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@StAnthonysSch

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Executive Head Teacher: Mr C. Flaherty

Head of School: Mr K Scanlon



Our Lady and All Saints  
Catholic Multi Academy Company

Strong in Faith

St Anthony's Catholic Primary Sch

Fordbridge Road,

Kingshurst,

Birmingham

B37 6LW

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

This half term, we are growing to be eloquent and truthful in what we say of ourselves, the relations between people, and the world.



Eloquence is a painting of the thoughts.

Blaise Pascal (mathematician and physicist)

## PTA – Summer Raffle

Do you work for or have contacts at a company who might be in a position to donate a prize for our summer raffle? This could be anything from a voucher for an experience, to a household item, a hamper of some kind, or even signed memorabilia. All prizes would be gratefully received. If you think you could help, please contact our PTA using the following email address:

[s84pta@st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:s84pta@st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk).

A reminder that the next PTA Summer Fayre planning meeting will take place on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**. The PTA are working very hard to prepare for this exciting event and would value as much support as possible.



# Tiny Ants



*Last week the children loved reading the popular story 'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson and asked if we could continue the story this week. We started the week by doing a 'what's in the box' activity, where children all took turns to pick out characters and objects from the story to guess what we were reading. We've also had lots of fun funky finger activities to strengthen our fine motor skills such as, making our own witches potions, creating broom sticks using pipe cleaners and beads and doing lots of lovely paintings.*



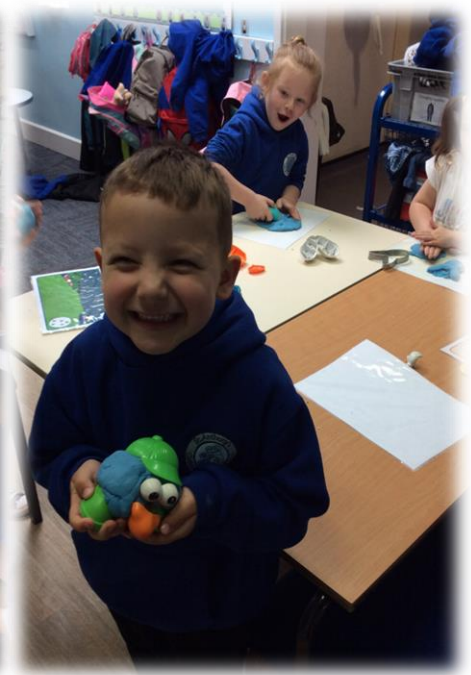
# Nursery

Nursery have had a fun filled week this week, learning all about Pentecost and the power of the Holy Spirit. We have also particularly enjoyed being imaginative with the costumes and have been everything from "old green witches" to "doctors giving out the medicine". It is such a pleasure to see children independently writing and being proud of what they can make.



# Reception

What a lovely week we have had in Reception! The children have enjoyed making silly faces in the play-doh and we've been wonderful mathematicians exploring shape arrangements this week. We even made a 'silly soup' in literacy and put lots of different rhyming pairs in to make some silly ingredients. The children have been listening so reverently this week whilst we have been learning about Pentecost for our RE unit.



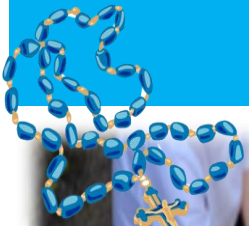
# Year 1



*In Year 1 we have been exploring money. We've spent time identifying coins, making amounts and have been thinking about how many pennies we need to make £1.*

*In PSHE we have been thinking about the importance of saying sorry . We talked about how everybody makes mistakes and it is important to recognise these mistakes in order to move forward. We then took part in a reflection activity. The children thought about a time they have been unkind or behaved inappropriately, in a way that hurts others or God. They then wrote their thoughts down on a piece of paper. To represent that they were sorry for their actions and were ready to move forward, the children crumpled up their paper and put it in to the rubbish bin.*

# Year 2



*This week Year 2 created some artwork inspired by our class artist, Jackson Pollock. We also drew some portraits of Mary to hold up in our joint Rosary with St Andrews school. Well done for such a lovely week Year 2.*



# Year 3

This week Year 3 have particularly enjoyed exploring shadows in science and doing presentations about Roman emperors in Global Learning! In English we have moved on to looking at the book 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl and in maths we have been exploring 3D shapes!



# Year 4



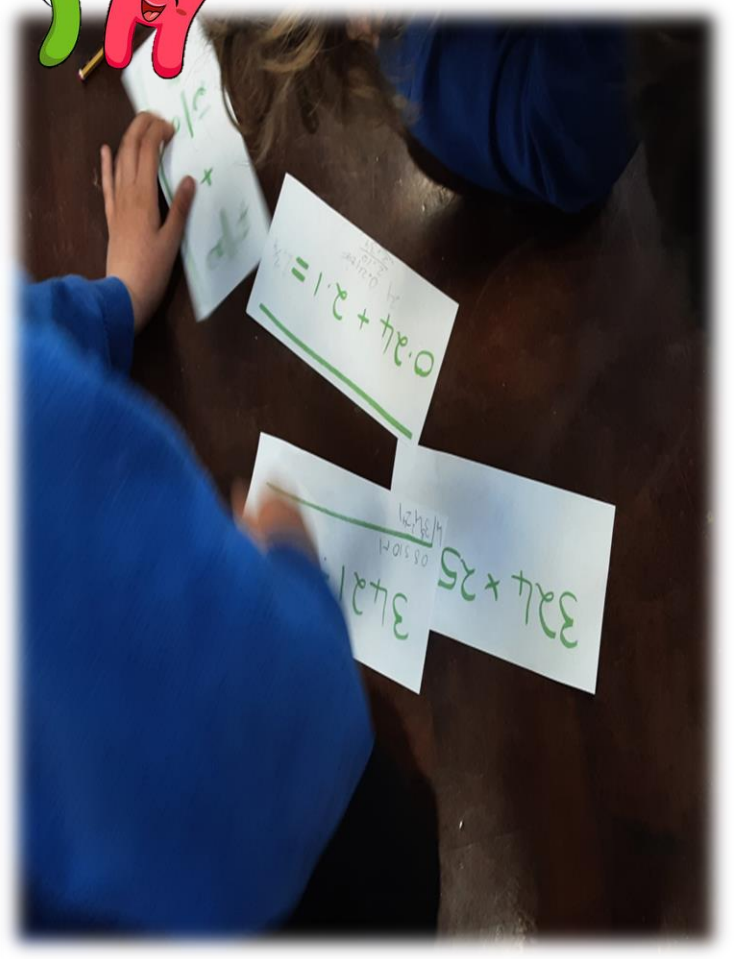
During May we offer devotion to Mary, Mother of God. In Year 4, we joined together in prayer by saying the Rosary. The children explored the four different mysteries, learnt about the different beads on the Rosary and explored the meaning of different prayers. Later in the week, the children reflected on Gospel reading and explored how Mary is important to Catholics all across the world; before making a collage of Mary.



# Year 5

As its Mental Health Awareness week, Year 5 have linked both maths and movement.

We worked in teams to solve the calculations that we collected from the hoops. This really helped us get our brains and bodies moving.



# Year 6

Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils who made it through SATs week! We couldn't be prouder of you all for the hard work and effort you put in, but also for the positive attitudes that you have shown this week.

A special thank you also goes out to all of the staff for their support this week – particularly Mr Dickenson and Miss Yates who ensured our children were well fed before the tests by making hundreds of sausage sandwiches – and of course our hardworking office staff, who arranged for the delivery of all of the breakfast items and sourced the sausages from a local butcher. We really do appreciate everyone going the extra mile this week, and always, to support the children.

Year 6 have so much to look forward to in their final half term and we cannot wait to enjoy their last few weeks at St. Anthony's with them.



# Your local churches need you!

*Be part of shaping the future of our local Church.*

*Did you know that within the next five years almost half of Roman Catholic priests will have reached retirement age...yet there are currently only three trainee priests in the whole of England and Wales?*

*Everyone in our St. Anthony's community invited and urged to come together with parishioners from St. John the Baptist, Guardian Angels, Sacred Heart and St. Teresa and St. Anne's in order to discuss how we can begin to work together as churches in our local area, in order to serve our communities and share God's love - securing the future of our local churches.*

*The meeting will take place at **Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School, Hurst Lane, Shard End, B34 7NH** on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** at **7pm**.*

*Please come along and share your ideas.*



## BE PART OF SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH

*Mission Planning Meeting*

**23**

May  
2024

**7.00pm**

**WE ARE ALL INVITED TO A MEETING AT GUARDIAN ANGELS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST LANE, SHARD END, B34 7NH.**

**WE WILL LOOK AT WHAT WE ARE DOING WELL IN OUR FIVE CATHOLIC PARISH CLUSTER, TO THE EAST OF BIRMINGHAM AND HOW WE COULD WORK TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE, TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE.**

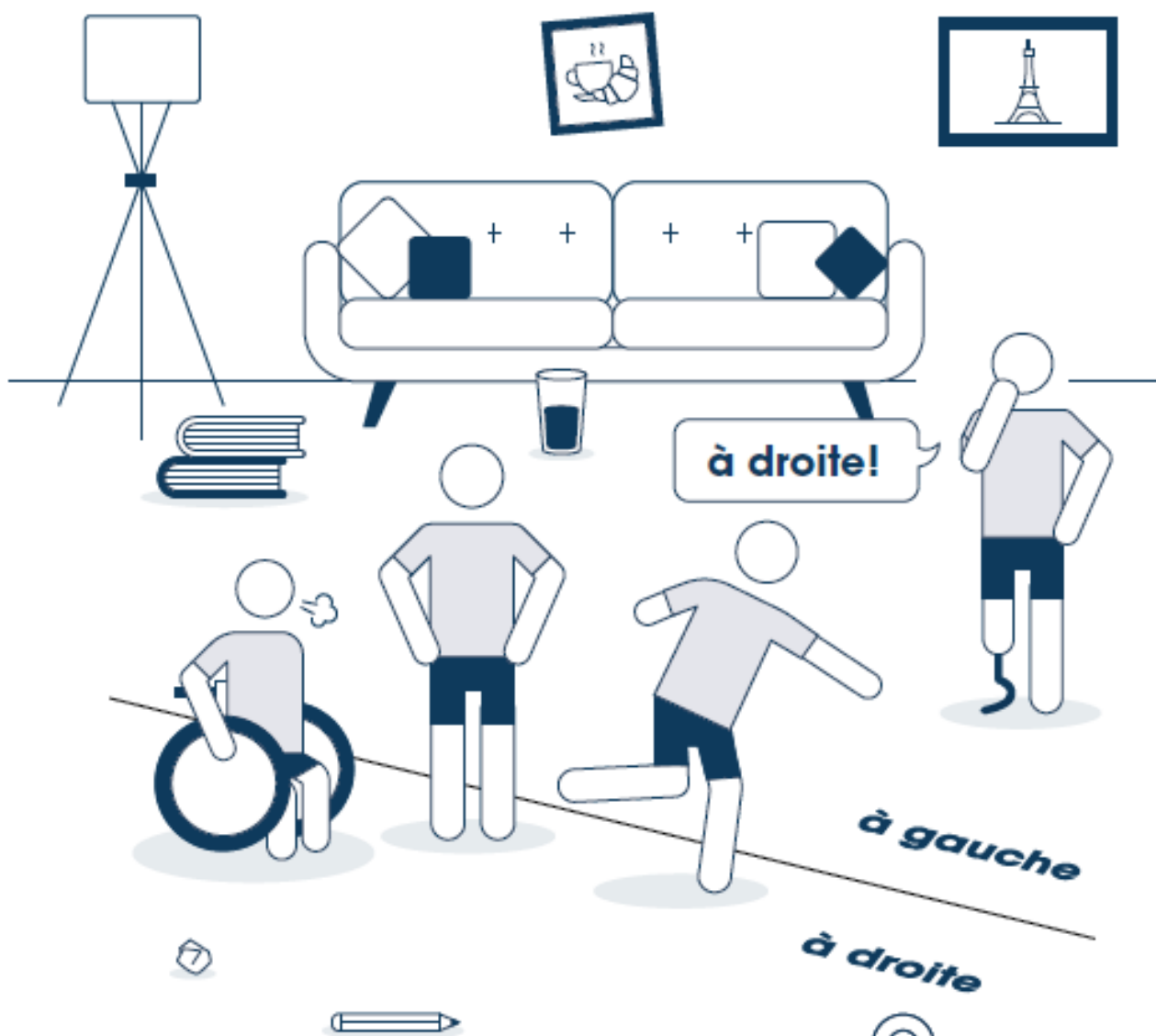
**PLEASE COME ALONG AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS.**

# Path to Paris... This week's activity:

PATH TO PARIS



## Left bank, right bank



Rive gauche, rive droite

### Did you know?

The river Seine runs through the centre of Paris. Many famous artists and writers lived on the left bank.

# Path to Paris... This week's activity:



**Prépare-toi!**

## Get ready!

Line (skipping rope, tape, chalk).



**Joue!**

## Play!

1. Mark a long line to represent the riverbank. Stand side-on to it.
2. A caller shouts à gauche (left) or à droite (right).
3. Jump to the correct 'riverbank' as quickly as you can.
4. If you make 3 mistakes in a row, you become the caller.



**Change le jeu!**

## Change the game

- Jump, step, hop, push or run.
- Move forward (en avant), backward (en arrière) or sideways (de côté).
- Use coloured flags instead of shouting.

Build your skills  
for this activity by  
exploring Get Set  
for... Travel

#PathToParis

For more activities: [getset.co.uk/path-to-paris](https://getset.co.uk/path-to-paris)



# Reminder...

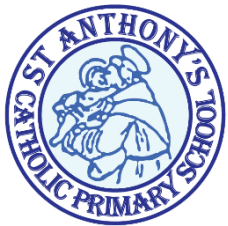
In regards to friendship groups and issues, please report to your child's class teacher in the first instance, rather than Miss Watkins.

The staff in class spend the most time with your child so are the best people for this initial intervention.



Our next school mass will be on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May** and it will be led by pupils from **Year 2** and **Year 5**. All members of our school community are very welcome to attend.

Throughout the month of May the children will be praying the 'Hail Mary' each day. It would be lovely if you could pray this prayer as a family too.



**Solihull College  
& University Centre**



## Free family learning course!

Available to parents / grandparents and carers of children in Year R – Year 2.  
Aimed at supporting you to help your child with their English and Maths work.

The course will run from **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024** from 9:15 – 11:15am each Friday in our outdoor classroom here at St. Anthony's.  
This course is now running in school and its not to late to come long and join us !

# This week's online safety support...

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **SCHOOL AVOIDANCE**

Emotionally Based School Avoidance is a term used to refer to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. It's often rooted in emotional, mental health or wellbeing issues. The rate of children who miss school more than 10% of the time in England has more than doubled since before the pandemic: rising from 10.9% in 2018-19, to 22.3% in 2022-23.

### UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

#### REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics; bullying and friendship difficulties at school; pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams; or moving from primary school to secondary school.

#### PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress – such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

#### COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include complaining of a tummy ache, headache, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

### IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

#### LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

#### LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

#### CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity which is making them anxious – increasing their desire to stay at home.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

### FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and limited time on screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timetabled routine for the child's school day, if required.

### MANAGING OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

While there may be times you feel frustrated or angry, try to stay calm; acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss a range of coping strategies together to help them face the discomfort and overwhelming feelings. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk and practice the strategies in less overwhelming situations first.

### REDUCE STIMULATING ACTIVITIES AT HOME

If a child is avoiding school, reduce their access to more stimulating activities (such as watching television, playing games and spending time with friends) during school hours, where possible. This reduces the potential for the child having rewarding experiences at home, which could be interpreted as a positive aspect of avoiding school.

### Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance)

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

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The boys in Year 2, 4 and 6 beat the girls in Year 2, 4, 6 this week; whilst in the Year 3 and 5 battle, the girls were victorious. The next battles are **St. Andrew** and **St. David** v **St. George** and **St. Patrick** in **each class**. Good luck everyone!

	Most Valuable player	2 <sup>nd</sup> MVP	3 <sup>rd</sup> MVP
Year 2, 4, 6 boys	Noah in Y4	Karson in Y4	Oliver in Y4
Year 2, 4, 6 girls	Everleigh in Y4	Ngoc-Anh in Y2	Ivy in Y2
Year 3 and 5 boys	Harvey in Y3	Leo in Y5	Louie in Y3
Year 3 and 5 girls	Harlow in Y3	Gracie in Y5	Hope K in Y5



Year 1 have been working hard on Numbots this week. Congratulations to **Andrew, Anna, Jiyaa, Otis, Nancy P and Riley** who all completed the next stage of their story maps this week. A big well done to **Noah, Marley and Riley** who were awarded certificates this morning for 'highest improvement in accuracy' in the last 7 days.



We have seen great increases in engagement with online homework this week – thank you for your support. Below you can see the percentage of children in each year group that **HAVE** completed their online Maths homework in the past 7 days:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
47% (up from 33%)	60% (up from 43%)	68% (up from 48%)	100% (up from 97%)	61% (down from 71%)

# Exciting opportunities in the Summer term...



**SUMMER TERM 2024**  
Open to all Solihull parents and carers



EMPOWERING PARENTS  
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

## BEING A PARENT GROUPS

Led by trained parent volunteers, the groups provide you with the tools to help manage challenging behaviour, improve communication, and build a positive relationship with your child.

The Being a Parent groups will be delivered both face-to-face and virtually, starting with a welcome session & then running weekly for a further 8 sessions:

TUESDAY	Virtual via Microsoft Teams	6pm – 7.30pm	30/4/24 – 2/7/24
WEDNESDAY	Dickens Heath School (B90 1NA)	9.30am – 11.30am	1/5/24 – 3/7/24
WEDNESDAY	Marston Green Infants (B37 7AA)	9.30am – 11.30am	1/5/24 – 3/7/24
FRIDAY	Kingshurst Primary School (B37 6BN)	9am – 11am	3/5/24 – 5/7/24

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD

Led by Solihull professionals, the group aims to help you to manage challenging behaviour and improve communication, as well as building and understanding your relationship with your child. The group target age is 4-11 years, delivered face-to-face for 10 sessions:



TUESDAY	Renewal Family Centre (B91 2JY)	9.30am – 11.30am	30/4/24 – 9/7/24
THURSDAY	Evergreen Family Hub (B37 6DX)	9.30am – 11.30am	2/5/24 – 11/7/24

## FIVE TO THRIVE

For parents with children aged up to 2 years, the FIVE TO THRIVE building blocks explore practical things you can do to enhance your child's brain development, increase confidence in parenting and meet local parents.



<p><b>TUESDAY</b> The Bridge, Shirley (B90 3AG)</p> <p>10am – 12pm or 1pm – 3pm</p> <p>16/4/24 – 21/5/24 4/6/24 – 9/7/24</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY</b> Saxon Court, Chelmsley Wood (B37 7RF)</p> <p>12.30pm – 2.30pm</p> <p>18/4/24 – 23/5/24 6/6/24 – 11/7/24</p>
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Book your place now, or find out more by contacting Solihull Parenting Team at: [bsmhft.parenting@nhs.net](mailto:bsmhft.parenting@nhs.net) or book via the Eventbrite QR code below:



# This week's menu ...

## Menu One



Spring Summer Menu 1 Running w/c - 08/04, 20/04, 20/05, 17/06, 08/07, 09/09, 30/09, 21/10

### Monday

Beef Bolognese with  
Pasta

Cheese Whirls  
Potato Wedges Peas

Ginger Cake with  
Custard

Fresh Fruit Platter

Yogurts

### Tuesday

Chicken Tikka Wrap  
Vegetable Medley

Quorn Burrito  
Vegetable Medley

Apple Oat Cookie

Fresh Fruit Platter

Yogurts

### Wednesday

Roast Gammon  
Carrots & Peas Roast  
Potatoes

Quorn Roast Carrots  
& Peas Roast Potatoes

Strawberry Bakewell  
With Custard

Fresh Fruit Platter

Yogurts

### Thursday

All Day Breakfast

Vege All Day  
Breakfast

Lemon Topped  
Sponge

Fresh Fruit  
platter

Yogurts

### Friday

Fish Fingers Chips  
Baked Beans

Cheese & Tomato  
Pizza Chips Baked  
Beans

Chocolate Ice Cream  
Sponge Roll

Fresh Fruit Platter

Yogurts

Available Daily:

Home Baked  
Bread,

Seasonal Salads:

Alternate Offer  
Baked Potato  
Bar  
or  
Packed Lunch

For more information on Menus please  
visit: [www.solihullcateringservices.co.uk](http://www.solihullcateringservices.co.uk)

\*Seafood with this mark comes  
from a MSC certified sustainable  
fishery. [www.msc.org](http://www.msc.org)



# Head Teacher's Awards



# Congratulations!

**Reception** – **John-Paul** for always being a ray of sunshine and putting a smile on everyone's faces.

**Year 1** – **Kacie-Leigh** for being a kind and caring friend and valued member of Year 1.

**Year 2** – **Tommy** for brightening everyone's day with his positive attitude and contagious smile.

**Year 3** – **Jaedal** for being really positive this week and trying his best throughout all of the subjects.

**Year 4** – **Eniwaju** for being an inquisitive learner and always rising to the challenge.

**Year 5** – **Jessica** for having a really positive week and showing great focus in a variety of lessons.

**Year 6** for a fantastic week of SATS. You have all been amazing and made us so proud!





# Diary Dates



These dates will updated each week and newly added events / any changes will be highlighted in yellow.

Date and Time	Year Group	Event
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> May	R – Y6	Whole school Mass – Year 2 and Year 5 leading
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Y6 parents	Alton Castle parent meeting 3:15pm – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Whole school	Break up for half term PTA meeting
<u>Half Term</u> Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May		
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Whole school	Return to school
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6	Alton Castle residential retreat
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3	First Holy Communion Mass 11am
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6	London trip
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6	Visit to Oscott College
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup> June	R – Y6	Whole school Mass – Year 1 and Faith Ambassadors leading
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> June am	Year 6	Visit NEC for Big Bang show
Weds 26 <sup>th</sup> June	All parents	Social, Emotional, Mental Health drop in session for parents 2pm – 3pm
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Tiny Ants, Nursery and Reception parents	EYFS Summer Picnic 1:30pm
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception – Year 6	Sports Day 9am
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole School	PTA Summer Fayre after school
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception – Year 6	Year 6 Leaver's Mass
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole school	End of school year for pupils
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS	



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# SEPTEMBER 2024

## NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE

### 15 AND 30 HOURS PLACES

Ofsted "Children in Nursery listen intently and have fun practicing sounds. They are ready to start learning to read as soon as they enter Reception"  
"Children get off to a strong start in early years"  
One parent echoed the view of many by saying, 'I can't thank them enough for supporting my children with a great start in life.'  
Teachers provide children with a carefully planned curriculum, adapted to meet the needs of all.

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

**Week beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May:**

- Reception – **Thursday**
- Year 1 – **Monday and Tuesday**
- Year 2 – **Wednesday and Friday**
- Year 3 – **Monday and Wednesday**
- Year 4 - **Tuesday (Swimming) and Friday**
- Year 5 – **Wednesday and Thursday**
- Year 6 – **Wednesday and Friday**

## PE days



Please remember that pupils need to come into school in their PE kits on these days, and they should be plain white t shirts (or those with the school badge on) and **PLAIN** black shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings.

Mr K Scanlon, Head of School