

Thursday 14th November

Re: Non-uniform & Odd Socks Day: Friday 15th November

Dear Parents/Guardians

This letter is to inform you that we will be having a non-uniform day tomorrow – Friday 15th November - in order to raise money for three wonderful charities: Ellenor Hospice, Anti-bullying Alliance & the House of Mercy.

This week is 'Anti-bullying week' and alongside various in-class events and this week's Whole School Assembly theme which promoted this initiative, we felt that linking our non-uniform day to this venture was also most appropriate. The Anti-bullying Alliance does tremendous work across the UK to try and eradicate bullying from our society. 'Odd Socks Day' is very much a concept that they champion, 'an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique.' Therefore, please encourage your child to wear odd socks alongside their non-uniform clothes when they get dressed for school in the morning.

The Ellenor Hospice and the House of Mercy are two wonderful local charities that the students of St John's have fund-raised for over many years. We are delighted to continue our association with these most worthy causes over the year ahead.

Having mentioned the topic of 'Anti-bullying', I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a 'good news' article that appeared on the Kent Live website this week, where St John's was ranked as the 'top performing secondary school' when it comes to parental satisfaction with the action we take in order to tackle bullying. <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.kentlive.news/news/kent-news/worst-schools-kent-dealing-bullying-3509896.amp>. This is absolutely wonderful feedback and many thanks indeed to those parents who took time out of their busy schedules to comment so positively on the work that our fantastic pastoral staff do at St John's. You have my firm commitment that we will continue to do our best to educate the children and take firm action to demonstrate how bullying is not tolerated in our school community.

For the first time at St John's, following on from suggestions made by our School Council and Spiritual Life Group, students will get the choice as to which charity their minimum £1 donation will go to. Therefore, on Friday morning, Mrs Kelham and Mrs Weller will be waiting by three different collection buckets - representing Ellenor Hospice, House of Mercy and the Anti-bullying alliance - to welcome our pupils into school and the students can then choose to donate to their own favourite charity out of the three. Whilst a minimum contribution on the day will be £1, if students and families are able to give extra, it would be happily received and passed on to these worthwhile charities.

Yours sincerely



Matt Barron
Headteacher

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Service to Others

Inspired by Christ