

NEWSLETTER

#42

21 May 2021



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Hello and welcome to our newsletter

As we head towards our final half term of the academic year we contemplate the last year and all that it has brought to us. The readings at Mass this Sunday concentrate on language and its uses. In our first reading we hear about Shinar, a place where all of God's people spoke the same language and the same vocabulary. They used this gift to hatch a plan to build a tower so high it would reach Heaven and in doing so everyone, even those who didn't deserve to, would be able to gain a place in Paradise. On seeing this, God immediately made it so that the people on Earth spoke different languages and he scattered them, the place became Babel and from that comes the word we use when describing the act of talking nonsense – Babble.

When God scattered the people and made them speak in different languages, I am sure his intention was not what we sometimes see today. Sometimes, even when we use the same language and vocabulary, we struggle to understand another person's needs and intentions and so we may find ourselves at a loss or even in conflict with one another. However we are lucky, as human beings we have more than one way of communicating. For example, difficult conversations can be received much better when using kind tones. Equally, the word "sorry" spat out, is meaningless. So this week, my mission is to use my voice to make the lives of those in our community brighter.



**IF ANY MAN IS THIRSTY, LET HIM COME TO ME!
LET THE MAN COME AND DRINK WHO BELIEVES IN ME!
JOHN 7: 37.**

On Wednesday, the school will be closed to students as staff of exam classes take the time to mark and moderate the work produced by our students in recent assessments. I want to take this opportunity to applaud our students who, through no fault of their own, have been placed under immense pressure this year. They have undergone an increased level of scrutiny in order for us to ensure that the evidence we have on file supports the grades that we will put forward to the Exam Boards very shortly.

Of course, from assessment comes marking and the teaching staff have really amazed me with their outstanding dedication to making sure that our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils achieve their very best. It has been a privilege for me as Headteacher to watch both groups working together so brilliantly. I hope that the Year 11 Prom and Sixth Form Ball planned for early July goes some way to show our appreciation of our students.

In other news, we await guidance from the government regarding the collapsing of bubbles. I suspect that this will come shortly after the half-term break but recent variant developments may mean that the government remains cautious and bubbles will remain with us until the Autumn term. Whatever happens, I am confident that we will work together with you to maintain the safe environment we have enjoyed here at Stuart Bathurst.

I want to once again thank you for your continued support of our community. Your children are wonderful and a real credit to you. We have a large programme of improvement to the buildings planned over the summer break, including a complete revamp of the Quad area. More details to follow on that!

Take care of one another over half term.

God bless,
Mrs Morris

p2 PENTECOST 2021
LETTER FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS

p4 THE 3 PEAKS
ALL THE STATS!

p6 HOUSE NEWS
COMPETITIONS & WINNERS



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Letter to Secondary Schools for Pentecost 2021

Dear Young People,

Pentecost reminds us that everything in existence, every person and the whole of creation, is a gift of 'God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth'. God our loving Father creates and continues to give life to the world through His Word, Jesus Christ, in the power of His Holy Spirit. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, which we celebrate at Pentecost, is not something separate from Creation. God's revelation of Himself in Creation is inseparable from the revelation of His love for us in Christ and in His desire to live in us through His Holy Spirit.

'God's Spirit is always and everywhere "the Lord, the Giver of Life", and the voice of Pentecost is echoed in the voice of creation'. As God's children, we call on the Spirit to 'renew the face of the Earth', and as His children, we are called for the good of all that brings life. Our world, God's creation, is a precious gift to us. It is our common home entrusted to each generation. Consider this: how have we used this gift? How do we honour this precious gift? Are we really demonstrating love, care and respect for our common home?

As we celebrate Pentecost this year, we are very aware of the damage that continues to be inflicted on the Earth, and the repercussions for the well-being of our brothers and sisters, both here in our own countries and, more especially, in the poorest countries of our world. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have both taught us that everything is interconnected and interdependent. The way we live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth.

The urgency of the situation, and the enormity of the challenges we face, have spurred us to speak out together this Pentecost Sunday, as bishops of England, Wales and Scotland, about the role that the Catholic Church and our faith must play in our shared care for God's gift to us.

For all too long we have either been ignorant of, or ignored, the exploitation of our planet and the unsustainable consumption of its resources. While accepting the need and demand for energy for the benefit of the very poorest, providing our energy must, nonetheless, be by means which significantly reduces the use of carbon-based fuels.

There must be a new global understanding of our world, where nations recognise our common responsibility for the dignity of all people and their rights to sustainable livelihoods and freedoms. Pope Francis encourages us to look beyond our own needs to the needs of all, most especially the poor and the marginalised.

But we cannot leave the healing of our common home and the wellbeing and care of our brothers and sisters merely to businesses and political leaders. Our own local concern and action is necessary and has far-reaching consequences. We all have a part to play; each and every one of us, in the routines, choices and decisions of our everyday lives and our aspirations for the future. The actions of parishes, families, schools, and individuals will have a big impact on our efforts to restore our common home. There are now many resources to advise us on our choice of food, saving of water and electricity, suggestions about travel, waste, and re-using materials. These are measures that everyone can employ, in some degree, with minimal inconvenience and change so that we can each reaffirm our vocation to be stewards of creation.

This Pentecost comes at a time of great opportunity. We are gradually emerging from the pandemic. Now we have the ability to make changes. Our countries are also hosting two of the most important political events this year: the G7 summit in June and the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26 in November. These meetings will gather together men and women who have the power to make defining choices and policies which will help us to repair and rebuild, provide what is needed for our brothers and sisters, and take care of our common home.

In all our endeavours, we need the presence of the Holy Spirit, 'the Lord, the Giver of Life', whose gift to the Church and the world we celebrate again at Pentecost. Let us keep this Feast with hope that we can begin to repair the damage we have done and provide a healthy home for future generations. Our hope will be strengthened by our prayer. May our constant request be that the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen our resolve and 'renew the face of the earth'.

NATIONAL THREE PEAKS (24 HOUR) CHALLENGE

4th - 5th June 2021

Only 2 weeks to go until 7
of our intrepid staff embark
on our next fundraising
adventure!

[**DONATE HERE!**](#)

*Click the link above to find our
JustGiving page.*

This is an event in which participants attempt to climb the highest mountains of Scotland (Ben Nevis - 1345m), England (Scafell Pike - 978m), and Wales (Snowdon - 1085m) within 24 hours.

It's a total of 23 miles of hiking with 10,052 feet of ascent and 462 miles of driving. It's quite the step up from Mam Tor, but we are all determined to get it done.

You will be able to track our progress on the day as we'll be using a live event tracking device and you can also send us messages of support - we'll definitely need them!

As with our previous fundraising events, the money we raise will be used to support families in our local community. During this difficult time, many of the families in our community have experienced extreme hardship and loss due to the COVID pandemic.

The number of families in this position is growing and whilst people await the commencement of financial support or lie just above the threshold for support, children in these homes through no fault of their parents may have to go without the basics.

We know how well received any additional provision would be after the money we were able to raise last year. Again, we would like to raise money to fund additional food packages, vouchers and clothing for some of those most in need. If you could spare £5, £10 or more to help, we would be very grateful.



All the stats as we prepare
to climb the 3 Peaks
in 24 hours!



43km

TOTAL HIKING DISTANCE



70000

APPROX. STEPS



743km

TOTAL DRIVING DISTANCE



6000kcal

APPROX. CALORIES BURNED



BEN NEVIS

THE FIRST PEAK



SCOTLAND'S HIGHEST
MOUNTAIN



1345m

ABOVE
SEA LEVEL



17km

TOTAL
HIKING
DISTANCE



6hrs

ESTIMATED
HIKING
TIME



ENGLAND'S HIGHEST
MOUNTAIN



978m

ABOVE
SEA LEVEL



15km

TOTAL
HIKING
DISTANCE



6hrs

ESTIMATED
HIKING
TIME



SCAFELL PIKE

THE SECOND PEAK



SNOWDON

THE THIRD PEAK



WALES' HIGHEST
MOUNTAIN



1085m

ABOVE
SEA LEVEL



11km

TOTAL
HIKING
DISTANCE



4hrs

ESTIMATED
HIKING
TIME



New House Competitions and Reminders

We would like to share with you some exciting new House challenges. These may be done in form time or you can work on them at home.

1. The proverbs challenge!

Please see the poster attached. I'm so excited to see what students can produce on this one. Students will gain house point for each entry so please encourage your forms to take part. All staff can also get involved :)

2. Month of Mary Poster

May is the month of Mary. In order to celebrate this, we would love to see student produce a poster or an information leaflet on Mary. Students should also consider writing a poem or a prayer. These will be shared on twitter throughout the month of May.

3. Pennies in a Jar

Finally, Mrs Jordan announced that for each jar of pennies she receives that she will give the House 10 points. This is also open to all staff so please support your house.

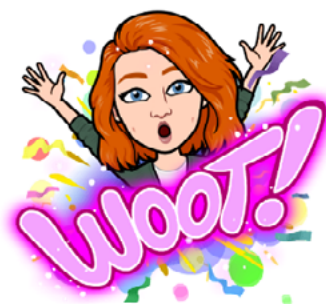


TOP 5 HOUSE STUDENTS

| Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Amritpal S | Kirit A | Arafat S | Jai G | Jodie S |
| Muhammad R | Joe G | Wiktorina S | Stefan G | Anisa G |
| Talha N | Megan E | Poppy S | Kishaya L | Ashleigh H |
| Takwana M | Mason J | Abdul M | Lyla D | Miles J |
| Marvelous HH | Xiang JC | Harrison M | Tiah M | Dillon K |
| Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 |
| Faizah I | Sasha D | Talhah B | Hollie W | Amelia L |
| Hannah J | Leon D | Milla-J S | Emily H | Anjali S |
| Calum C-G | Elyssa E | Venus K | Reon B | Justine E |
| Liam T | Morgan P-R | Olivia M | Shania S | Alice F |
| Isa Y | Rayden S | Jonathon S | Jonathan N | Billie-L W |
| Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 |
| Ryan J | Daisy D | Zayne B | Kareena D | Gurkeerat S |
| Kathy B | Jenson R | David B | Jayden C | Lori C |
| Zamaan F | Abdul M | Haafizah H | Cameron B | Harley L |
| Summer J | Shannon R-R | Takira K | Ashley D | Abdullah B |
| Benjamin C | Jayden H | Gage M | Ryan-E A | George S |

House Champions This Week!

| | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Year 7 | Faizah I | Rhys J | Hannah J |
| Year 8 | Sasha D | Leon D | Elyssa E |
| Year 9 | Talhal B | Milla-J S | Arafat S |
| Year 10 | Kareena D | Jai G | Jayden C |
| Year 11 | Jodie S | Amelia L | Anisa G |
| Whole School | Sasha D | Talhah B | Milla-J S |



Mental Health and Well-being

A lot of people are finding things tricky at the moment, and recognising that these are difficult times for everyone can ease anxieties surrounding this situation. You can help yourself by trying to:

Connect - physically to someone, not just a text, talk with family, see friends (if COVID restrictions allow)

Be active - try something new, walk, run around and keep well

Learn - learn a new skill or hobby, teach yourself something new or rediscover old interests

Take notice - be curious, look around you, listen rest and be aware of what you eat

Give - do something nice for a friend or family member. Thank someone and look out for others.

Websites for greater support:

Headspace
<https://www.headspace.com/covid-19>

Kooth
<https://www.kooth.com/>

Pause
<https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk/services/13-pause>

Silvercloud
 (online 24/7 support)
<https://ftb.silvercloudhealth.com/signup/>

Childline
<https://www.childline.org.uk>

Doodle a day
<https://aw153572.aweberpages.com/p/216b1eb0-32a4-4a39-8731-ad6b81eced8b?fbclid=IwAR2zQpwxmKggOgBdKxvJl4mPiJWHOCV1LtG5MM7kqKwr9M2eSpnHM7Smu5k>

RSVP
https://rsvporg.co.uk/resource/s/?fbclid=IwAR3xl6d_8wzTi-9-fTBMcavns2OdYMvotfVM8JAVmctG_Lf7V_Bz1zx_MUY

The Blurt Foundation
https://www.blurtitout.org/resource/the-coronavirus-helpful-hub/?fbclid=IwAR1KZm-Ehn6ArEjZFX2PGo0snE_jZjy2oJNW9zIR_o8lVmjukZILRiPEQA

Women's Aid
<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/about-us/contact/>

May, the Month of Mary!

This month has seen our whole school community spend time in prayer and devotion to Our Lady.

May is the month of the year which is dedicated to Mary and during this time we have come together in prayer and placed our prayers before Mary, asking her to intercede to God on our behalf.



Our Lady of Fatima

The 13th May saw the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima and on this day Catholics all around the world remember the events that took place in Fatima, Portugal in 1917. On 13th May in 1917 three young children – Jacinta, Lucia and Francisco – witnessed an Apparition of Our Lady who gave the children messages of peace and to ask people to pray The Rosary.

Working with the Aid To The Church In Need we were privileged to participate in their Pledge a Decade campaign to help bring peace into our world. All students across the school took part in saying a Decade of The Rosary -helping us offer up over 9000 Hail Mary's!

Years 7, 8 and 9 will be getting creative in making their very own Rosary Beads this week, which they will then be able to take home and use in meditation and prayer. Prayer is a powerful gift that we can all give to each other and the world, and the Rosary Beads help to focus our thoughts and prayers.



Ascension Day

On the same day, we also celebrated the Feast of the Ascension and we were fortunate to have Father Roger, our Priest Chaplain, lead us in Mass in our beautiful school chapel where we streamed our Mass live across the school, allowing all of our community to share in our celebration.

Ascension Day is the day that we celebrate Jesus ascending into Heaven and The Ascension is important to us because it shows that Jesus really had overcome death – he wasn't just resurrected to die again, but to live forever. The fact that Jesus' followers witnessed Him ascending into the clouds leaves no doubt that Jesus is alive and with God the Father in Heaven, and is no longer limited to living on Earth.

Ultimately, The Ascension demonstrates God's omnipotence.



PENTECOST

The Birthday of the Church!

This weekend we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church. So as families and friends gather together for great celebrations, we too gather as a school, as one, universal family.

Pentecost always occurs 50 days after the death and resurrection of Jesus and 10 days after His ascension into heaven. Before Jesus was crucified, He told the disciples that the Holy Spirit would come after Him and this promise was fulfilled when Peter and the early Church were in Jerusalem for Pentecost.

At Pentecost, we remember when God sent the Holy Spirit down on the disciples. It was at Pentecost, that Peter stood up in front of a huge crowd to teach them about Jesus.



Before this, Peter had been completely terrified, but the Holy Spirit had transformed him, making him bold and fearless. After Peter had spoken to the crowd, around 3,000 of them became Christians... this is the sort of power we can have when we allow the Holy Spirit to work through us.

As young people, Pope Francis warns us about the danger of 'sofa happiness'. Being so comfortable, calm and safe that we neglect the gifts and talents that God has given us that make us truly alive. We weren't made to fall asleep on a sofa (as comfy as it is), we were made to leave a mark. So don't confuse happiness with a sofa- Jesus taught us to be risk-takers by taking the ultimate risk on the cross!

Walk for India

This coming half term, our charity team in Year 12 will deliver presentations to the lower school and leading a campaign to raise funds to support families in India who are suffering as a result of the pandemic.

More news will follow about how your children can participate and how you can donate if you wish to.



National Three Peaks (24 Hour) Challenge

4th and 5th June 2021

Following last year's success of the Mam Tor Hike, the School's Senior Leadership Team will be taking on the National Three Peaks Challenge. This is an event in which participants attempt to climb the highest mountains of Scotland (Ben Nevis at 1345 metres), England (Scafell Pike at 978 metres) and Wales (Snowdon at 1085 metres) within 24 hours. It's a total of 23 miles of hiking with 10,052 feet of ascent and 462 miles of driving. It's quite the step up from Mam Tor, but we are all determined to get it done.

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Again, we would like to raise money to fund additional food packages, vouchers and clothing for some of those most in need. If you could spare £5, £10 or more to help, we would be very grateful.

Please follow the link below if you are able to help our community during these difficult days – no donation is too small!

<https://bit.ly/3aaDezw>

smile
for
joel

3rd July
2021



On the 3rd July, the lovely Miss Adams will be jumping out of a plane to raise money for the 'Smile for Joel' charity.

[DONATE HERE!](#)

PE UPDATE

It has been great to feel a little sense of normality in the PE department this half term. Team games are in full swing, a field full of pupils enjoying physical activity can be heard and the buzz of excitement can be felt on the playground. It is great to be able to teach summer sports outside and at the start of the half term I even felt the warmth of the sun on my face.

Athletics lessons have been a great way for pupils to perform to their maximum physical abilities. Comparing their performances to normative data has enthused pupils to improve their performances. In rounders and cricket, pupils have been developing their bowling and batting techniques, and developing tactical play to ensure they can beat their opponents. All of these activities are helping to prepare pupils for our next House competitions in the week beginning 24th May. I am praying for a dry, sunny week so pupils can experience their first team sport inter house competition.

As well as improving physical health in PE lessons, we also focus on mental wellbeing. In our current climate, the development of self confidence, team work, leadership skills, cooperation and being kind to others are so important.

As a department we make sure that pupils feel safe and confident in all of our lessons and that we promote the catholic spirit of treating others as you wish to be treated. It is so important that pupils experience success and have time to relieve any worries they may have.

PE kit for most pupils is excellent and I love seeing pupils at line up in their PE kit. However, there are a few pupils arriving to school without correct PE socks. Please ensure pupils arrive to every PE lesson in the full PE kit. Any pupils in incorrect kit are given negative points on ClassCharts.

If pupils bring a note in explaining why they may not have correct kit then we will not award the negative points. Please remember hooded jumpers are not part of the PE kit and will not be allowed to be worn in PE lessons nor should they be worn to school.

I would like to congratulate all of the GCSE PE and A level PE pupils who have been completing their final assessments over the past few weeks. Their effort and determination to succeed has been a pleasure to see. Pupils have worked hard to ensure their exams, coursework and practical performances have all been completed to the best of their ability. I hope to see many of the Year 11 students back at 6th form next year studying A level PE or Ctech Sport.

Don't forget about our message in the last newsletter, get your £2 and a purple item ready for the week beginning the 14th June for our fundraising event for Smile for Joel. We will release more information after half term. We can't wait!

Mrs Wright

**You had to self-isolate,
so now it's time to celebrate!**



The Year 11 Prom

Thur 08 July @7pm

£30

*Payable via School Gateway app.
Non-refundable*





WORD of the WEEK

SYNONYMS

Dignified
Seriousness
Solemnity
Grandeur
Decorum
Sobriety



Gravitas

Noun – Dignity, serious or solemnity of manner

ਗੈਰਿਟਾ
Panjabi



ANTONYMS

Frivolous



MORPHOLOGY (WORD PARTS) ETYMOLOGY (WORD ROOTS)



WORD FAMILIES: SIMILAR WORDS TO HELP WITH MEANING

How might this word link to *gravity*?
If something is described as *grave* what does it mean?
How can use use this word in your subject lessons this week?

ATTENDANCE TOP 5 FORM GROUPS

8M = 100%

7W = 99.5%

7I & 7D = 99.0%

8S & 10S = 98.8%

9M = 98.0%



ATTENDANCE COMPETITION

Prizes will be given to one student from each year group (Yrs 7-11) next Friday for **100% attendance** for the last week of half term: 24/05/21 - 28/05/21.



Pope Francis
@Pontifex



Let us [#PrayTogether](#) today for victims of the climate crisis and continue to work so that the earth may truly be a common home where everyone can have their place.

[#LaudatoSiWeek](#)

12:30 pm · 20 May 2021 · TweetDeck