



I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

Resilience, Respect, Compassion

Welcome back and I hope you all had a great half term break with family and friends. We have had a lovely start to this second term of school and we were reminded recently about the importance of our school values: 'RESILIENCE, RESPECT and COMPASSION. As a Catholic school and in our day to day activities, these values should permeate all that we do. And we see this a lot with our children, for example resilience is shown daily in their learning challenges, mutually respectful relationships abound and compassion is a real strength throughout the Federation, demonstrated by both children and adults. We are blessed with great children, staff and parents/carers.

Belonging

Well done to Year 2 and Mr Beech's class this morning who delivered a lovely Collective Worship performance for parents/carers about belonging, families and baptism. They read, sang and danced wonderfully well. We are so proud of them all.

First Aid



In the juniors the children have been learning about saving lives! Children have been learning about basic first aid with a trained instructor, including CPR, choking, bleeding, burns etc. This is a hands on experience for the boys and girls equipping them with the knowledge and skills of what to do in an emergency. Well done to them all.

Rock Hero Day

What a way to remind children about the importance of TIMES TABLES!

As a school we need to ensure all our children know their times tables up to the 12x12 times tables by the end of Year 4!! It's a tall order and so important to all of their maths work in school as well as their life outside of school. We are having a big push on mathematics this year and hope to continually improve.



Whole School Mass

On Tuesday the whole school celebrated a quite memorable Mass for All Saints Day. It was a real 'child friendly' Mass in parts and the children were really engaged and enjoyed it.

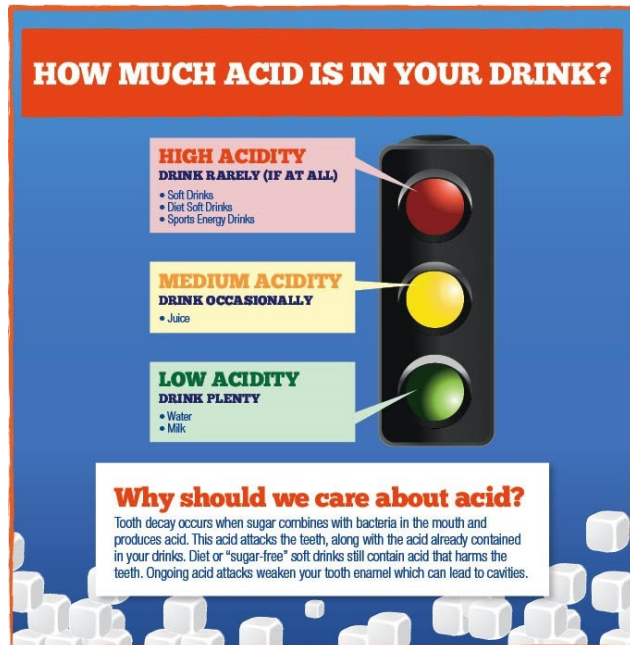
PE (Physical Education)

Finally, just to let you know we now have in both schools, sports specialists who are enhancing our curriculum provision, our after school sport and our lunchtimes. Mr Andrew Wright is doing work across both schools and the children are really enjoying their PE/sport. Have a good weekend and God Bless.



Water in Water Bottles.

As a School we strongly advise that you only provide water in your child's water bottle, **not** juice, flavoured water or fizzy drinks.



Junior School Snacks



At the Junior School, children are allowed to bring snacks to eat at morning break. These snacks should only be fruit or vegetables.

St Mary's Uniform Guidelines

Uniform EYFS Nursery & Reception

White polo shirt

Royal blue cardigan or sweatshirt with or without school logo

Grey skirt / trousers / shorts

Blue & white gingham or candy stripe dress (summer)

White or grey socks or grey tights

Sensible black shoes (no boots or trainers)

Uniform KS1 and KS2

White shirt

School tie

Royal blue cardigan or sweatshirt with or without school logo

Grey skirt / trousers / shorts

Blue & white gingham or candy stripe dress (summer)

White or grey socks or grey tights

Sensible black shoes (**no** boots or trainers)

PE Kit:

Children come into school wearing their PE kit.

White & royal blue top with school logo or plain white T shirt

Plain royal-blue shorts. No logos.

Plain navy-blue tracksuit bottoms or navy-blue leggings. No logos.

Plain navy-blue hoodie or jacket. No logos.

Pumps or trainers

Hairstyles & Jewellery

All long hair must be tied back (from shoulder length).

We do not allow any 'extreme hairstyles,' including tramlines, mohicans or partly shaved styles or hair that is dyed. *If your child's hairstyle is unacceptable for school, you will be invited into school to discuss it.*

Jewellery is not allowed to be worn in school other than a watch. Smart watches are not allowed. Earrings are **NOT** to be worn due to health and safety reasons.

Poppy Appeal



Poppies are available to purchase at both the Infant and Junior site. If your child would like a poppy, please send them into school with a donation.



Grapes



Children in Need

We will be supporting BBC Children in Need on Friday 18th November. It will be a non-uniform day and we will be collecting donations of £1 for this good cause.



Next Thursday, we have two opportunities for parents and carers to 'come and see' what our RE teaching is like at the Junior School. Sessions will be held after Lower School Mass at 9.30 and repeated at 5.30.

These sessions will be an informal chance for you to find out more about what your child learns in their RE lessons and we hope to be able to answer any questions you might have.



After attending All Saints Day Mass on Tuesday morning, Y3 stayed in Church to learn more about the Sacrament of Baptism. They were delighted that Father Benedict was able to join them. Congratulations to our 'parents' and 'god-parents' and thank you to 'Father' Lewis for conducting such a beautiful ceremony.



Any design your own Christmas orders need to be returned by Friday 11th November.

By supporting this, you are supporting our wonderful PTFA, who work hard to raise funds for both schools, providing opportunities for all to enjoy.

Sharing the Gospel

Welcome to my home

In this week's gospel, Luke 19:1-10, we see that after discovering Zacchaeus in a tree, Jesus is an unlikely guest in the home of this despised tax collector. However, Zacchaeus' greed is transformed into generosity as a result of his encounter with Jesus, and this becomes good news for the poor and those he had defrauded.



Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Amen.



BRITISH VALUES

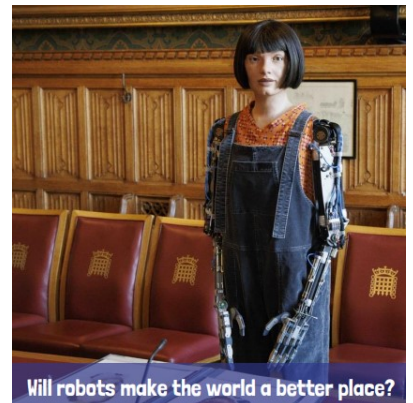
This week's British Value we have been looking at is:

Individual Liberty

People are responsible for advances in science and technology. It is important that risks are managed and the consequences considered carefully so that these advances help us.

The story it links to in the news is:

A robot named Ai-Da has become the first robot to speak in the House of Lords in Westminster, London. The robot spoke to the House about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the future of arts, fashion, and music. Ai-Da's creators hope that she will give the House of Lords and others a fresh perspective on how technology can be used to create art in the future. Built in Cornwall by Engineered Arts, Ai-Da was then programmed by an international team and named after English mathematician, Ada Lovelace.



Dates for your diary – Autumn 2 – St Mary's Catholic Infant School

Mon 7th November	<p>Everyday Heroes day. All children and staff are invited to dress up as an everyday hero. This could be anyone who is a hero to them eg doctor, fireman, teacher, nurse, member of their family or themselves. Please do not buy anything new. We ask that you just use your imagination and use items that are already in your house; the more imaginative the better!</p> <p>EYFS Open Evening 4pm-6pm</p>
Wed 9th November	<p>KS1 Boccia competition</p> <p>Y2B Parent's evening 3.30pm-6pm</p>
Thurs 10th November	Y2B Parent's evening 3.30pm-6pm
Mon 14th November	<p>Anti-bullying week Taekwondo workshops for all children.</p> <p>Odd socks-All children to attend school in PE kit and wear odd socks</p>
Fri 18th November	Children in Need-Children to wear their own clothes- anything bright, with spots or both!
Monday 21st November	Pantomime
Thurs 24th November	Parent's maths workshops -9am and 5pm
Wed 30th November	Movie night 3.15-5pm

Dates for your diary – Autumn 2 – Junior School

Mon 31st October	School reopens
Tues 1st November	9.30: All Saints Day Mass at Ss Mary and John's Church. Y2-6. Families welcome to attend
Thurs 3rd November	Y3-6 Flu vaccinations 4M swimming
Fri 4th November	Rock Hero day. To launch Times Tables Heroes competition fortnight, all children and staff are invited to dress up as a rock star – either a famous one or themselves. There is no cost involved and we just ask that the children wear sensible, non-rock star shoes as part of their outfit. Y5 and Junior Safeguarding Team First Aid Training
Mon 7th November	9.15: 4M Class Prayer and liturgy in Junior School Hall – families welcome
Tues 8th November	Y3 Victorian Day
Thurs 10th November	9.30: Lower KS2 (Y3/4) Mass in the Junior School Hall 10.30 and 5.30: RE consultation in the Junior School Hall – 'What does RE look like at St Mary's?' Y6 Forest school session 4M swimming
WB Mon 14th November	Anti-bullying week 6D Bike right (more information to follow)
Tues 15th November	9.00/5.30: Maths workshop for parents /carers Y4 Trip to Chill Factore
Thurs 17th November	4M swimming
Friday 18th November	Children in Need non-uniform day. £1 donation.
WB Mon 21st November	6W Bike right (more information to follow)
Tues 22nd November	Y6 Height and Weight checks
Thurs 24th November	Y3 Apple of my Eye – DT food day 4W swimming
Tues 29th November	3.30 – 4.30: 4W With You Always
Wed 30th November	3.30 – 4.30: 4M With You Always
Thurs 1st December	Y6 Apple of my Eye – DT food day 4W swimming
Mon 5th December	Visiting theatre company 'A Christmas Carol'
Thurs 8th December	4W swimming
Mon 12th December	9.15: 5R Class Prayer and liturgy in Junior School Hall – families welcome
Thurs 15th December	2.00pm and 6.00pm: Y3 Christmas Production in Junior School Hall Y4 swimming (additional lesson for some children – children will be contacted separately).
Mon 19th December	*Provisional* 6.00: Carols by Candlelight at Ss Mary and John's Church.
Wed 21st December	*Provisional* 9.30: Whole School Mass at Ss Mary and John's Church. Y2-6 School closes at 3.30.

STARS OF THE WEEK AND BEE AWARDS

	Star of the Week	Kindness Award
Nursery	Winnie	Luke
RM	Ciara	Esmail
RB	Archie	Alex
Y1O	Payton	Joe
Y1G	Seb	Bella
Y2M	Mason	Shay
Y2T	Clark	Aodhan

	Star of the Week	Bee Award
3Ri	Payton	Betsy
3Ro	Hugo	Orla
4W	Arabella	Zane
4M	Hallie	Lilly-Rose
5R	Harley	Lucy
5HQ	All of 5HQ	Matilda
6W	Paulina	Elijah
6D	Charlie	Scarlett

Respect & Manners Award

Infants: Amelie

Juniors: Emilie



Could we please ask all parents to be respectful of our lovely residents and be cautious of how and where you are parking at drop off and pick up. We have had some complaints regarding parents parking on double yellow lines particularly at the Infant site.



**No dog
fouling**

Polite notice

Please help us to keep our paths and roads around both schools clean.

Remember to clean up after you dog,

Party Invitations

Please do not send in party invites for staff to hand out unless the invites are for the whole class.

Please note, we do not hand out class lists to parents.

Infant school request

We are running low on underwear, we would be very grateful of all donations.

Thank you.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

AGE RATING

18

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'intimacy levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches Intimacy Level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions; this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

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.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Fireworks Be Safe!



FOLLOW THE FIREWORK CODE

If you must have fireworks at home, please follow this safety advice.

DOs

- Only buy fireworks from retailers registered with MFRS
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Light them at arm's length, using a taper
- Stand well back
- Always supervise children around fireworks
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves
- Keep pets indoors

DON'Ts

- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
- Never give sparklers to a child under five
- Don't let fireworks off after 11pm