



# The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"*

*Philippians 4: 13*

23rd June 2023

Respect

Compassion

Resilience

## Year 4 First Holy Communion

The sun shone down on Year 4 last Saturday as they made their First Holy Communion. It was wonderful to share this occasion with the parish and our families.



## Sports Day

Sports Day has been rearranged for next week.

Tuesday 27th June 10am—Y3 and Y4

Wednesday 28th June 10am—Y5 and Y6

All classes enjoyed a dodgeball session with Steve from Everton this morning. They played two different types of dodgeball in a mini-tournament.

The children in Y3 and Y5 have also enjoyed cricket with Mr Wright this week. Their skills are really sharpening up and we may even have some future Test stars amongst them!

## Letter from Mrs Wells

An important letter has been sent out today from Mrs Wells, our chair of governors.






A joint Catholic & Church of England Academy

## Hope Academy Transition

Transition days will now take place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July. Letters confirming new arrangements will be emailed to parents/carers. Letter can also be found on Hope Academy website. Click [HERE](#) to access. Any queries please email [parent@hopeacademy.org.uk](mailto:parent@hopeacademy.org.uk)

# Award Winners

	Star of the Week	Bee Award
3Ri	Shelby	Cooper
3Ro	Freya	Oliver D
4W	Thea	Zane
4M	Georgina	Rosie
5R	Niamh B	Sophia A
5HQ	Sadie H	Isla
6W	McKenzie	Hollie
6D	Harriet	Scarlett

	<b>School Values Award</b>	Lillie B
	<b>Millionaire Reader</b>	Isobel N (x2) Patrick Rosa Maria Berry
	<b>Rock Hero</b>	

## Sharing the Gospel

### Keep it simple

In this week's bible reading, Matthew 9:35-10:8, we hear Matthew give an overview of Jesus' ministry – teaching, proclaiming the gospel and healing. Then Jesus gives his disciples the commission and authority to replicate and extend this ministry more widely. This week, questions we might ask are: how do we share our story in light of God's amazing transforming story? How do we keep it simple and inviting to those around us? We will explore how together we can be labourers in God's harvest.



Spread the handshapes from the gathering prayer around the room.

Invite everyone to visit each hand and press their own hand against it to pray for the named person:  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen!**



Please may you keep Father Vincent Fedigan, our Parish Priest for a number of years, in your prayers. He is currently poorly and all prayers would be very welcomed.



## BRITISH VALUES

This week's British Value we have been looking at is:



### Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Having access to travel can help us learn more about people living in our world. Life is not the same for everyone and we should respect that.

The story it links to in the news is:

*Within the next ten years, people may be able to travel between London and Sydney in just two hours by journeying through space on a sub-orbital flight. The current length of a traditional flight between London, UK, and Sydney, Australia, is at least 20-22 hours and usually entails a stop-off to refuel along the way. A sub-orbital flight involves launching a spacecraft to an altitude above the Kármán line (the boundary of space).*



# Dates for your diary

Dates for your diary – Summer 3 – St Mary's Catholic Junior School	
27th June	Y3 and Y4 Sports day 10am
28th June	Y5 and Y6 Sports day 10am
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5 Residential - London
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Millionaire reader's tea party – Parents / carers invited. 5.30—Y2 transition evening at the Junior school
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Moving up morning
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Poetry buzz event at Queens Park 6pm
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Spanish Day
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Production 2pm/6pm
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Leavers Mass 10am (provisional) Y6 Leavers Party 5.30—7.00pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Leavers assembly 2.00pm - Parents/carers welcome Finish for Summer

PE days	
Y3	Monday
Y4	Tuesday
Y5	Wednesday
Y6	Thursday

**Dear parents and carers,**  
**We have rearranged our Sports days to the following:**

**Y3 and Y4 - Tuesday 27th June 10am**

**Y5 and Y6—Wednesday 28th June 10am**

**Parents and carers are welcome to spectate.**





# WIN A NINTENDO SWITCH BUNDLE



- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Please help give our fundraising a boost
- Win up to £25,000 every week
- Support our school, and win!



## PLAY NOW:

Scan the QR code or visit  
[www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk)  
 And search for: Federation St Mary's



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 24th June 2023.

Adult £10  
 Child £5  
 Family of 4 £20

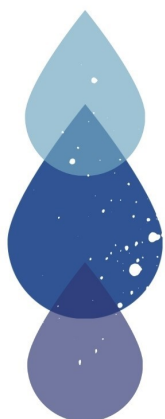
# St Helens Colour Run

Saturday 24th June 2023  
 Arrive 12pm Start 12.30pm  
 Victoria Park, St Helens

REGISTER NOW

[www.willowbrook.org.uk](http://www.willowbrook.org.uk)

ST HELENS METRO MAYOR ST HELENS



The PTFA will be selling  
 bottles of water on

## Sports Day

£1 per bottle - Cash Only

ARE YOU 10-14 YEARS OLD?  
 DO YOU HAVE A  
**PASSION FOR FASHION?**  
 DO YOU HAVE INDIVIDUAL STYLE?

Would you like to show off your creative design skills to celebrities + showcase your ideas to the fashion world?

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THE MAKERS OF "HORRIBLE HISTORIES" ARE LOOKING FOR 10 TO 14 YEAR OLDS FOR A BRAND NEW STYLING CHALLENGE SHOW FOR

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For more details, ask your parent or guardian to contact:

**[fashion@liontv.co.uk](mailto:fashion@liontv.co.uk)**

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# Attendance Matters



## Every Day Counts....



**FACT:** The more time your child spends in school, the better your child's attainment.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

### REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

### LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

### UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

### COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

### PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

### CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

### FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

### TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

### RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

## Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

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# OUT OF SCHOOL CLUBS




**This is our game.**

[dynamocricket.co.uk](http://dynamocricket.co.uk)

Join us at:  
Newton - le - Willows Cricket Club, WA12 9XE

Session dates:  
Friday evenings, 19th May - 7th July 2023, for all children aged 8-11

Session timings:  
6:00 - 7:00 pm

Contact:  
[ianwalky112@gmail.com](mailto:ianwalky112@gmail.com)



**This is our game.**

Dynamo Cricket provides a fantastic next step for all those graduating from All Stars Cricket and the perfect introduction for all 8-11 year-olds new to the sport!

Sessions are all about playing together and developing new skills, teamwork and friendship.

Every child that registers will receive their very own Dynamo Cricket New Balance t-shirt, personalised with their name and number on the back and have access to a brand new digital app, packed with exclusive cricket content, unlockable skills challenges, quizzes and activities.

Sign up today to your nearest Dynamo Cricket centre.

[dynamocricket.co.uk](http://dynamocricket.co.uk)



**Newton-le-Willows FOOTBALL CLUB**  
[nlwfc.co.uk](http://nlwfc.co.uk)  
#FORZA NEWTON

**U9 GIRLS**

**JOIN US FOR THE 23/24 SEASON!**

WE ARE LOOKING TO RECRUIT A COUPLE OF PLAYERS FOR THE NEW SEASON!

GIRLS IN YEAR 3 OR 4 FROM SEPTEMBER



**Contact Us**

07707157233

[enquiries@nlwfc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@nlwfc.co.uk)

[www.nlwfc.co.uk](http://www.nlwfc.co.uk)





**JOIN THE STORM!**

Newton Storm, your local community Rugby League club, are currently on the look out for new players and volunteers.

With age groups from Reception to Open Age, and continued success both on and off the field, it's a great time to get involved.

If you'd like to know more find us on Facebook or Twitter.

@NewtonStormARL  
NewtonStormARLFC  
[www.newtonstorm.co.uk](http://www.newtonstorm.co.uk)

**U8S**

**COME ALONG & JOIN THE STORM!**

Calling Y3 boys & girls to join our U8s team.

Training:  
Mon 6-7pm  
Wed 6-7pm  
Newton Sports Club



For more details, contact:  
Matt 07827 921707  
Jacob 07780 435526



**Big Moments of summer fun!**

Sign up today at [allstarscricket.co.uk](http://allstarscricket.co.uk) or at the centre

Join us at: Earlestown Cricket Club, Earle Street, Earlestown WA12 9NU

Session dates: Monday evenings, starting 8 May 2023 for all children aged 5-8

Session timings: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Contact: [earlestowncc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:earlestowncc@hotmail.co.uk)

