

St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Friday 14th March 2025



Dear Parents,



Thank you for supporting us with our St Patrick's Day celebrations. Many thanks to Maggie Gallagher for bringing her wonderful dancers and musicians to school to celebrate all that is Irish in our community. This morning is a lovely opportunity to bring our community together and raise money for Father Hudson Caritas. The children were amazing dancing in front of so many people. St Patrick's house will celebrate Mass in school on Monday morning and we will continue our celebrations with SJV has Talent in the afternoon.

Thank you to all the pupils that came to the Year 3 and Year 4 Mass at the weekend. Unfortunately, some pupils who had volunteered to read did not turn up which meant others had to step in at short notice. Please try to honour your commitment. Year 3 pupils will be making their First Holy Communion soon and now is a time to show real commitment to your faith.

Year 6 will be leading Mass at the weekend and making a commitment so it is essential that you remember your paperwork and hopefully bring your sponsor with you.

This week we have had a lovely Inspire workshop led by Mrs Littlewood for Reception on the importance of prayer. The children thoroughly enjoyed making prayer jars and decorating them with their parents. Thank you Mrs Phillips and Mrs Ryan for your help.

At the beginning of the week, Year 2 had a reading café which was well attended by parents who thoroughly enjoyed reading with the children. Thank you to those parents that continually come into school and hear readers we appreciate your support and help.

Last Friday 11 children from Year 5 went to London with the Holy Cross schools. We had a wonderful time learning about London, seeing the sights on a river cruise, going on the London Eye which celebrated its 25th Anniversary last weekend and having a guide tour around Parliament. We learnt such a lot whilst touring Parliament. The children made new friends and sang their hearts out on the bus home.



We had a computer expert in school this week who taught year 5 how to use microbits, this was really exciting for everyone involved.

Please continue to follow us on x @sjohnvianney and don't forget to like our stories.





St John Vianney Staff are completing the moonlight walk for Myton Hospice on 4th April if anyone would like to sponsor us or give a donation we would be very grateful.

Myton Hospice is a very worthy charity and has been used by many people in our local community.

It is also the chosen charity which the Shakespeare family would like to support.

Maths at St John Vianney

Y4 had a great morning of maths developing their fluency in their multiplication facts!



We have been interpreting data using line graphs, pictograms, bar charts and pie charts.



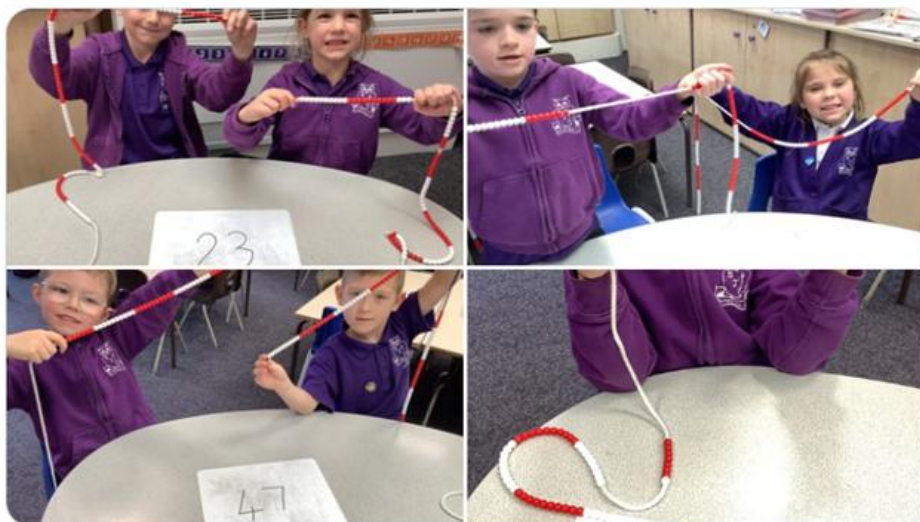
Y2 are taking great care to measure accurately in cm. Have they started measuring from 0?



Year 3 enjoyed using their coding skills to create a piano in Scratch.



Year 1 used the bead strings to help with their grouping of 10s and 1s.



In Computing, Year 5 have been learning to code a micro:bit. We created an algorithm and downloaded the code to an external device to produce a flashing message with sounds. [#Inspire](#) [#CodersOfTheFuture](#)



Parking

Please be courteous when parking- think of others and think of the safety of the children.

Please use the Church car park.

Please park in a side street and walk for a short way.

Please do not park right by the school and mount the pavement as people can not get by.

Please do not block residents driveways.

Please do not double park especially on the bend.



There is a petition to the Council to install a safe crossing point on Alderminster Road near to the junction of Aynho Road.

Please click the link below if you wish to sign:

[ePetition - Crossing point on Alderminster Road - Coventry City Council](#)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX



Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.



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 or phone the school office.



Please note, Owls Club is currently full every afternoon except Fridays.

We do have spaces every morning for Breakfast Club.



If your child attends any after school clubs, they should be collected from the bottom church gate promptly. If not collected, they will be put into Owls Club and you will be invoiced accordingly.

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**

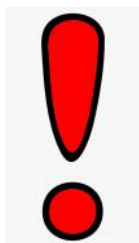
Owls Club Payments

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 most 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. This includes peanut butter, Nutella etc

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 Spring 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, 17th March

Dance - KS2 - 3.14-4.00p.m.
Netball Squad - Years 5 & 6 - 3.15-4.15 p.m.
Year 4 Maths Workshop (parents) - 2.00 p.m.

Tuesday, 18th March

Recorder Club - KS2 - 3.15-4.00 p.m.
Boys Football Squad training - Years 5 & 6 - 3.15-4.15 p.m.
Boxing Club - Yr 1 & 2 - 3.15 - 4.15 p.m.
Year 1 Reading Café - 8.45 a.m.

Wednesday, 19th March

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**
Boys Football Match - away vs Walsgrave

Thursday, 20th March

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.
Boxing Club - Key Stage 2 - 3.15 - 4.15 p.m.
Girls Football Match - away vs St John's

Friday, 21st March

Year 1 Class Mass - in school hall - 2.00 p.m.

Future Dates

Tuesday 25th March	- Netball Match - away vs Christ The King
Tuesday 25th March	- Year 6 Confirmation Reconciliation Service - 5.00 p.m.
Wednesday 26th March	- Year 5 and 1 Stations of the Cross - 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 27th March	- Boys Football Match - Holy Family
Friday 28th March	- Charity Roadshow and Cake Sale
Friday 28th March	- Year 4 Class Assembly
Monday 31st March	- Parents Evening - 3.30-5.30 p.m.
Tuesday 1st April	- Parents Evening - 3.30-6.30 p.m.
Wednesday 2nd April	- Years 2, 3 & 4 Stations of the Cross - 9.00 a.m.
Wednesday 2nd April	- Boys Football Match - home vs St Christopher's
Monday 7th April	- Year 5 Alton Castle
Wednesday 9th April	- Return from Alton Castle
Thursday 10th April	- Easter Service
Friday 11th April	- Easter Holidays Begin
Monday 28th April	- Children return to school
Tuesday 29th April	- Reception Class Reading Café

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.





Hearing Screening Clinics for Reception Children



Did you know your child is entitled to a free hearing test whilst they are in reception class? Here are signs that may indicate hearing difficulties:

- Not responding when called
- Speaking very loudly
- Frequently asking for repetitions or responding inappropriately
- Increasing volume on devices
- Appearing to daydream
- Slow to learn or unclear speech
- Frequent frustration or aggression

March

Thursday
6th March 2025
10:00am - 4:30pm
Moat Family Hub,
Deedmore Road
CV2 1EQ

Tuesday 18th March
2025
9:15am - 4:30pm
Mosaic Family Hub,
Jardine Crescent,
Tile Hill
CV4 9PL

April

Monday 14th April
2025
9:30am - 5:00pm
Central Library Room,
2 West Orchard Way
CV1 1FY

Tuesday 22nd April
2025
9:15am - 4:30pm
Park Edge Family
Hub, Roseberry
Avenue, Bell Green
CV2 1NE

May

Thursday 15th May
2025
9:15am - 4:30pm
Aspire Family Hub,
Humber Avenue
CV1 2SF

Tuesday 27th May
2025
10:00am - 4:30pm
Moat Family Hub,
Deedmore Road CV2
1EQ

To book an appointment, contact the School Nursing team using the details below. Please include the following details: child's full name, child's date of birth, school attended by the child, contact email address, telephone number and preferred clinic location and date.



Main contact tel: 01926 495321 Ext 7494



Email: Swg-tr.contactschoolnursescoventry@nhs.net

This

EASTER

Monday **14th** to Friday **25th April**

TIMES **9am** to **4pm**

Early drop off & late collection

Available + **£3** each

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childcare for ages 5 -11

ONLY **£17** per day



Walsgrave CofE Academy, CV2 2GU

HAF

SPACES TO BE BOOKED VIA COUNCIL WEBSITE

Book now at onsidecoaching.co.uk

COVENTRY

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.
Fun Music Club— Reception	Tuesday	Lunchtime
Recorder Club	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.00 p.m.
Boys Football Squad - Years 5 & 6	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.15 p.m.
Boxing Club— Years 1 & 2	Tuesday	3.15 - 4.15 pm.
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.
Boxing Club—KS2	Thursday	3.15 - 4.15 p.m.
Games Night	Thursday	3.15 - 4.15 p.m.