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 @StAnthonysSch

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Executive Head Teacher: Mr C. Flaherty

Head of School: Mr K Scanlon



St Anthony's Catholic Primary Sch
Fordbridge Road,
Kingshurst,
Birmingham
B37 6LW

Friday 10th January 2025



This half term, we are growing to be grateful for our own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and generous with our gifts becoming men and women for others.



Be grateful for what you have. Your life, no matter how bad it seems, is someone else's fairy tale.

Wale Ayeni – African advocate

Welcome back. We hope that you all enjoyed some quality time together over the Christmas break.

This week, you will have received an email regarding our expectations.

It is essential that all parents / carers have read this and that you complete the Microsoft Form found at the end of the document.

Thank you in advance for your support.



PTA

Parents of St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School

We always try to make your children's school life very exciting, but now we need your help! Please come and join our PTA facebook group and Whatsapp group to start engaging.

scan the codes to join the group

Facebook Whatsapp

Join in & support us through fundraising events, open meetings, coffee dates + much much more

By signing up you are consenting to participate and receive communications from PTA

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

Tiny Ants

Welcome back to a very frosty outside area, where we have been learning how to put on our own hats and gloves to keep warm. The children found ice inside the pots while playing in the mud kitchen and they used sticks and stones to break the surface. Avanna said "It needs to melt, can we get some water".



Avanna showed Miss Doherty what she has been learning to do at home - 'write my name' Wow, well done!!



The children helped Miss Plumb to stick Humpty Dumpty back together using plasters. They used their fingers to open the packets and peel back the paper to use the sticky side.

Tiny Ants continued...

The children have also been exploring our sensory room - popping bubbles and rubbing baby oil and lotion into our friend's hands. One child said, "We smell like babies".



Nursery

This week in Nursery we have been learning all about the police - what their uniform is and how they help us. We have role-played being police officers by wearing yellow jackets and helmets, as well as using walkie talkies and torches to investigate in our classroom.



We have created police cars with blue playdough, blue paint and blue blocks. On our creative table we have also made our very own police badges and used the scissors to carefully cut them out.



Reception

The children have returned to school refreshed and excited to learn.

Next week we have some special visitors coming into school - our local, friendly police officers. In preparation for this, we have been thinking about people who keep us safe in our community. We have also been exploring how we can keep ourselves, and those around us safe. We have generated lots of wonderful ideas:

"Always look both ways at a road" -Ruby

"Doctors keep us safe and make us feel better" -Orla.

"The police officer will help you" -Christian.

In English we have been writing some interesting questions that we would like to ask the police officers. We have used our phonetic knowledge to help us think about and write these questions.

We have also been amazing scientists this week, using bath bombs. We had so much fun predicting and discussing what would happen with the different coloured bath bombs that were placed in the water. We used lots of STEM language, clearly identifying the different changes we could see happen. We spoke about 'melting', 'fizzing' and 'colour change'.

Thank you, Reception, for a busy and wonderful first week back!



Year 1

In English this week, we started our new text 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. We got creative by collaging a Gruffalo for the classroom, listened to the story, used awesome adjectives to describe the characters and wrote some simple sentences about the story. In maths, we have been looking at numbers 11-20. The children used the cubes, rekenrek and dienes to find tens and ones in their Kagan groups. We finished the week with a prayer time focused on our virtues this term *grateful and generous*.



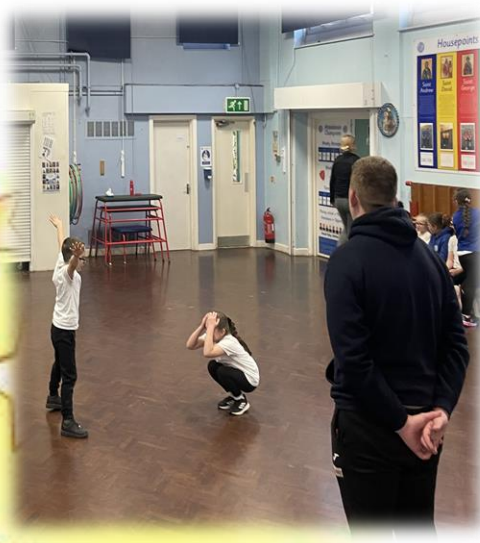
Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic first week back to school. We have been working hard in our gymnastics lessons in PE.

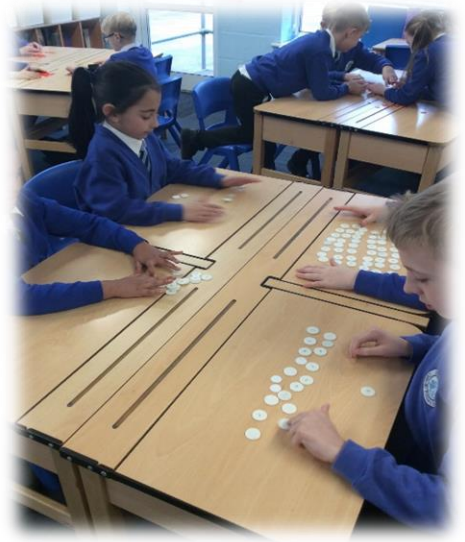
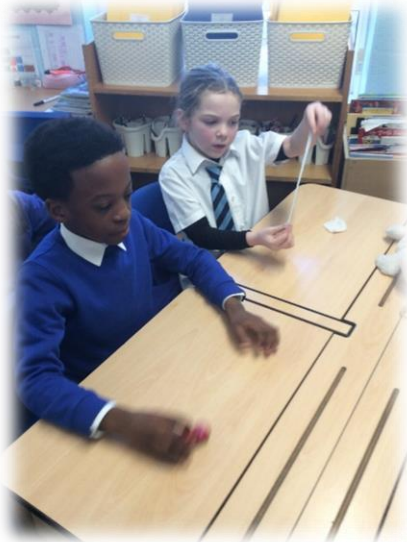
In Maths, we have started to learn about money and each coin's value.

During our English lessons we have started our poetry topic and have been learning about the structure of a poem.

Well done for a fabulous week Year 2!

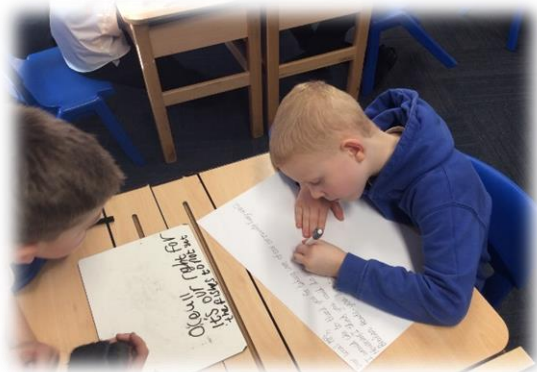
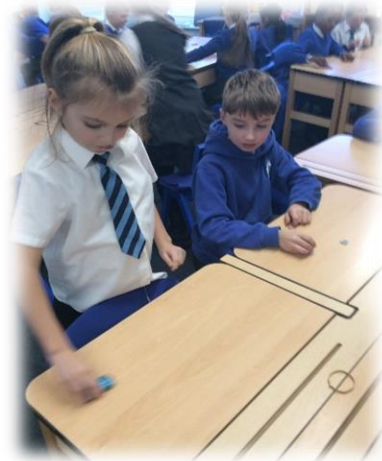
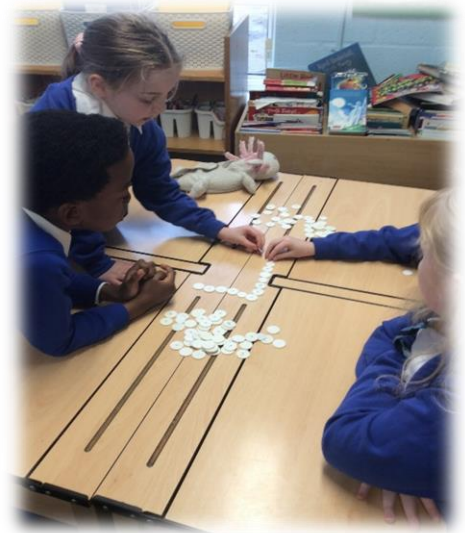


Year 3



Year 3 have had a fabulous first week back!

We have been multiplying and dividing by 8 in Maths. In English, we have been learning about list poems and even wrote our own poems using lots of rhyming words. We began our new topic in Science - forces and magnets - and tested out how we can change the force using a toy car. We also started a new history topic on the Egyptians and can't wait to learn more about the Egyptian civilization this term!



Year 4

Year 4 started their guitar lessons again this week and really impressed everyone with what they had remembered. They performed so well together and even braved some solos. We are sure there were a lot of guitars under the Christmas tree and it certainly shows!

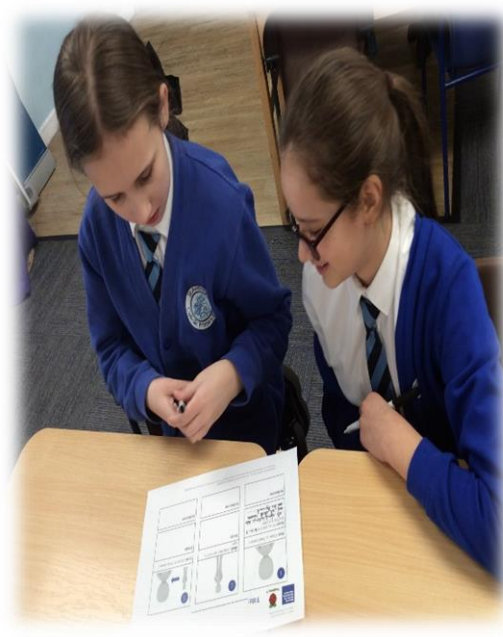


Year 5

We've had a wonderfully productive week in Year 5! The children have settled back into school routines brilliantly, diving straight into their learning with enthusiasm and focus.

In English, we have begun our poetry unit by exploring, *The Magic Box* by Kit Wright. Inspired by its imaginative language, the children have been busy creating their own magical and original versions of the poem. Their creativity has been truly impressive!

In Computing, we are developing our filming skills. This week, the children stepped into the roles of news reporters to create broadcasts about national disasters. Some chose to report on the current LA fires, while others focused on different events around the world. They planned their reports carefully using detailed storyboards and demonstrated fantastic acting skills in their recordings.



Thursday 9th January
WALT: draft my own version of the magic box.

I will put in the box

The electric ball of Zoltos,
The giggle of a waterlily dancing down the rocks,
The new york city gleaming on the silky clouds above.

I will put in the box

The weather of a hot sunny day,
The twisted gears lighted up with the help of golden fireflies,
The best laughter of an angel playing in the park.

I will put in the box

The look of Jack sparrow,
The roar of a tree,
The cracked tooth of pragnathodon

I will put in the box

The gorilla gym of rick and morty,
The purple ear of a sprunki,
The smell of a willow catnip stick



Thursday 9th January 2025.
WALT: Draft my own version of The Magic Box.

I will put in the box,

A sparkle of sunshine on a frozen waterfall,
The silver sliver of Cinderella,
A painty smile from the Grappalies' back.

I will put in the box,

A feather from a yellow, leaping duck,
The jagged edges of a megamaster bones and teeth,
A stick that sees inside your body.

I will put in the box,

A marmalade sandwich from under Paddington's hat,
The liver from a triceratops and t-rex body,
A flying UFO from a different galaxy.

I will put in the box,

A key to unlock Ariana Grande house,
The last dance of a cutie,
A smile of a fresh new book.

My box is fashioned from modern and bubble tea sticks
With flowers on the lid, and beauty in the corner.
It's things are the glass of a human.

I shall have fun and dance in my box
on the very middle top and high,

Thursday 9th January 2025
WALT: draft my own version of the magic box.

I will put in the box

The old, fragile skull of King Arthur the 16,
The echo of a sword clashing from Norrid,
The piercing large tooth of a megalodon.

I will put in the box

The head of a phyllophoral,
The feeling of Christmas morning,
The lightbulb of joy.

I will put in the box

The last root of iron man,
The texture of the glue stick,
A soil as Raphael the nitro turtle.

I will put in the box

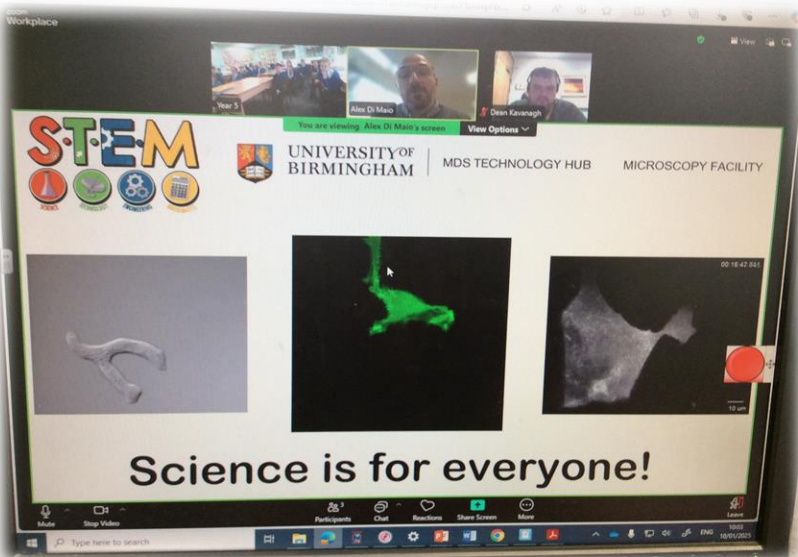
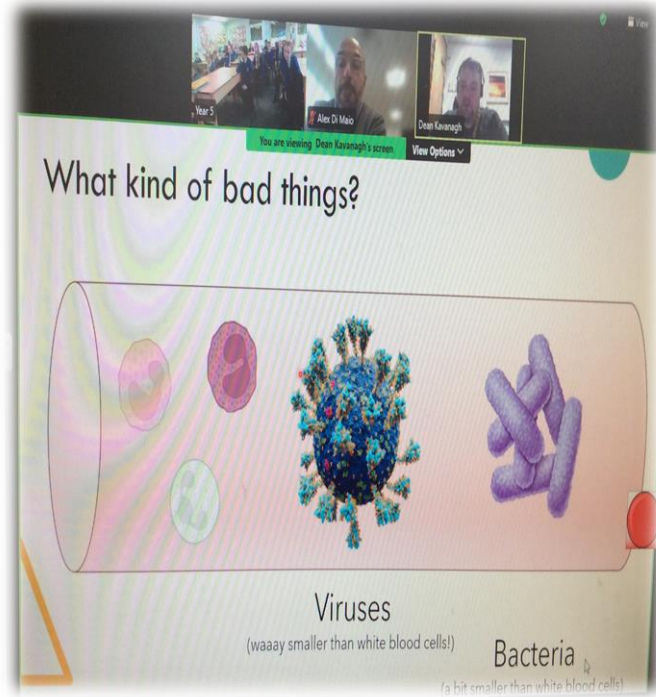
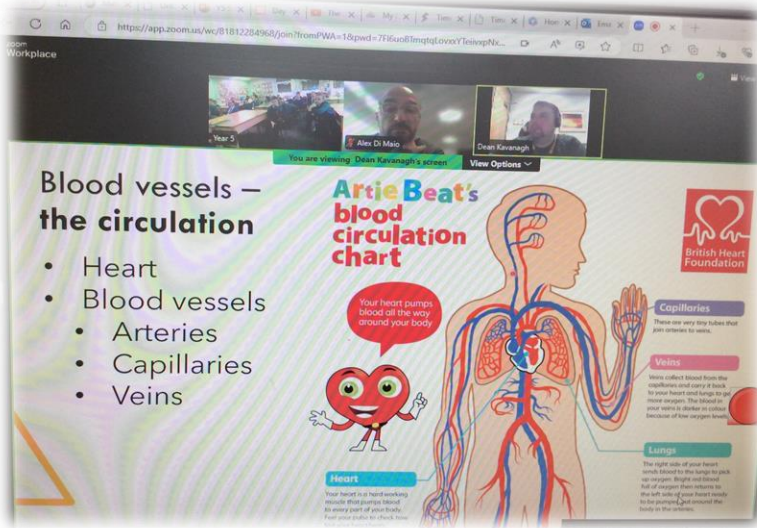
A chunk of Barcelona,
The look of Neil armstrong,
A joystick of a anime pirate.

My box is fashioned with fidgeting bones and ice cream the art
With black stars on the lid and spirits in the corner,
The knight are the voices of dragon bones.



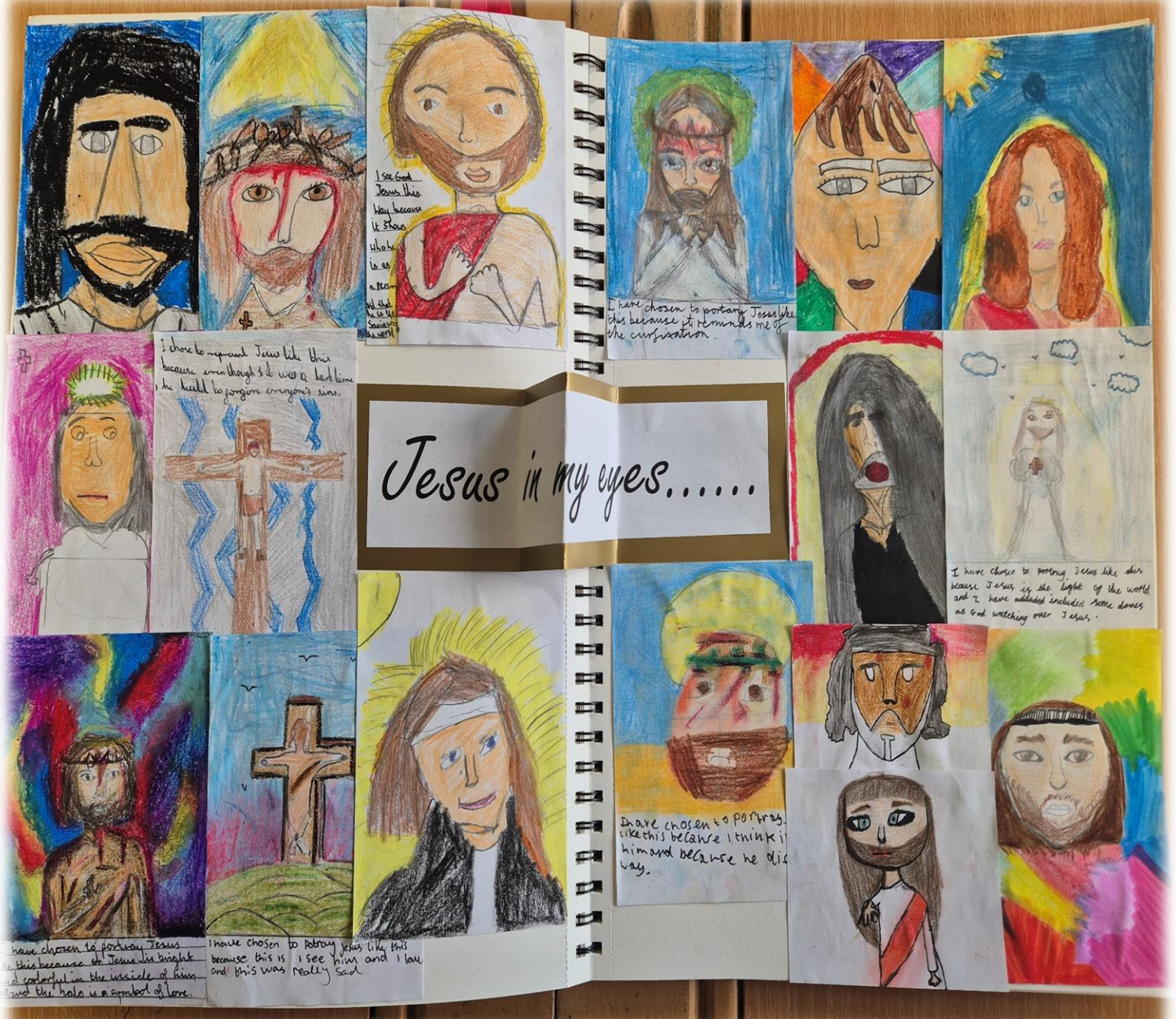
Year 5 continued...

Year 5 were also lucky enough to have a Zoom call with two scientists from Birmingham University. They explained their job roles of a cardiovascular biologist and a marine biologist. They also explained what their job involved and even showed us videos of microscopic white blood cells attacking bacteria cells. The children learnt so much from them. The scientists have kindly given us two microscopes to use over the next two weeks and the children are really excited to start using them.



Year 6

This week in RE, Year 6 created artwork with the title 'Jesus in my eyes'. Miss Cartwright was blown away by the pieces the children produced and how eloquently the children could discuss their ideas.



Attendance



EDUCATION
PARTICIPATION
ADVISORY SERVICE
SOLIHULL MBC

Attendance Support

Does your child worry about going to school?

Do you feel you have tried everything to ensure your child attends school but nothing seems to be working?

Do you feel there has been a relationship breakdown with your child's school?

Do you have general questions around school attendance?

Then please attend one of our drop in sessions for attendance support.

There is no need to make an appointment. Just drop in during the drop in times below.

Chloe and Liz will be completing drop in sessions at the family hubs after the Christmas break. They will be offering attendance advice, support and guidance.

Drop in details:

Tuesday 12-1.30pm @ Elmwood Place

Friday 9.30-12.00pm @ Hatchford Brook

We are here to support families struggling with school attendance.

If you have any questions please email attendanceenquiries@solihull.gov.uk



Elmwood Place
37 Burtons Way,
Birmingham
B36 0UG

Hatchford Brook,
Old Lode Lane,
Solihull
B92 8JE

Parent Information

Free data for those who need it most. If you're struggling to stay connected, ask for the National Databank in any O2 store.

Data is essential to everyday life — from banking and job hunting to simply staying in touch. But many people in the UK are struggling to stay connected and access these vital services.

We co-founded the National Databank with the UK's leading digital inclusion charity, [Good Things Foundation](#). The National Databank provides free mobile data, texts and minutes to those living in data poverty. It's like a foodbank, but for mobile data. Drop by and see us and ask for the [National Databank](#) in any of our O2 stores.

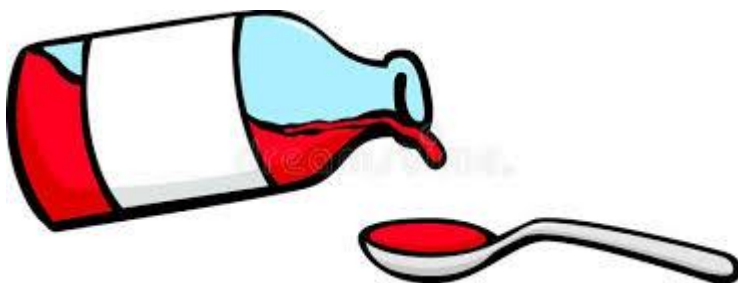
Please follow this link for more information: [National Databank Free Mobile Data, Minutes & Calls](#)



Medication in school

Please remember to check your child's inhaler dates and to keep school informed of any medical issues.

Any out of date medicines will be returned to you.



Support for parents and pupils

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **JUSTALK KIDS**

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a Kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what *is* and *isn't* safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/justalk-kids>

@wake_up_weds

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.01.2025

Next week's menu ...

FOOD FESTIVAL
By Aspens

LUNCHTIME

TRADITIONAL
Week 2

Autumn Winter 2024-25:
9/9, 30/9, 21/10, 11/1, 2/12, 23/12, 13/1, 3/2

	THE MAIN EVENT <small>STREET FOOD</small>	MEAT-FREE MAGIC <small>Veggie Dish</small>	RAINBOW ALLEY <small>Vegetables and Salads</small>	BIG TOPPING <small>Filled Jackets</small>	DESSERT TROLLEY
MONDAY	Cheesy Tomato Pizza Muffins	BBQ and Sweetcorn Pizza Slice	Wholegrain Pasta Salad and Green salad	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Toffee Apple Sponge and Custard
TUESDAY	Chicken Curry and Rice	Winter Vegetable Crumble and Herby Potatoes	Carrots	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Chocolate Sprinkle Iced Cake
WEDNESDAY	Roast Pork, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Cauliflower Cheese, Crispy Onion Topping & Roast Potatoes (You don't have to have the onions)!	Mixed Greens	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Orange Cookie
THURSDAY	Classic Cottage Pie	Roasted Sweet Potato Pastry Roll and Mash	Peas	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Oaty Apple Crunch
FRIDAY	Battered Fish and Chips	Cheese and Tomato Toasted Wrap with Chips	Baked Beans	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Anzac Biscuits

DAILY SALAD BOWL,
FRESHLY BAKED BREAD,
YOGHURTS AND CUT FRUIT

AVAILABLE DAILY

DAILY SANDWICHES AVAILABLE

PASTA TWIRLER

AVAILABLE EVERY DAY

Topped Pasta
Hot Pasta topped with Homemade Tomato Sauce & Cheese

T1

Our catering providers are now offering sandwiches on the lunchtime menu.

Sandwich filling choices are; ham, cheese and tuna (no ham on Fridays) and the choice of filling can be ordered in class.

If meals are not pre ordered, a choice of jacket potato, sandwich or pasta is offered every day.

Wheel of fortune

On **Thursday 16th January** we will be having a special menu at lunchtime. The menu has been voted for by our children. Please remember to book! <https://www.parentpay.com/>

Menu options are:

Hot dogs

Noodles

Pasta

Jacket potato

Sandwich



Solihull School Nursing Newsletter

PRIMARY SCHOOLS WINTER 2025, D&HP9

NHS
South Warwickshire University
NHS Foundation Trust

SOLIHULL SCHOOL NURSING NEWSLETTER



PAGE 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2025

Happy New Year from the entire School Nursing Team!

We hope that everyone enjoyed a delightful festive break and is now adjusting back to the school routine.

The school nursing service operates Monday to Friday, excluding public and bank holidays. You can reach us using the contact details provided below.

Phone: 0121 726 6754

Or text us via ChatHealth

Parent Line: 07480 635496

Aged 11-19 Line: 07520 615730

Winter Illnesses

Flu, RSV, and norovirus cases are high this winter, with this in mind it is important to carry out effective hand washing. Here is a reminder of the step-by-step guide from the NHS, taking about 20 seconds (sing "Happy Birthday" twice):

1. Wet hands with water.
2. Apply soap to cover hands.
3. Rub hands together.
4. Clean the back of each hand and between fingers.
5. Rub hands together and clean between fingers.
6. Grip fingers together and rub fingertips against palms.
7. Rub each thumb with the other hand.
8. Clean fingertips on the palm of the other hand.
9. Rinse hands with water.
10. Dry hands completely with a disposable towel.
11. Use the towel to turn off the tap.

For more information visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

Emotional Support

Many children and young people face behavioural or emotional challenges, which may either resolve on their own or require professional intervention.

Here are some signs to be aware of:

- Noticeable changes in behaviour
- Increased tearfulness or sensitivity
- Persistent sleep issues
- Alterations in eating patterns
- Withdrawal from social interactions
- A decline in interest in activities
- Self-harm or neglect.



This list is not comprehensive; while it's natural for children to experience these symptoms at times, it's important to seek help if they persist.

Parents and carers can provide support at home by:

- **Listening:** Regularly check in and encourage conversations about feelings, helping them to **understand and manage their emotions**.
- **Validating their feelings:** Acknowledge their emotions and reassure them that it's okay to express what they are experiencing.
- **Staying engaged:** Show genuine interest in their lives to better identify any issues.
- **Encouraging interests and healthy coping strategies:** Foster activities that promote their mental well-being.
- **Establishing routines:** Consistent routines around meals, sleep, and exercise can create a sense of security for children. Maintaining this structure during times of change can be beneficial.
- **Taking care of yourself:** Prioritising your well-being enables you to better support your child.

There is a wealth of support available; please don't hesitate to reach out to your school nurse or GP if you need assistance.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS WINTER 2025, D&HP9

South Warwickshire University
NHS Foundation Trust

SOLIHULL SCHOOL NURSING NEWSLETTER



PAGE 2

The Dangers of Frozen Water

Children may be tempted to play on frozen lakes and canals, but the ice presents significant dangers in the UK during winter. Here are some safety tips regarding the risks associated with frozen water:

- **Stay clear of pathways near waterways,** particularly during deliveries, and adhere to all safety warnings.
- **Never attempt to walk on ice,** as it cannot support a person's weight.
- **Avoid the edges,** which may be hidden under snow or leaves.
- **Keep dogs on a lead** when near bywaters.
- **If someone falls through the ice,** call 999 and do not enter the water to help.
- **Monitor the individual,** instruct them to stay calm and breathe normally, and follow the 'Reach To Live' technique if possible. Use rescue equipment to reach them.
- **Once they are out of the water,** make sure the individual stays warm and seeks medical attention.



For additional water safety advice, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/water-safety>

Pet Safety Reminder

Owning a pet offers health benefits and companionship, but it is crucial for children to learn how to interact safely with pets. Resources from the Blue Cross charity provide guidance on ensuring safety for both children and pets. For more information visit:

<https://www.bluecross.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/pets/child-safety-with-pets> or watch this video for parents and carers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...>

Sleep Support



Primary-aged children typically need 9-11 hours of sleep, but sleep issues are common and can lead to hyperactivity and concentration struggles, **impacting their physical and mental development.**

- Factors affecting children's sleep include:
- **Inconsistent Routine:** Disruptions can affect sleep patterns; a stable routine promotes security.
 - **Hunger or Thirst:** Nutritious evening meals help alleviate hunger; avoid sugary foods before bed and keep water nearby.
 - **Comfort:** A supportive mattress and comfortable bedding prevents discomfort during sleep.
 - **Self-Soothing:** Children may need help learning to fall asleep independently; gently teaching self-soothing techniques can be beneficial.
 - **Darkness/Being Alone:** Fears of darkness can be eased with storytelling or comfort items such as a parent's T-shirt so they have a familiar scent nearby; severe cases may need professional advice.
 - **Nighttime Accidents:** Bed-wetting is common and maintaining a consistent, calm approach is essential for children.
 - **Sleep-Friendly Environment:** Sensitivity to noise, light, or bedding can disrupt sleep; consistent conditions and white noise may help.
- For more sleep advice, visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/sleep-problems/children/> or contact your school nurse.

Attendance matters

A number of children received a certificate for 100% attendance for the Autumn Term in today's assembly. What an achievement!

I wonder if we can have an even higher number in the Spring term?!



Congratulations to **Keira in Year 1** who won today's attendance raffle for being in school every day from **Monday 16th – Friday 20th December** (we draw the raffle retrospectively to ensure the winning pupil has completed all 5 days in school).



Applying for School Places

Applying for Reception Class 2025

If you live in Solihull you should apply online at www.solihull.gov.uk/admissions.

You can apply for up to five schools including faith schools and academies. They can be in Solihull, or in another council area. You must rank the schools in order of preference.

Closing date for applications – 15th January 2025



Diary Dates



Term Dates 2025		
Fri 14 th Feb	Whole school	Last day of half term for pupils
HALF TERM HOLIDAY: Monday 17 th February - Friday 21 st February 2025		
Mon 24 th Feb	Whole school	INSET DAY FOR STAFF – no pupils in school
Tues 25 th Feb	Whole school	Return to school
Fri 11 th Apr	Whole school	Last day of half term for pupils
EASTER HOLIDAYS: Monday 14 th April - Friday 25 th April 2025		
Mon 28 th Apr	Whole school	Pupils return to school – start of Summer Term
Mon 5 th May	Whole school	May Bank Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED
Fri 23 rd May	Whole school	Last day of half term for pupils
HALF TERM HOLIDAY: Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May		
Mon 2 nd Jun	Whole school	Return to school
Fri 18 th Jul	Whole school	Last day of the school year for pupils
Mon 21 st Jul	Whole school	INSET DAY FOR STAFF – no pupils in school

DATES OF SACRAMENTS 2025

Weds 12 th Feb 6pm	Year 6	Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop David Evans
Sat 7 th Jun 11am	Year 3	Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Holy Communion)

P.E Days

Please read carefully as the PE days can change from week to week.

Week beginning Monday 13th January

Reception – Friday

Year 1 – Monday and **Wednesday**

Year 2 – Wednesday and Friday

Year 3 – Tuesday and Friday

Year 4 – **Tuesday and Thursday**

Year 5 – **Tuesday (Swimming)**

Year 6 – **Monday** and Thursday



Please remember that pupils need to come into school in their PE kits on these days:

- plain white t shirts (or those with the school badge on)
- **PLAIN BLACK** shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings.
- Hair must be tied back
- No jewellery should be worn.
- Please remove your child's earrings before school. If your child's ears have been recently pierced, please cover the earrings with plasters to enable your child to participate in PE.

**Don't
Forget!**

Please continue to pre-order your child's meals for the following week via ParentPay.

If you do not pre-order, your child will be given the option of a jacket potato or pasta but this is time-consuming for staff so please make every effort to pre-order.



Head Teacher's Awards



Congratulations!

Reception – Jonah – for having a wonderful week, and shining like Jesus everyday.

Year 1 – Kiara-Belle – for trying hard in all lessons, and sharing her brilliant ideas with everyone!

Year 2 – Noah – for smashing your first week back, and impressing me everyday!

Year 3 – Sophia – for making so much progress this year already! Keep shining! Everyone is so proud of you 😊

Year 4 – Lacie – for being a ray of sunshine in the Year 4 classroom, and a delight to teach.

Year 5 – Freya – for being an absolute delight to teach, and always having such a positive attitude.

Year 6 – Harry – for the most amazing week- keep it up!

Mr K Scanlon, Head of School

