



St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

17.11.23

#10

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week saw our governors enjoy the wonderfully welcoming atmosphere of St Ursula's as part of our Governors' Curriculum Celebration Day. This celebration day is a very important part of what governors do as a governing body, checking that what I discuss with them at meetings is actually happening during an ordinary working day. It was also an opportunity for governors to look at where the school needs to move strategically. Despite the quite serious agenda, governors left with smiles on their faces, having been welcomed by the children and staff in our school.

The day started with our governors visiting our Year 6 classrooms where our 'Faith in Action' pupils led collective worship. Children explored the Gospel for this coming Sunday and discussed their God-given talents. Our 'Faith in Action' pupils reminded their peers that their talents might not be as obvious as being good at sport, or acting, or singing, but could be talents such as being able to cheer someone up or simply being a good listener - whatever their talents are, they are just as valuable and please God.

Before finishing their collective worship, pupils were asked to be witnesses of their faith and were asked how they would be using their talents this week to show their love for God and for the good of others at home, at school and in the community. The governors provided the following feedback:

"The collective worship attended by governors was a beautiful session, where all students engaged throughout. The teacher's ability to encourage children to share their thoughts is commendable and having pupils lead the collective worship is a wonderful touch and a brilliant idea."

Governors had an opportunity to review and reflect on the Catholic Life and Mission of the school, the Religious Education taking place and the policy and structure of Prayer and Liturgy. The following feedback was provided:

"The school demonstrates a clear commitment to supporting causes that are local, national and global - Forming strong links with charities such as Cafod."

"The aims for the Catholic Life and Mission at St Ursula's are rooted in the Catholic Social Teachings and this is evidenced in the school's very thorough website."

"The mission statement is clearly visible across the school and children are supported in knowing and understanding it through song."

"The school uses a range of approaches to engage pupils with scripture – puppets, comics etc."

"The purpose and focus of the RE at St Ursula's is clearly laid out and well-articulated."

As well as meeting with our RE lead, governors also met with other subject leaders who provided a thorough report on each of their learning areas, with a focus on training and development, monitoring, resourcing, pupil support/challenge and assessment. At the end of the day the governors reviewed and agreed on the action points for the new School Development Plan. The School Development Plan is the school's strategic plan for improvement.

Suggested improvements

- To have a clear plan in place to increase governor involvement.
- For children to further develop their understanding of their faith in action, thinking of other ways of 'giving' rather than just physical gifting such as donations of money and food. Encouraging them to think more about giving their time to listen and care for others.
- To further support children in understanding the role of collective worship in being a witness to their faith.

Attendance TOP FIVE

1	St Matthew's	100%
2	St Teresa's	99.08%
3	St Philomena's	99.05%
4	St Anne's	99.01%
5	St Edmund's	98.57%

PE KIT

We have noticed that some pupils have been wearing hoodies for their PE lessons this term. We would like to remind parents/carers that these are not allowed and are unsuitable for the physical activities taking place during PE lessons. Children should come to school wearing the correct PE kit. We appreciate your support in this matter.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT TICKETS

A reminder that tickets need to be purchased for this Year's Christmas performances and these are on sale now. We have allocated 2 tickets per family, per performance.

However, there will be an opportunity to purchase extra tickets, when unsold tickets go back on sale on Monday, 27th November. All tickets can be purchased via Schoolcomms.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS'

Sunday 20th November is WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY.

This day marks the adoption of The Convention of the Rights of the Child on November 20th in 1989.

Article 24: All children have the right to health services, food, water and a clean environment. In connection with the Pope's letter, Laudate Deum – governments must do all they can to protect our environment.



CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOL VALUES

The core values of our school focus on high expectations for all learners, developing skills for life, encouraging good self-esteem and developing a set of core moral values based upon the teachings of Jesus Christ. These values are core to every part of our lives and are reflected in the way that we treat each other, the way that we look for every day opportunities to help those in need and in the example that we demonstrate to all those we meet.

At St Ursula's we have our School Value trophies that are given out during our weekly Achievement Assembly.



There is an award for each of our 5 values:

Faith

Respect

Kindness

Honesty

Resilience

These trophies are awarded to different pupils from Reception to Year 6, who have lived out our Gospel Values. These trophies are taken back to class and displayed on our classroom prayer tables.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS – CONGRATULATIONS!

EYFS & KS1

Faith: Caydence (Reception)

Respect: Daria (Year 1)

Kindness: Zachary (Year 2)

Honesty: Ayogunle (Reception)

Resilience: Godwin (Year 1)

KS2

Faith: Samuel (Year 4)

Respect: Calin (Year 3)

Kindness: Saoirse (Year 6)

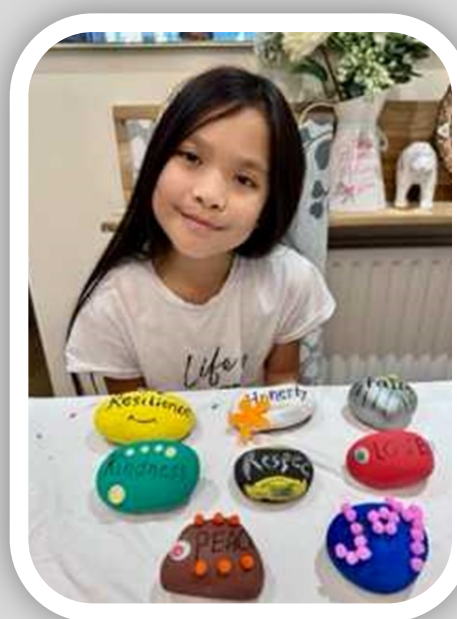
Honesty: Emmanuel (Year 5)

Resilience: Angel (Year 4)

“There is a great need in our days for people who know how to make a courageous testimony of the moral values taught by the Gospel.” Pope Francis

Project Prayer Stones

Thank you to everyone who designed and made their own prayer stones to reflect our 5 school values: The Faith in Action group and St Ursula's staff have been overwhelmed by the time, care and effort of all children and their families who took part. We would like to share all their hard work with you! Below are some photos but please visit our school blog on our website to see many more of our pupils' creations.



CHRISTMAS MARKET at Most Holy Redeemer Church on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th November. This is a major fundraiser of the year. Donations URGENTLY needed for the Christmas Market. Raffle Prizes, teddies and Soft Toys, Silent Auction Items, and Chocolate and Pop and Alcohol bottles for the tombola. Donations can be taken to either St. Dominic's Church or the Most Holy Redeemer Church.

Question time with our Pupil Chaplains

Hello, we are four of the chosen Pupil Chaplains (Dami, Maxwell, Ella & Gabriella) who had the opportunity to interview Mr Shaw - who is our Chair of Governors and an Assistant Headteacher at Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School. We asked Mr Shaw several questions, which we will tell you about.

Q1. If you had to choose one of our school values that means the most to you, what would you choose and why? (Faith, Respect, Kindness, Honesty, Resilience)

Mr Shaw chose Kindness because he tries to be kind each day and finds it natural to do. When he sees others being unkind, he contemplates why - it takes more energy to be unkind than to be kind. This is why he finds this value the best in our school.



Q2. We have been focusing on how we gather for prayer and are looking for some ideas. What's your favourite way of gathering for prayer?

Mr. Shaw's favourite way of gathering for prayer is how we gather at church because it is something which he has done for all his life. He also likes to go to church because he finds it very interesting that he can teach others about what he learnt in mass. Mr. Shaw has two children who he takes to mass with him and really likes to teach about Jesus and God.

Q3. What's your favourite type of prayer and why?

His favourite type of prayer is Petition, which is when you are asking for help from God in prayer. He also finds the conversation with God very humbling and peaceful.

Q4. What did you enjoy the most about working in a Catholic School?

Mr. Shaw said that he loves working in a Catholic School because it has taught him life lessons and developed his life choices a lot. He also gets to teach people about the Word of God.

Q5. We are always looking for charities to support. Do you have any suggestions? Could you tell us more about the organisation?

Mr. Shaw said all charities are great but he doesn't want to say one specific charity like CAFOD because he thinks all charities are the same but he also said that we should support local charities so it can bring our communities together.

Q6. What is your favourite Bible story and why?

The Widow's Mite because the story shows that even if you have nothing you should give everything you have so God can reward you greatly. This is an example of his favourite school value as the widow gave up all that she had.

Q7. Our Eco-School Councillors have asked us to ask you this question. Pope Francis published a new letter, Laudate Deum. He says that time is running out and we need to do more to support our planet. What choices do you make to support planet earth?

Mr Shaw thinks that you should make everyday choices such as turning off devices and lights when you don't use them and walking instead of driving to help our planet, as it saves the world more trouble. We should also recycle to help our seas.

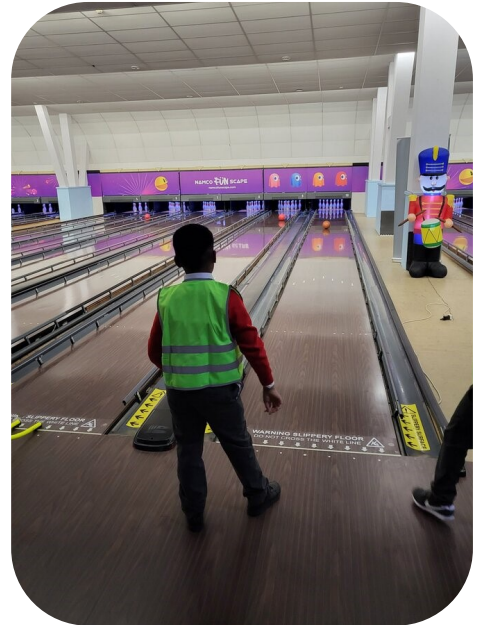
We are grateful for having the opportunity to talk with our Chair of governors.

The Pupil Chaplains.

"Whenever people listen to one another humbly and openly, their shared values and aspirations become all the more apparent. Diversity is no longer seen as a threat, but as a source of enrichment." Pope Francis

HAVERING SCHOOLS BOWLING CHAMPIONS 2023!

Last Friday, 10 of our children went on a school trip, to compete in a bowling competition against other Havering primary schools. Whilst on this trip children also learnt about using public transport and ordering and paying for their lunch. They were amazing at bowling and won the competition! Finishing 1st out of 15 other schools meant that all of the children got a medal and a certificate and they brought back a super trophy too. Everyone had a fantastic day out! Please check out the school website blog for more photos!



ODD SOCKS DAY

Every child has the right to feel safe at St Ursula's Catholic Primary School and enjoy their education without the threat of bullying behaviour.

On Monday we celebrated 'Odd Socks Day'. Odd Socks Day marked the start of Anti-Bullying Week and encouraged our pupils to express themselves and to celebrate their individuality, knowing that they are valued and cared for as unique persons, made in the image and likeness of God.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself: from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.

INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.

REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.

UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.

A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.

SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.

CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.

CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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