start Nursery in September 2024.

### Starting Primary School in September 2024

Children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 can start school in September 2024. For more information about school admissions and to apply online at [www.coventry.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/admissions). Telephone 02476 831622/1613. Closing date for applications is **15th January 2024**.

Please note: If you wish to apply to a Catholic school and your child is baptised Catholic evidence of your child's baptism must be provided at the time of application to the school office or to the Admissions Team. It is your responsibility to obtain and present this evidence.

### Secondary School Applications for Year 6 Pupils

Please remember the closing date for applications is **MONDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2023**. Please ensure you have completed and returned your application by this date.

**Building Fund** Contributions to the school building fund are now due for the Autumn Term (£10.00 per child or £15.00 per family) or for the whole school year (£30.00 per child or £45.00 per family).



*Dates may be subject to change – please check your emails regularly*

**Monday, 9th October**

Choir - KS2 - Lunch  
Dance - KS2 - 3.15 to 4.00 p.m.  
PTA Meeting - 3.30 p.m.

**Tuesday, 10th October**

Running Club - Year 3/4 - 8.00 to 8.30 a.m.  
Recorder Club - KS2 - 3.15 to 4.00 p.m.  
Football Squad - Year 5/6 - 3.15 to 4.15 p.m.  
Year 3 Library Visit

**Wednesday, 11th October**

Mini-Tennis - Year 3/4 - 7.45 to 8.30 a.m.  
Running Club - Year 5/6 - 8.00 to 8.30 a.m.  
Guitar Tuition  
Dance - Year 1/2 - 3.15 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.  
Girls Football Squad - Year 5/6 - 3.15 to 4.15 p.m.

**Thursday, 12th October**

Mini-Tennis - Year 5 & 6 - 7.45 to 8.30 a.m.  
Piano Tuition  
Creative Flair Dance - Year 3 & 4 - 12.00 to 12.30 p.m.  
Creative Flair Dance - Year 1 & 2 - 12.30 to 1.00 p.m.  
Hockey - Year 5 - 3.15 to 4.15 p.m.  
Netball Match home v All Souls

**Friday, 13th October**

Year 1 Prayer Service

**Saturday, 14th October**

Reception & Year 6 Commitment Mass 6.00 p.m.



**Future Dates**

Thursday 19th October	- Boys football match home v St Osburgs
Thursday 19th October	- Netball match home v Holy Family
Monday 23rd October	- Reception & Year 6 Heights and Weights
Monday 23rd October	- Parents evening
Tuesday 24th October	- Boys football match away v All Souls
Tuesday 24th October	- Parents evening
Thursday 26th October	- Wolf Run
Thursday 26th October	- Netball match away v Our Lady
Friday 27th October	- Last day of half term

Don't forget to follow us @sjohnvianney and you can also see our twitter feed on our website.

Please follow us on our Twitter account: SJV@sjohnvianney  
For Owls Club follow - @OwlsClubSJV



**Facebook** - SJV PTA have a

Facebook page. If you would like to have access and be added to the page, simply search 'Sjv pta' and submit your request, one of the current members will see your request and add you accordingly.





# OCTOBER HALF TERM

30TH OCTOBER - 3RD NOVEMBER  
YEARS 1-8

FROM  
£14 PER  
DAY

**Coventry CV6 1AB**  
Moseley Primary School  
- Football, Multi Sports  
**Coventry CV6 1FQ**  
Coundon Primary School  
- Football, Multi Sports

## GET YOUR KIDS ACTIVE!



**BOOK  
NOW!**

online at  
[www.kitsacademy.com](http://www.kitsacademy.com)

For more information

07772873271

[bookings@kitsacademy.com](mailto:bookings@kitsacademy.com)