



# I am a Disciple for you Jesus



Year 3: Morgan & Callan

Year 4: Hanna & Nikodem

Year 5: Elizabeth & Saibah

Year 6: Veronica & Daniel

Staff member: Mrs Pettigrew and Miss Trodden  
Year 2: Ruby & Anthony

Reception: John & Jacob

Holy Souls Catholic Primary School

Mallard Close, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 6BN

Head Teacher: Mrs R A Girling

Spring Term 2023

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Newsletter 22

Web-site: [www.holysoulshamschuk](http://www.holysoulshamschuk)

Email - [enquiry@holysoulshamschuk](mailto:enquiry@holysoulshamschuk)



Twitter - @SoulsSchool

Dear Parents, carers and children,

This time last week we were surrounded by snow and can I thank the children for competing their home learning and yourselves for your understanding and support.

It has been an eventful and busy two weeks at school and the children continue to work hard, try their best and enjoy their learning. Thank you for your kind comments and responses to our recent Parental / Carer Questionnaires where you shared your feedback regarding school. We were delighted by the results and thank you for continuing to trust and support us.

Wishing you all a Happy Saint Patrick's Day



God bless and enjoy your weekend



Mrs Girling



## To bring good news, to shine for you.



Sacred Heart and Holy Souls Church - PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN ON THE WEBSITE

MASS TIMES - Vigil Mass Saturday 5:00pm Sunday Masses 8:30am, 10:00am and 12:00pm

Let us think and pray...

Mothers hold our hands for a little while...but they hold our hearts forever!

All-loving God,  
we give you thanks for mothers  
young and old. We pray for all  
mothers of every kind. Those  
who have loved us and  
helped shape us  
with motherly care  
and compassion.  
We remember  
mothers,  
grandmothers,  
and godmothers  
who are no longer  
with us, but  
whose love is in  
our memory  
forever. Amen



Wishing you a very Happy Mother's Day

## Gifts from God Celebration Assembly

RTA	Kayla & Theo	3W	Phoebe & Noah
RM	J'Raiyah & Elisa	4PM	Anjola & Jack
IG	Eunice & Codey	4WH	Maddie & Szymon
IKJ	Audrey & Sophie	5F	Lily & Adam
2WM	Luca & Emilia	5S	Adela & Oskar
2T	Yasmine & Ruby-Sue	6F	Skye & Allanah
3M	Sajid & Liliana	6M	Alisha & Anthony

Leaders for Learning don't forget to collect your pencil from Mrs Girling!

HAPPY GOLDEN TIME EVERYONE!

## Sports Stars of the Week



Reception	-	J'Raiyah
KSI	-	Audrey
KS2	-	Max



RTA	Eva	3W	Ellie Mae
RM	Archie	4PM	Megan
IG	Freyah	4WH	Roel
IKJ	Charlie	5F	Oscar
2WM	Ryon	5S	Archie
2T	Kuba	6F	Harry
3M	Ethan	6M	Sophia

Thank you for hearing your child read and completing your child's Reading Record every evening.

## Attendance Matters



OVERALL ATTENDANCE - 92%

CLASS	%	CLASS	%
RTA	90%	3W	88%
RM	93%	4WH	91%
IG	90%	4PM	96%
IKJ	93%	5F	90%
2T	92%	5S	95%
2WM	92%	6F	91%
3M	93%	6M	94%

This week's winner is 4PM ~ enjoy your extra PE time with Coach Dylan!

We are slowly creeping upwards and this is great. An improvement of 7% last half term.

Remember every minute of every day matters, A bit of a dip this week as we have had a few germs.

### This week in school...

- A group of children attended the Badminton National Competition and watched some very exciting matches!
- We celebrated National Science Week and our Y6 children were teachers for the day as they taught some very interesting science lessons and performed some exciting experiments
- A group of children visited the Black Country Museum where they enjoyed a scientific fun day!
- Year 5 held their Maths workshop. Year 3 held theirs last week despite the snow and we thank all our parents and carers for joining us.
- We attended Parish Mass.
- Over 230 children took part in a before or after school club. This is amazing!

## NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

This week has been a busy week - its Science Week!

On Thursday, Miss Wood, Mrs Pettigrew and Mr Henvey took 14 children from across Key Stage 2 to the Black Country Museum for a Chemistry at Work day in celebration of British Science Week.

We looked at Chemistry in the real world, explored copper and other metals, tried out some photochemistry testing if something was fluorescent or phosphorescent, and even extracted our own DNA! It was an exciting day and the staff from the Black Country commented on how well behaved the children were!

We have had live lessons from the National Farmers Union about 'connection'. How are tractors connected to space? How are pigs connected to Jumbo Jets? How are sheep connected to seaweed?

Interesting questions that we managed to find some answers to!

Year 6 led some experiments across the school - we made rain!

We experimented and investigated in our own classes.

Watch out because we have some very talented budding scientists in our school!

Thank you Miss S Wood for making science such good fun!

Is God calling you to be a scientist?

Who is your favourite scientist?

Miss S Wood has a favourite scientist and it is Mae Jemison. We asked her why and it is because she was a trail blazer for NASA and women in science!

## NEXT WEEK IN SCHOOL IS ASSESSMENT WEEK

We are completing our assessments next week which will show the progress your child has made this term and look at areas to target. Please ensure your child is in everyday an on time.

## Our Lenten Journey

We are enjoying walking with Jesus and one another in many different ways. Our Walk With Me Calendar for use at home and in school is a great guide to spending a few minutes stopping and reflecting together as a family.

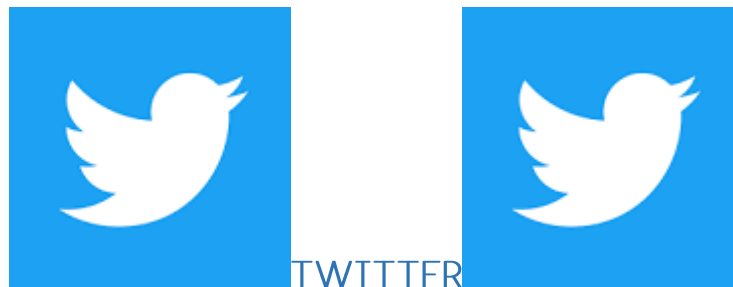
Thank you those who have returned their Good Shepherd boxes please do keep sending them in.

### Footballing news



Congratulations to Reggie in Year 2 who this week has signed his first professional contract with the best team in the world - Birmingham City!

We are very proud of you and wish you lots of luck and lots of goals!



Please do check our Twitter feed as every Friday we update all of the wonderful events, learning and fun we have had in and out of school.

### Did you know?

This week **224** children have taken part in an extra-curricular before or after school activity.

This is amazing and we are blessed to have such wonderful opportunities. Thank you all staff and external trainers who ensure this takes place.

I also know we will have many Altar Servers at our parish Church this weekend and we are very proud of you all. I look forward to seeing you all.





### EASTER RAFFLE

The HSSC - Holy Souls School Council (representatives from every class) would like to share the following information with you.

Dear Parents, carers and children,

We are the HSSC. This Lent we would like to give alms - that means raise funds for others less fortunate than ourselves. This is part of our Lenten journey.

From Monday 27th March until Thursday 30th March we will be selling raffle tickets.

The prizes include....

Easter Eggs

Books and Art and Craft activities and a Fluffy Bunny!



The tickets are 20 pence each or 5 for £1:00

We will be selling them from our new wooden hut every morning and every afternoon during the last week of term. The children will be able to buy them in school as we will visit every class each day. The draw will take place on Friday 31st March 2023.

Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

Thank you for helping others and Good Luck!



## Spotlight on safeguarding

### PARKING

Sadly there has been an increase in cars dropping off or picking up on the zig-zags and outside of school. This is a safeguarding concern for the safety of the children, adults and residents of Mallard close. Please be aware that fines have been issued by a traffic warden in recent weeks.

If your child attends an early morning or after school club including Breakfast Club, Sports Clubs or booster clubs please park at Church or the Social Club. Parking restrictions still apply at the times when you drop off and pick up.

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.



A reminder to all members of our community that our playground and school environment is a safe place for us all. If you have a matter of concern or something you wish to discuss or share please call in and see any member of the SLT - Senior Leadership Team, a DSL - Designated Safeguarding Lead. We would ask that matters are brought to our attention where we can support you and not to approach others in a manner that may cause upset or distress. Thank you.

### SOCIAL MEDIA APPS

Please take a look at the WhatsApp Guide for Parents and Carers which you may find useful when dealing with issues at home. All of our children are engaged in a rolling programme of learning about Online Safety from Reception to Year 6. These parent and carer guides compliment the learning.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



# WHATSAPP

UK AND EUROPE  
**16+**  
13+ REST OF THE WORLD

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

### DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

### ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

### LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

CLICK HERE

### CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.

### EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.

### REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

### LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

### THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

### DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

### CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.

## Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



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## CONTACT NUMBERS

If you change your phone number please inform the Office.

We need two emergency numbers for each child. Thank you.



## *Spotlight on Safeguarding*

If you are worried about a child over the weekend contact Birmingham Children's Information and Advice Service on 0121 303 1888 or directly to the Police. Outside office hours, call the emergency duty team 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on: 0121 675 4806.

Neglect or abuse of a child is a criminal offence.

**SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**