



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

# Weekly News

04/12/2020



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## Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/ Carers,



Disappointingly, we have had another positive Coronavirus test case in school this week. This has resulted in one KS3 class and a small number of additional children being asked to self-isolate at home. This is the first test case we have had in some time, but suggests that despite the positive effects of the last 4 weeks' lockdown that we all must continue daily to practice social distancing and undertake appropriate hand hygiene. We are sending work packs home from staff, so children can continue learning in the home environment. We are also sending home daily lessons that have been pre-recorded from class teachers to help engage our learners in the activities they have been asked to undertake in the home.

During the month of Advent we continue to help prepare the children and young people in their preparations for the Birth of Jesus. We have some exciting plans for the last week of term for the whole school community to celebrate the festive season and explore further the full meaning of Christmas. We continue to send home the weekly 'Wednesday Word', which will provide you with an opportunity to share in your child's spiritual journey through the Advent season and also support their wider literacy development.

This week we have been promoting Pope Francis' message '*The Lord is coming. May we await him with open hearts*'. The first Advent theme is '*Hope*' and we have been asking our staff and children how can we support others in their hopes and aspirations too? Something to consider at home too.

Have a great weekend.

**Mr A Moloney**



## Stars of the Week

Some of our 'Stars Of  
The week' last week.  
Well done everyone!!



## Literacy

Lots of great literacy going on this week. Class 11 have been looking at instructions and we had a fun activity creating some Christmas jumpers by pairing up and giving instructions to a partner. It wasn't as easy as it looked and we decided that instructions are better to understand when they are written down and a mix of words and pictures.

Lots of our pupils respond really well when instructions or tasks are written down for them and they can tick off as they go. This can be as simple as a now and next board or more complex task list to use throughout the day. **Ms Nesbitt**




# **Our Catholic School**

I really love this time of the year, the season of Advent for me is so full of joy, love, hope and it brings me so much peace. It's the start of the Church year and for me, as with the rest of the world's population, we are glad of a fresh start! I love the whole season of getting ready and preparing for Christmas and Jesus's Birth and eventual second coming of Jesus.

Within SJV this week we are looking at God's message through a quote from Pope Francis;-'The Lord is coming. May we await him with open hearts'? The first Advent theme is 'Hope'. What are our hopes for Advent this year and how can we support others in their hopes and aspirations too? How can we give hope to others, in what has been, for many, such a difficult and challenging year? What I do know through working at SJV for a number of years, the kindness and the generous nature of everyone connected to SJV will give me enough hope to get me through the bleakest of times!

Within Chaplaincy we have continued to look at what being a chaplain means and within our three bubbles we have been coming up with our own guidelines, such as we must be respectful in prayers, try and be a good role model and help wherever possible. We have been looking at what we can to spread hope throughout SJV and we are particularly focusing on our prayers and our hope of returning to a more 'normal' life and seeing our loved ones more.



**Week 1: Our week of Hope**

We pray in hope for:

- ☐ Eternal life for ourselves and loved ones
- ☐ A better St John Vianney school community through our hard work, dedication and care for one another
- ☐ A better Great Britain & Northern Ireland and a better world
- ☐ An end to the Pandemic and return to normal way of life

**Ad:** Be with us Lord throughout this first week of Advent and inspire us to be people of hope. Amen

In RE this week we have been looking at the season of Advent and looking at the symbolism behind the Advent wreath and what each candle means. We have been also making four promises to do during Advent to be extra kind and spread Hope, Joy, Love and Peace. *Mrs Garfin*



**Advent four week of preparation**

Week	Act of Kindness	Signed
One	Say thank you more.	
Two	Bring in a can of food for the homeless	
Three	Make a phone call to a family member who I should call more often.	
Four	Appreciate each day; don't count down!	

## **Introducing... Mrs Griffin**

**Role in School: Family Liaison Officer/Deputy Safeguarding Officer**

**What I've been doing this week:** Well, every week is a busy week and this week is no different! I have worked with various charities and families trying to put people in touch with organisations that may be able to help. I have completed some safeguarding training. I have attended meetings (virtually-I am not liking those!) And of course working within the school with our wonderful students!

**What is best about being in SJV?** Working alongside my amazing colleagues!

**It would be even better if...** We had more alternative IT resources for the students to use.

**Hopes and dreams for the future:** We had more purpose built outdoor resources.

**How has life at SJV changed since the start of the year?** Well so much has changed all over the world hasn't it? We, as a school have had to adapt and adjust to a new way of living and I think we have managed to do that really well. I am very proud of how our children and young people have overcome the challenges that this pandemic has brought.

**After the pandemic is over I would hope for....** Face to face meetings to resume again! I really do not like the virtual ones! And to give hugs again, I miss those!



## Christmas Productions



We are all very sad that it isn't possible to have a Christmas school production this year, as we would normally do, but we still wanted our pupils to have the chance to perform and indeed, to enjoy watching one another's performances. **So, this is the plan!** Each class will put forward their own ideas for a scene, which will be made into a short film. Then, in the last week of term, as part of our celebrations, we will sit down in our classes or bubbles and watch all of the films, which will be like one big amazing Christmas Show. Of course the great thing about this is that it will be full of big surprises as we won't have a clue what all of the classes are doing! We can't wait! We may send some requests home for costumes or props, so please be at the ready; any contributions will be much appreciated. More information to follow. ***Ms Whiting***

## Gorse Hill

Both Demajio & Tyler have practiced hard lately at Gorse Hill by writing and performing a 'Rap'. Well done boys!! ***Mrs Rouse***



## Mindful Minute

Christmas may be a time of year which you look forward to, or it may be a time of year that you find a bit tough. What the Christmas period brings will be individual to each of us.

**You and your mental health matter at Christmas!** As we journey through the Advent season, the focus is on getting to Christmas day, which can be really tough for some people. Here are some questions to think about to support yourself during the festive period.

How can **you** be **your** friend this Christmas?

What is **your** agenda this Christmas?

What do **you** want to do this Christmas?

Which self-care and day-to-day activities can **you** keep doing?

**Miss Walsh**





# Post 16

Post 16 worked really hard this week at volunteering at the Bread and Butter Thing. They unloaded the van, packed 58 bags and cleared everything away. Amazing work everyone. **Mr Kanakides**



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 “**Black**”

## Class 10-Our Week

Christmas is in the air in Class 10 with everyone chatting away about their plans, hopes and dreams, which is lovely. And now we have decorated our classroom, it's made it feel like it is getting closer! It was a hive of activity last Friday with everyone making decorations; it was a great team effort with many of our talented pupils showing off their skills. As I have said so many times before; class 10 are such a fantastic bunch of young people and I'm so proud of them all. Hope you like the photos.

We have also been talking about some of the great things in store at SJV for the last week of term; as usual there will be fun, treats and hijinks for all, including making our class film for this year's production, how exciting! **Ms Whiting**

**Black**



**Fist moves forward  
across cheek.**



Part of our Privacy & Security Series



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# What you need to know about... VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKS (VPNs)



## What are they? 'Virtual Private Networks (VPNs)'

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) is a privacy tool used to hide internet activity from prying eyes. Without a VPN, internet traffic is sent directly from your computer or smartphone, letting anyone in-between you and a website or service that you're accessing (such as a wireless hotspot owner or your ISP) see what you're doing. With a VPN, a secure tunnel is created between your computer or phone and what's known as the endpoint. The endpoint is merely the part of the internet where your connection comes out and can be in the same country as you or located anywhere else in the world.

## What are they used for?

### Hide location

Using a VPN has two main effects. First, as the tunnel is fully encrypted, nobody between you and the final endpoint can see what you're up to. Secondly, as all of your traffic looks as though it's coming from the endpoint, you can further avoid being tracked and monitored, hiding your real location from everyone.

### Improved privacy

VPNs have many legitimate uses, e.g. running a VPN when on a wireless hotspot or hotel network that you don't trust, gives you additional security. Using a VPN also provides improved privacy, preventing ad networks from tracking you and working out where you live. VPNs are also often used to bypass protections, e.g. watching UK streaming TV when abroad by pretending that

## Know the Risks

### Bypass restrictions

Although a great privacy tool in the right hands, VPNs can be misused. Children can use them to bypass restrictions on web browsing, potentially affecting their privacy (and yours), and opening them up to inappropriate content. Children can also use VPNs to hide what they're doing and use the internet completely anonymously.

18+

### Age-inappropriate content

Parental control tools work by looking at the sites that a child is trying to visit, and then blocking according to a list of what's not allowed. VPNs create a secure tunnel, which means that web traffic can't be viewed, and parental controls stop working. Once on the open internet, a child using a VPN is unrestricted and can view anything they like, including inappropriate content.

### Malware infections

Installing any unknown application is fraught with danger, and the same applies to many free VPN applications. By installing suspicious software, a child may be opening themselves up to being spied on and their private details being stolen. If you use a shared device with a child, an infection can also affect you. Malware can spread, and there's then a higher risk to other devices on your network.

## Safety Tips

### Check parental controls

Although the risks might seem entirely different, protection from VPNs is the same for all other threats. Check the parental control software that you're using to see if there's a filter to block VPN/Proxy traffic. If this is selected, it will prevent most known VPNs from working, along with proxy websites.

### Remove VPNs

If you have parental control software that can restrict application use, make sure that you investigate any application that your child wants to install and block all VPNs. If you've recently enabled any applications, go back and check what they're used for and remove any VPNs that you find.

### Ensure safe use

You can use a child's computer to try and view a restricted website to ensure that filtering is still in place. Also look out for computers and phones that display a different connection symbol when a VPN is connected to help monitor your child's internet usage and have open discussions with them about their online activities.

## Our Expert David Ludlow



This guide has been written by David Ludlow. David has been a technology journalist for more than 20 years, covering everything from internet security to the latest computing trends and the smart home. A father of two (a nine-year-old and a six-year-old), he's had to control and manage how his children access had to control and manage how his children access online services and use apps.