

# St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

Friday 8th November 2024



Dear parents,



God wants us to trust and depend on him, and to share our gifts of time, talent and money to help others. When used well, our gifts help us to find our purpose in life and to improve the lives of those around us. This Sunday's Gospel shows us that even the smallest of good deeds, done with love, does not escape Jesus' attention. The widow's gift was so little that, in some ways, it would hardly make much difference.

But Jesus reminds us that the amount we give is not as important as the love with which we give a gift.

**“Life is a precious gift, but we realise this only when we give it to others.”**

**Pope Francis**

We are all unique and valuable to God. Out of His love for us, God has entrusted us with individual gifts to bring to the world – gifts to be shared. The value of our gift is greatly increased when given with love. Sharing our gifts, with love, brings us closer to God.

Congratulations to Year 6 who delivered a very moving assembly on the theme of Peace and Remembrance. This weekend we will be attending remembrance services and thinking of all soldiers that have given their lives for our freedom. I am very proud of Year 6 who with the help and support of Mrs Holmes and Mrs Cook have worked hard to lead a very thoughtful assembly. Thank you Mrs Holmes and Mrs Cook.



Thank you to all the parents that came to support our phonics workshop this week. We learnt all about Anima Phonics and how to help our children use these skills to develop their reading skills. We are aiming to put any resources on our website to support you in helping your child ready for the Phonics assessment next year.

On Tuesday, Year 3 parents were invited to a First Holy Communion meeting in Church. Fr Des helped us to learn about the importance of Reconciliation. On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm Year 3 will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation this sacrament was something that St John Vianney was famous for as people came from miles around to be absolved by St John Vianney.

Year 5 this week entered a dodgeball competition they had a marvellous time and although they didn't win, they had lots of fun.





- Reconciliation 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 6pm in Church
- Speed Sainting 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 6pm in Church
- INSET Day 15<sup>th</sup> Nov - school closed

### **Vacancies**

We currently have a vacancy for a Site Services Officer.  
Please follow the link below for more information:

[Teaching & Education Jobs Search | Find Teaching, Leadership & School Support Vacancies](#)



Odd socks day 12<sup>th</sup> November

Odd Socks Day forms part of Anti-Bullying Week. Anti-Bullying Week 2024 is happening from Monday 11th to Friday 15th November and has the theme 'Choose Respect'. It is coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, which is based at leading children's charity the National Children's Bureau.

Imagine a world where respect and kindness thrives - it's not just a dream, it's in the choices we make. Join us this Anti-Bullying Week and commit to 'Choose Respect'.

Odd Socks are all about fun and laughter, but more importantly they deliver a message of individuality, acceptance and tolerance. Which is what being an Odd Sock is all about... because everyone is different and that's good!



## **Starting Nursery in September 2025**

Application forms and information are available from the school office for parents wishing to apply for their child to start in our Nursery in September 2025. Children born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 can start Nursery in September 2025.

## **Starting Primary School in September 2025**

Children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 can start school in September 2025.

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 2025.

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. It is your responsibility to obtain and present this evidence.

# St John Vianney PTA



Sign up to our Facebook page to hear about upcoming events and Purple Shop sales



Sign up to our mailing list to help us achieve more for the SJV community



## Introducing: David Walsh – Vice Chair

This is my second year with the PTA and my first as Vice Chair. I have a child in year 3 and one in reception.

I joined the PTA as I wanted to support the school in delivering events the children can really enjoy. (and to work on my BBQ 'skills' of course).

I'm keen to see the PTA grow so we can do even more than we currently do. I wanted to highlight that involvement does not take up as much time as you may think.....so please don't let that be the thing to put you off considering it.

## Christmas Movie Night 2024

Movie Night this year will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November after school and we know the children are EXCITED!

If you are able to help with supervision and preparation and distribution of refreshments for Movie Night, please do let us know at [sjvcoventrypta@gmail.com](mailto:sjvcoventrypta@gmail.com).

This would be between 3pm and 5pm.



## Next PTA Meeting

Our next PTA meeting is on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November. The primary purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the organisation of Movie Night and it will last no longer than an hour, although we will briefly discuss the Christmas disco if time allows.

The meeting will be online via Zoom – we would love to see you there! Please feel free to join using the link below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/81774080590?pwd=qQYzGp3Sqp8UUUNB6J0eyvY2vrAfn8.1>

Meeting ID: 817 7408 0590

Passcode: 207390



Movie Night 14<sup>th</sup> November

Christmas Disco 19<sup>th</sup> December

# School Clubs

Club	Day	Time
Netball Squad - Years 5 & 6	Monday	3.15 - 4.15 p.m.
Dance - Key Stage 2	Monday	3.15 - 4.00 p.m.
Lego Club	Monday	3.15 - 4.15 p.m.
Recorder Club	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.00 p.m.
Boys Football Squad - Years 5 & 6	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.15 p.m.
Fitness Squad - Years 1 & 2	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.15 pm.
Computer Club	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.15 p.m.
Mini Tennis - Years 3 & 4	Wednesday	7.45 - 8.30 a.m.
Running Club Key Stage 2	Wednesday	8.00 - 8.30 a.m.
Girls Football Squad - Years 5 & 6	Wednesday	3.15 - 4.15 p.m.
Art Club	Wednesday	3.15 - 4.15 p.m.
Dance - Years 1 & 2	Wednesday	3.15 - 4.00 p.m.
Mini Tennis - Years 5 & 6	Thursday	7.45 - 8.30 a.m.
Creative Flair Dance - Years 3 & 4	Thursday	12.00 - 12.30 p.m.
Creative Flair Dance - Years 1 & 2	Thursday	12.30 - 1.00 p.m.
Games Night	Thursday	3.15 - 4.15 p.m.
Homework Club	Friday	3.15 - 4.15 p.m.

**When dropping off or collecting from Owls Club, please phone the school telephone - 02476 464088 - and press option 3.**

**To keep your child safe when collecting, please make sure you stand at the school gate so the staff can clearly see you.**

**Please do not wait in cars.**

### **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. - £5.50 (includes a light breakfast)

Afternoon session - 3.15 to 4.15 p.m. - £5.50 (includes a snack)

Late afternoon session - 3.15 to 5.30 p.m. - £8.00 (includes a snack)

If you are interested in your child attending Owls Club and would like more information please email [sjv\\_owls@hccmac.co.uk](mailto:sjv_owls@hccmac.co.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 £5.50 per session payable via Arbor.



### **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**

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

## 1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

## 2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

## 3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

## 4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

## 5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

## 6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

## 7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

## 8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each another.

## 9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

## 10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

## Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at:

@wake\_up\_weds

/wuw.thenationalcollege

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## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION  
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### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons'.

### ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

### IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic 'skins', music tracks and LEGO items – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

### POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like *Family Guy* and *Avatar: The Last Airbender* to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as *Street Fighter*. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from *Alien* or Geralt from *The Witcher* a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

### FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game, make sure any young player knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

### 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 long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

**When collecting and dropping off children, please do not park on the bend outside school. Please park on side streets and do not block driveways. Thank you!**



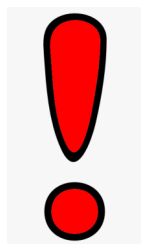
### **Owls Club Payments**

If your child attends Owls Club, all payments must be made no later than the date printed on the invoices.

Owls Club is extremely popular, with some days at full capacity, and priority will be given to prompt payers.

If payment is not received by the due date, we reserve the right to withdraw your child's place from Owls Club.

### **Medicines in School**



We can only give medicines to children where it has been prescribed by a doctor to be taken four times a day.

A medicine form must be completed before we can administer medicine.



**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**



**School gates are open between 8.30 and 8.40 every morning.**

**Please ensure your child arrives in school before the gates are locked.**

**We have an increasing number of children arriving late each morning.**

**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, 11th November**

Dance - KS2 - 3.14-4.00p.m.  
Netball Squad - Years 5 & 6 - 3.15-4.15 p.m. - **NO SESSION**  
Year 5 Class Mass - 2.00 p.m.  
Netball Match - away vs St Osburg's  
Year 3 Reconciliation - in church - 6.00 p.m. (parents and children)

### **Tuesday, 12th November**

Recorder Club - KS2 - 3.15-4.00 p.m.  
Boys Football Squad training - Years 5 & 6 - 3.15-4.15 p.m. - **NO SESSION**  
Fitness Squad Years 1 & 2 - 3.15-4.15 p.m.  
Boys Football Match - away vs St Osburg's  
Year 6 Speed Saining - in church - 6.00 p.m. (parents and children)

### **Wednesday, 13th November**

Mini-Tennis - Year 3/4 - 7.45-8.30 a.m.  
Running Club - Key Stage 2 - 8.00 - 8.30 a.m.  
Guitar Tuition  
Dance - Year 1 & 2 - 3.15-4.00 p.m.  
Girls Football Squad training - Years 5 & 6 - 3.15-4.15 p.m. - **NO SESSION**  
Girls Football Match - home vs Wyken Croft

### **Thursday, 14th November**

Mini-Tennis - Year 5 & 6 - 7.45 to 8.30 a.m.  
Piano Tuition  
Creative Flair Dance - Year 3 & 4 - 12.00-12.30 p.m.  
Creative Flair Dance - Year 1 & 2 - 12.30-1.00 p.m.  
Fitness Squad - Years 3 to 6 - 3.15-4.15 p.m.  
Year 3 Class Assembly - 2.00 p.m.  
Movie Night - 3.15 to 5.00 p.m.

### **Friday, 15th November**

**Teacher Training Day - children do not attend**



### **Future Dates**

Saturday 16th November	- Year 6 - Dol-y-Moch
Tuesday 19th November	- Year 4 Reading Café
Wednesday 20th November	- Children return from Dol-y-Moch
Thursday 21st November	- Girls football match - home vs St Thomas More
Friday 22nd November	- Tempest Photography - Teams and Clubs
Tuesday 26th November	- Netball match - home vs St Mary and St Benedict
Thursday 28th November	- Year 2 Inspire Workshop
Friday 29th November	- St Andrew's Day - wear something blue (bring chocs or socks)
Monday 2nd December	- Girls Football Match - away vs St Augustine's
Tuesday 3rd December	- KS1 & KS2 trip to see Aladdin (Planet Ice)
Wednesday 4th December	- Netball Match - away vs St Augustine's
Thursday 5th December	- Reception Class Nativity
Friday 6th December	- Year 1 Assembly - 2.00 p.m.
Tuesday 10th December	- KS1 Christmas Performance
Wednesday 11th December	- KS1 Christmas Performance
Thursday 12th December	- Nursery Nativity - 9.30 a.m.
Thursday 12th December	- Christmas Lunch
Monday 16th December	- KS2 Performance - 6.00 p.m.
Tuesday 17th December	- KS2 Performance - 6.00 p.m.
Tuesday 17th December	- Nursery & Reception trip to Smeds and the Smoos

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

# INTRODUCING CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

Download and opt-in with Asda Rewards  
and we will donate **££s** to schools.

**CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS**

Only with  
**ASDA**  
Rewards

Download and  
opt-in today

With  
**Parentkind**

### HERE'S HOW:

- 1 Download the Asda Rewards app and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools.
- 2 Choose your primary school
- 3 Shop in-store across Asda & George, and scan your Asda Rewards app at the checkout.
- 4 Shopping online? Simply log in to Asda.com using the same details as your Asda Rewards account.
- 5 We'll do the rest! We donate ££s to your chosen school every time you shop, so they can spend it on exactly what they need.

Selected stores. Minimum spend £2+. Exclusions apply including Asda Express & George.com. Subject to availability UK 18+. App & Opt in required. 0.5% of the value of a customer's eligible shop is donated. Publicly funded primary schools must register with Parentkind charity 1072633. Full T&Cs at [asda.com/cashpotforschools](https://asda.com/cashpotforschools). Rewards T&Cs at [asda.com/rewards/terms](https://asda.com/rewards/terms). Ends 30.11.24