



St. John Vianney School
Steps to Independence & Education for Life

**The Salford Diocese School for
Children & Young People with SEND**



Weekly News

05/10/2020



DIOCESE OF SALFORD
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Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you and your families remain well?



Despite the emerging second wave of the pandemic, which we are all facing nationally, we have continued to keep school open for all our pupils this week. The children have continued to support us across school in remaining in their hubs and quickly coming to terms with the new ways of working that we have set up since the start of September. Thank you for your continued support in motivating and in getting your children into school daily; it is really appreciated. We are continuing to look for wider opportunities to reopen fully the curriculum we deliver and it has been great to see so many children accessing offsite activities and visits, which help bring their learning to life. We are risk assessing every visit carefully and are confident that we can continue to keep everyone safe and still provide these enriching activities for all at present.

Please remember to follow us on Twitter to see the daily activities and events which are being delivered in school. @StJohnVianneySc

Yesterday we had our remote 'Welcome Evening' in School. I do hope you found the video presentations we sent home earlier this week informative and thank you to the number of parents who had 'welcome' conversations with the class teams last night also. I do hope these were helpful?

I am conscious that there remains uncertainty around current Coronavirus guidance and how it is applied. Should you have any concerns or issues that we may be able to help you with, please do not hesitate to contact the school to discuss these with us.

Very best wishes for the weekend.

Mr A Moloney

Stars of the Week

Some of our
**Stars of The
Week** last
week!

Alfie



Literacy

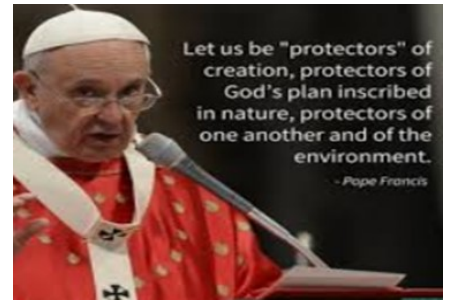
On Thursday 1st October we celebrated National Poetry Day. This year's theme was 'Vision' and there was a great poem called 'Vision Rap' by James Carter which some of the children explored. We liked the '20-20 Vision' play on words. Class 11 loved being rappers for their English session and we were really impressed with David's 'Cockney Rhyming!' and the enthusiasm from all of the other boys in the class. Check out Twitter #Nationalpoetryday to see what everyone has been up to. **Miss Nesbitt**

www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk



Our Catholic School

Our focus this week and God's message in SJV is from Pope Francis: **'We all can improve and change for the better'**. These are very wise words and as a staff we reflected on this at the start of the week- What are you doing today to make our School Community better? Everyone at SJV has a common goal to make life better for each and everyone who attends or works here. We are never complacent, we always want to move forward. At the same time we recognise that change can take time and we will help support our students with this and provide reconciliation when needed. But we always want to change and move forward and this continues to be our aim.



Within our Catholic school we are very excited to relaunch the chaplaincy teams in bubbles. Father Des and I, are leading the 'Blue' bubble, Miss Mollard and Miss Lebedeva are leading the 'Orange' bubble and Mrs Foden and Miss Ratcliffe are leading the 'Purple' bubble. We are all going to meet and explore common monthly themes and look forward to helping support the school's liturgical journey within our bubbles.

In RE this week we have been looking at the environment and how we should protect and look after it. We are looking at how we can be more environment friendly in school and home and why it is important to look after God's creation. With the younger learners, we have been looking at how beautiful creation and nature is and creating some beautiful pictures. We have been giving thanks for all that God has created. **Mrs Garfin**



A Day in the life of... Leon

What I've been doing this week: I enjoyed my P.E. lesson on Monday when I played football. I did some great drawing in Art today, where we are learning about drawing faces.

What is the best thing about being in SJV? I started here in September. I am very much enjoying both my P.E. and ICT lessons. I enjoy playing football at break times w,here I am improving my goalkeeping skills through practice.

It would be even better if... The break times were longer so that I had more time to play football.

Hopes and dreams for the future: I would like to be a Rally Car driver when I grow up, as I like customised cars, which are designed to go faster and to be noisier.

Introducing... Ms Carney

Role in School: Teaching assistant in Class 12

What I've been doing this week: This week I have been to Carrington Riding Centre with a few pupils, where we ride horses and groom dogs. Also I have been doing photography and art with Mrs Woods and Class 12.

What is best about being in SJV? The best thing about being at SJV is that it feels like a family, we are all one.

It would be even better if... We were free of this pandemic and we are all back together as one whole school unit, instead of bubbles.

Hopes and dreams for the future: Hopes and dreams for the future are to continue my journey at SJV and to keep smiling. :)



Class 10– Our week

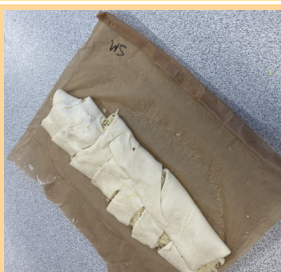
It smelt like we were in Italy up on our corridor on Wednesday afternoon... Our class made pizzas from scratch and they looked most professional and tasty. We have a few budding chefs here, so parents/carers, I think you should let them cook tea for you one night; you wouldn't be disappointed. On a wider academic note, I have to say I am enjoying teaching our class read 'Buddy'. If you could see how well everyone works and how they can talk about the story you would be as proud as I am. Have a lovely weekend and hopefully you can get out for a bit of fresh air like our Duke of Edinburgh boys did!

Ms Whiting



Class 6 - Independence Skills

Class 6 have been showing some of their independence skills in Food Tech this week to bake Cheese Twists. They looked and smelled fantastic! Ms Walsh



Sad



Index hands (palms back, pointing in/up) at sides of lips make a short downward movement.



It is a key word sign

– supported

communication system

based on British Sign

Language. All staff use

Signalong and this week

we are learning how to

sign **“SAD”**

Class 4 at the Farm

Class 4 had a rainy time at the farm this week but we carried on along our scavenger hunt and went Conker picking! We even got to meet one of the sheepdog pups whilst feeding the goats. **Ms Walsh**



Mindful Minute

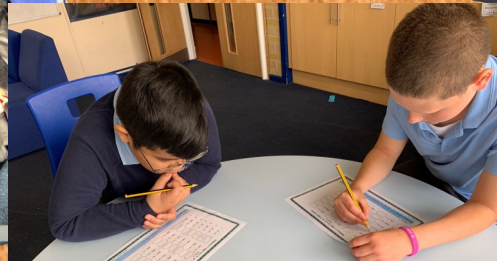
Welcome back to a new year at school and to our Emotional Well-Being segment of the newsletter, 'Mindful Minute'. I hope you have managed to find some good during these new and difficult times.

This week I would like to tell you about our #HelloYellow day coming up next **Friday 9th October**. #Helloyellow is a way of promoting the amazing work that Young Minds does to support young people and their families with their mental health.

We will be asking the pupils to come into school on the day wearing something yellow. This could be something as simple as a ribbon in their hair, a hat, a scarf, socks or a yellow t-shirt. **We would like the pupils to bring in a minimum of £1 to support this event,** which will be donated to the **Young Minds Charity**. All of the pupils will be taking part in a whole school emotional wellbeing activity within their form teams. **Ms Walsh**



Our Week In Pictures



What parents & carers need to know about...



AMAZON ALEXA



Alexa is an artificial intelligence (AI) software assistant created by Amazon in 2014 through which smartphone, tablet and smart device users can issue voice commands and ask questions in a range of languages by issuing the 'wake' or activation word Alexa. It can be accessed in several ways and is integrated into a growing number of 'smart' products including speakers, phones and clocks. Once viewed as expensive gimmicks, Alexa is now one of the most used voice assistants in the world.

Privacy concerns

By their nature, AI voice assistants involve the collection of large amounts of data. How this is stored and the uses to which it is put has aroused growing concern. Experts also worry about who has access to voice recordings, which in 2019 the company admitted sometimes included employees of Amazon and its commercial partners. There is also the more general anxiety that internet voice assistants might record private conversations and not only commands or questions.

Age-inappropriate content

Using Alexa as a speaker to play your favourite songs is one of the most popular uses for the device. However, without any parental controls in place, Alexa won't filter the lyrics so it's possible that children could hear something they shouldn't. Similarly, Alexa isn't always able to identify who or what age the person is who is issuing a voice command so if children ask a question which might not be age-appropriate, the chances are they're likely to get an age-inappropriate answer.

Insecure devices

The devices and their background services are another worry, which can have software vulnerabilities that make them insecure in complex ways. In 2020, for instance, researchers discovered that the services to which Echo products connect were insecure, potentially allowing hackers to access personal information such as voice conversations. In 2017, researchers were able to directly hack an Amazon Echo to send audio to attackers. Amazon has a good record of fixing security problems when they are discovered but it is never possible to find every problem.

Changing Tech Relationships

In a 2019 report published by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, concerns were raised on the disruptive effect that voice assistants and smart speakers, such as Alexa, were having on the way that children interact with technology. From building sentiment and forming relationships which could encourage them to overshare personal details, to a fear of consuming content driven by commercial algorithms and an inability to assess reliability, how Alexa operates could considerably change children's relationship with technology in both the short and long term.

Safety Tips

Check privacy settings

It's possible to delete Alexa's recordings either entirely, or for a given period, with the instruction "Alexa, delete everything I said." Alternatively, set up the Alexa account privacy settings for that account to delete recordings every three or 18 months. Existing recordings made using the Alexa app can be deleted via Settings > Alexa Privacy > Review Voice History. A final tweak is to turn off the setting that allows Amazon to 'use voice recordings to improve Amazon services.'

Control voice input

If privacy is paramount, one idea is to locate Echo devices in only one room rather than having several throughout the home. In addition, Alexa can be activated only when it is needed by manually turning off the microphone on Echo devices between use. Users can tell when Alexa is in listening mode as an indicator light should appear or an audible tone should sound.

Set pin code

Amazon account users can order items from the company using a voice command, for example "Alexa, buy some toilet paper." To counter accidental use or misuse and avoid racking up big bills, this can either be disabled or protected with a PIN code (it should be noted that this is an audible PIN however, so is not as secure as a typed code).

Look out for 'Skills' apps

A big appeal of Alexa is that thousands of companies have created apps, which Amazon calls 'skills', that add useful capabilities, often integrations with other products or services. These are installed by asking Alexa to 'open/play/start' the skill. For example, a travel skill might be installed to check and automate checking train times and hotel bookings. However, it's important to remember that each of these might have a different privacy policy. A cautious approach is to install as few as possible, de-installing ones no longer in use.

Talk about technology

As more and more homes install voice assistants and smart speakers such as Alexa, it's a good idea to talk to children about safe use of technology. Talk to them about what Alexa can be used for, how useful it can be and how to use it properly. Use it together to begin with and discuss any concerns they might have. Always make sure that children know to never share any personal or sensitive information and that if they need to talk about anything, they should always speak to a trusted adult.

Meet our expert

John E. Dunn has edited and written for numerous computer and technology magazines since the early 1990s, most recently Which Computing, The Register, Forbes.com, Techworld, Computerworld and Naked Security. He is a specialist in online cybersecurity and cybercrime and their growing effect on education, young people and the public.

