



I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

New Beginnings

This week, for the first time since before the pandemic, we were treated to a collective worship assembly, designed and delivered by the excellent Year 2M children, all about 'New Beginnings.' The children set the scene beautifully with a little altar, candle, music and closed curtains to enhance the cosy environment. It was brilliantly well attended by our parents and carers and they were treated to 3 lively songs, some great, clear and fluent reading by the children and a prayer to finish. It was a great way to start the day and the children did themselves proud. Behind every great performance is a great teacher...so thanks to Miss Murray for making sure the children were well planned and organised to deliver such a lovely service. Well done.

Macmillan cancer support and coffee morning was a great success. Thank you to all the staff, parents and children who made this such a positive experience. I am sure most of us know of either close family or friends who have been affected by cancer and it is heart-warming to know that the money raised today will contribute to ensuring the wonderful Macmillan nurses will continue to make a real difference to all those suffering from cancer.

Attendance Attendance Attendance

Both the local authority of St Helen's and all its schools, including St Mary's, are on a mission to ensure that every child and young person gets their entitlement to come to school and aim for achieving 100% attendance. There is a clear link between attendance and successful outcomes for the vast majority of pupils so it is critical that we work together to make sure that your children try and get the best attendance possible. The statistics are quite compelling, for example:

- 97% and above – pupils with attendance at this level throughout their school career, will make the most progress and this should lead to better prospects for work, college and university.
- 95% - pupils with attendance at this level should reach their target grades and should have good prospects and opportunities for work, college and university but they are just below the national average rate of attendance
- 90% - pupils with attendance at this level are missing a month of school per year and are likely not to reach their target grades. Progress will be negatively affected by their poor attendance
- 85% - pupils with this attendance will find it very difficult to keep up and their chances of achieving their potential will be significantly damaged. Anything below this will make it almost impossible for children to keep up with their work.

Attending school is one of the ways of giving your children the best possible start in life giving them the best possible chances of success for their futures. Together we can achieve this.

Finally, just a few reminders about next week and the school photographs, Reading evening and parental RSHE consultation as well as the PTFA AGM next Thursday. All are welcome, especially our new families. And, well done to Saints last week in the Grand Final!!

Have a great weekend. God Bless.





Y2M Assembly

Y2M worked incredibly hard for their Collective Worship on Wednesday which was all about 'beginnings.' The children read so confidently in front of their audience and enjoyed every moment. They created some amazing props and beautiful prayers together. I am so incredibly proud of Y2M.

Miss Murray



Many thanks to all the parents/ grandparents and friends of St Mary's who came and supported the MacMillan Coffee Morning today at the Infant School.

A total of £187.50 was raised, which is brilliant!

We are very grateful to the P.T.F.A for all their efforts and support to run this charity event in school.

Well done everyone!



WORLD'S BIGGEST
**COFFEE
MORNING**
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT





WALK & TALK

**HOME
START**
St Helens

The sessions are designed to reduce isolation, help parents like you and your children to meet new people and to improve your overall wellbeing.

Meeting every Thursday, at
Newton Children's Centre, Patterson Street,
Newton-le-Willows WA12 2PZ

Come along and meet the Home-Start St Helens
and
St Helens Wellbeing Team.

**Free
Healthy
Snack**

**Join us
9:45am -
11:30am**



ST HELENS WELLBEING
chcp

For more information call 01744 737400

Thank you to all our parents and carers who attended Upper KS2 (Y5 and 6) Mass on Thursday.

Thank you to Father Peter for celebrating Mass with us. As Father has only been here for 2 days, it was a lovely welcome for him.

Well done to our upper school Worship Warriors, who welcomed and read beautifully.

COMPETITION TIME

All Year 5 and Year 6 children are invited to enter the competition to name one of the new hydrogen bin lorries that will be appearing in St Helens very soon.



Competition entry forms have been sent out to all Y5 and Y6 children and can be returned to school or emailed to recycling@sthelens.gov.uk



Parents' Evenings this year will be held in the school halls to allow you opportunity to meet the teacher face to face and look at your child's books. Appointments will be sent out soon through Teachers2Parents for 12th and 13th October.

Y3 enjoyed their first forest school session of the year on Thursday when they were transported back to the Stone Age times. Luckily, there were no woolly mammoths hiding amongst the trees.

After School Clubs

So far at the Juniors this year, children have had access to football, netball, tag rugby, gymnastics, dance, CAFOD, board games, choir and judo clubs, as well as after school woodwind lessons.

Thank you to all staff who have volunteered to run these sessions. The uptake has been brilliant and its been so good to see both children and staff having fun together.

This half term's Curriculum Overviews for Years 3—6 have been emailed out to parents and carers this week. They can also be found on the website under the class pages.

We hope that these will be a starting point for conversations or simply allow you a glimpse into life at school. If you would like any more information, please speak to your child's teacher.

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2022-2023 Year 6 Autumn Term 1 Curriculum Overview	Religious Education Loving Vocation and Commitment	RSHE World Mental Health Day Parent consultation meeting – date to be arranged	EngDsk Text: Wonder Theme: Survival
Maths Place Value Addition and Subtraction Multiplication and Division	Science Animals including Humans	PE Gymnastics Invasion Games - Football	Art and Design Skills
Computing Bletchley Park	Geography The North Pole and The South Pole	RFL Everyday Life	Music Happy
Meet the Team The Year 6 team are: Mrs Whitfield, Ms Duffy, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Bikerstaffe, Mr Campbell, Miss Morris and Miss Hodgkinson. We are looking forward to an exciting and challenging first half term.		Homework & PE PE – Monday Homework club – Thursday lunchtime Book Bingo – Friday CGP books- Friday Spellings –Friday to be practised in the green spelling books Reading – Minimum 3x week to be signed once by an adult by each Friday	Coming up... Meet the teacher Welcome BBQ Phase Mass Parents' evening After school clubs Forest School Quidditch Tournament



There's a very good chance you've heard of Fortnite, but what exactly is it? And why is it so popular amongst young people? Fortnite is an online multiplayer "battle royale" game developed by Epic Games, and is playable on Playstation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC and mobiles. It gained popularity in late 2017 and has since become the biggest game in the world, thanks to its rapid and engaging gameplay. As with most games, Fortnite itself is a highly enjoyable and safe experience, but it pays to be vigilant, as the safety is not water tight.



What parents need to know about

FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE



BATTLE ROYALE

Battle Royale games have become very popular over the last couple of years, and most tend to follow a very similar setup. Taking Fortnite as an example, 100 players drop into a map, loot buildings for weapons and armour and attempt to beat all the other players to be crowned victor at the end. If you've ever seen the Hunger Games movies, you'll have an idea of what this entails. Each game can take up to 20 minutes (assuming you last to the end) and can be restarted relatively quickly once 100 free players have been found.



IS FORTNITE ADDICTIVE?

Fortnite is at the forefront of gaming addiction discussions because it is so popular with young people. But whether it actually contributes to gaming addiction is up for debate. WHO (World Health Organisation) have classified gaming as a legitimate addiction, but this is not solely a concern with Fortnite. Signs of addiction can include irritability when not playing, lying about the amount of time played and a preoccupation with thoughts of the next gaming session. Realistically, it must be down to parents and carers to recognise these symptoms and act accordingly if they think they are developing.



FREE TO PLAY... OR IS IT?

While Fortnite is technically free to play (in that you can download and play it without paying) it does come with the caveat that spending money on things like skins and emotes in-game is heavily pushed to players. The currency used in-game is called 'V-Bucks' and can be bought with real money through the game's online store. It's worth remembering that these purchases are absolutely not necessary, are cosmetic only and that V-Bucks can be earned in-game with enough play time.



SEASONAL UPDATES

Every 10 weeks or so Fortnite is updated with a new season. This essentially adds new things like skins and emotes to the game, while also sometimes changing up the game map in interesting ways. These seasons are free to everybody and don't require additional mon to play, though battle passes for each season can be bought with V-Bucks. A battle pass will typically allow a player to earn experience faster and gain fun in-game items by completing a host of daily challenges.



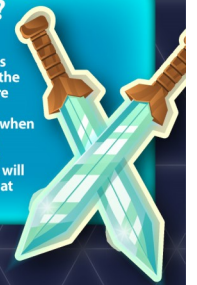
CROSSPLAY IS AVAILABLE

One of the wonderful things about Fortnite is that it can be played cross-platform. This means that no matter what platform a person plays on (PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One etc) they can play with friends who own the game on a different platform. To do this, an Epic Games account must first be created online (which is free) and then linked with your platform account. Doing this removes the age-old boundary of not being able to play together because you don't have the same console and opens up a whole new world of playing online with friends.



IS FORTNITE VIOLENT?

Fortnite has been rated by the ESRB (Entertainment Software Ratings Board) as 'teen', as it contains cartoon violence and the weapons and acts depicted in the game are some way removed from their real life inspirations. Characters don't draw blood when shot and instead of dying, they are simply beamed up off the map. Naturally, players younger than the recommended age limit will want to play the game and that should be at the discretion of parents and carers.



Top Tips For Parents

BUYING V-BUCKS

As mentioned, Fortnite does contain in-game purchases and microtransactions in the form of V-Bucks which can be bought with real money. If you do decide to let your young one spend money in the game, be sure to delete your card information afterwards as it can be very easy to purchase more items at the press of a few buttons. It's important to set a limit on any purchases (as mentioned they are absolutely not necessary to play the game) and a suggestion would be capping the spending at around £50 - this is the normal retail price of a game.



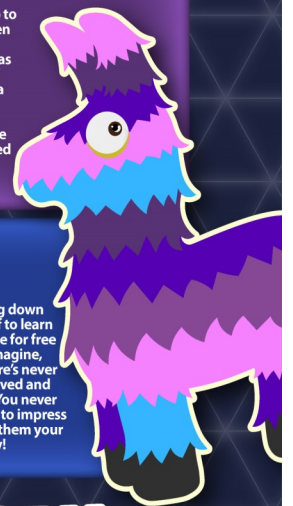
GAMING WITH STRANGERS

Fortnite Battle Royale is an online game, and as such, there is a chance that young children could come into contact with strangers who are randomly placed into their groups in a game. It's difficult to predict what another person might say or do in a game, so it's a good idea for friends playing together, to be grouped together. The only real countermeasure to interacting with strangers offered by Fortnite is to turn off all mic communications, which can be done in the game's settings. Using outside chat apps, like Skype or Discord while playing, is a great way to make sure you know who they're talking to and that nobody else is listening in.



LIMIT TIME, BUT BE FLEXIBLE

A game of Fortnite can last up to 20 minutes, so be flexible when it's time to put it away. The approach of 'one more game' as opposed to '10 more minutes' will stop any complaints that a match is still ongoing. Better still, play with your child and take it in turns; that way you're helping control the time played and can keep an eye on what they're experiencing.



TALK TO OTHER PARENTS / CARERS

If you're concerned about play time or spending money in the game, talk to other parents and carers of your child's friends. If you approach as a collective, it will be easier to know when their friends are online and you don't have to worry about who they're playing with. It can also help curb expectations on spending money on battle passes and skins if you stick together.



CAN DEVELOP SOME IMPORTANT SKILLS

It's often overlooked just how good gaming can be for young people. Fortnite encourages team play, quick and complex problem solving and communication; that's not to mention the lightning fast reflexes gamers can develop. While taking breaks to do other activities is of course important, there are benefits to screen time which might not be immediately obvious.



PLAY THE GAME YOURSELF

There's no substitute for sitting down and playing the game yourself to learn all about it. Fortnite is available for free on almost anything you can imagine, even your smartphone, so there's never been a better time to get involved and see what all the fuss is about. You never know, you might even be able to impress your children when you show them your impressive Victory Royale tally!

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



<https://www.theguardian.com/games/2018/mar/07/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide-video-game-multiplayer-shooter>; <https://www.psychguides.com/behavioral-disorders/video-game-addiction/>; <https://www.polygon.com/2018/3/23/17146848/cross-platform-crossplay-ps4-xbox-pc-switch-ios-mobile-enable-friends-compatible-matchmaking701E7D>; <https://www.esrb.org/ratings/34948/Fortnite/>

Sharing the Gospel

Faith and freedom

In this week's gospel, Luke 14:7-10, we see that when the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith, Jesus reminds them that if they have even a tiny amount of faith they can achieve extraordinary things. Then he says that they are simply being invited to fulfil the task given to them. In a world of constant advertising, fake news and peer pressure, our faith in Jesus can be our one fixed point. However frail our faith may seem, it gives us a freedom from other pressures. Do our lives reflect that freedom we have in belonging to Jesus?



Prayer

Loving God, thank you that we all belong to your family. Help us to show our qualities this week so that our faith can grow, and others can see you through us. Amen. .



BRITISH VALUES

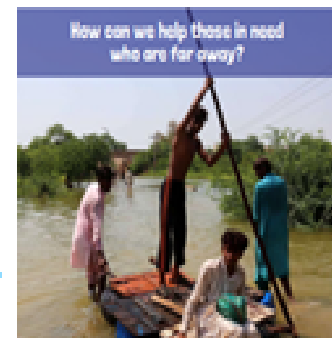
This week's British Value we have been looking at is:

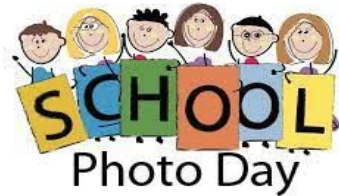
Individual Liberty

Millions of people living in Pakistan have been affected by flooding. There are many different ways we can help if we choose to.

The story it links to in the news is:

Pakistan has had the heaviest rainfall in decades. The United Nation's (UN) Secretary General has urged the world to help Pakistan, after flood water covered a third of the country. Starting an appeal to help the tens of millions affected by the disaster, Secretary General Antonio Guterres blamed exceptionally high levels of rain and climate change. The flooding has affected over 30 million people in Pakistan as the heavy rains have washed away roads, people's homes, and farms. Emergency services have been pushed to their limits trying to rescue those stranded and evacuate them to temporary housing.





Tempest will be at the Junior school on Tuesday 11th October.

Any sibling photos (either infant or junior or both) can be taken from 8.30 on the Tuesday morning in the **junior hall**. Parents/carers will have to stay with any infant children to take them across to the infant school once they have finished.



Next week, our prayer and liturgy worships will have a harvest theme.

We will be accepting donations of food—tinned, packets etc and distributing them to local food banks.

We will be inviting the children to join in with Family Fast Day on Friday (7th). By sharing a simple meal and giving what you save, we'll be standing in solidarity with vulnerable people who are threatened by the global food crisis. No-one deserves to go hungry.

Y5 Football tournament

Y5 had a fantastic tournament yesterday and we are delighted to say that they were in 3rd place. Impeccable St Mary's behaviour and high standards all round. Well done Team St Mary's!



RSHE information evening

There will be an information evening on Thursday 6th October at 5pm in the Junior hall for all parents (both infant and junior). We will have opportunity to discuss what is taught in our RSHE curriculum and there will be ample opportunity to ask any questions you might have.

We look forward to sharing our RSHE curriculum with you all.

COMING UP



Dates for your Diary

Monday 3rd October Tempest individual photographs from 8:30am at Infants

Tuesday 4th October Reading meeting for all Infant parents from 5pm

Friday 7th October Harvest festival in Church at 2:15pm for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Parents welcome in Church

Tuesday 11th October Tempest individual/ family photographs from 8:30am at Juniors

Wednesday 12th October Parents evening at the Infants and Juniors in the school halls

Thursday 13th October Parents evening at the Infants and Juniors in the school halls

Harvest Celebration in Church at 2:15pm on Friday 7th October

foodbank **Foodbank Donations** **thehopecentre** ST HELENS

Biscuits
Cereal
Coffee
Crisps/Snacks
Custard
Juice
Fish (Tinned)
Fruit (Tinned)
Instant Mash

Personal Care
Shampoo
Soap - Shower Gel
Toilet Rolls
Fem Hygiene
Toothpaste
Deodorant

Meat (Tinned)
Milk (UHT)
Noodles
Pasta in Sauce Packets
Potatoes (Tinned)
Pasta Sauce
Rice Pudding
Savory Rice Packets Instant
Soup
Sugar
Tomatoes (Tinned)

The Hope Centre is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesdays & Fridays 10am-3pm,
Thursdays open 10am - 2pm

Thank you for your support!

Our children from Reception to Year 2 are leading the celebration and this year we are supporting 'The Hope Centre'.

The Hope Centre supplies food to families in our local area. Boxes will be on the Infant playground and outside the office from Wednesday 5th October for any donations.

As always, thank you for your support.

STARS OF THE WEEK AND BEE AWARDS

	Star of the Week	Kindness Award
Nursery	Zachary	Gustas
RM	Jacob	Ivy
RB	Lewis	Alexander
Y1B	Ivy	Isla
Y1G	Evelyn	Ivy
Y2M	All of Y2M	Igor
Y2T	James	George

	Star of the week	Bee Award
Y3Ri	Lewis	Rosa-Maria
Y3RO	Orla	Romeo
Y4W	Morgan	Ethan
Y4M	Queen	Lillie
Y5RO	Georgia	Olivia
Y5HQ	Cate	Olivia
Y6W	Divina	Harriet
Y6D	Brandon	Harriet

Respect & Manners Award

Infants: Charlie

Juniors: Charlie W

