

SJF NEWS

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Friday 17th July 2020 (Issue 27 - 2019/20)



Farewell Class of 2020

Today we said a fond farewell to the amazing young people of Y6. This is always a challenging time for the community, saying goodbye to a children we have grown to know so well. Many of them have been with us since they were just four years of age and some have joined us in the years since. All of them are special and it has been such an enormous privilege for my colleagues and I to share this exciting phase of their journeys.

It is important to note that this group of children joined us in September 2013 at what was a challenging time for the school. However their parents and carers had faith in both our will and capacity to grow and rebuild our community into the special place it is today. I would like to thank them for believing in us and for staying with us. I also thank the parents/carers of all the children who joined in the years that followed. Thank you all for entrusting your children into our care; for being our partners; and for the support you have given so generously to our community over the years.

We say goodbye to:

Phoebe A	Isla A	Vilius	Sophie	Bethany
Harry	Mitchell	Scarlet C	Emily C	Maya
Amelia	Xiomara	Sami	Sophie	Tyler
James	Maks	Hibah	Phoebe K	Sam
Emily M	Daisy	Molly	Lily	Jia
Kajetan	Tamzin	Archie	Evan	Isla
Oscar				

You each leave SJF with all our prayers and best for the very happy and successful futures that you deserve along with some amazing words from the American author Marianne Williamson...

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?'

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

You playing small does not serve the world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We are all meant to shine!

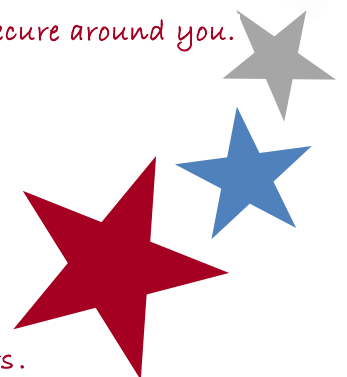
We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine -

We unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.



Farewell Fr Paul O'Hara

Here is a letter from Fr Paul

This has been my last school term as parish priest for St John Fisher School.

In September the school will have the pleasure of welcoming their new Parish Priest, Fr. Bede Dike.

Of course, I am sad to be saying goodbye to the school and Parish and all the families that I have come to know over my time here.

It has been a joy for me to share in all your celebrations and the life of St John Fisher School. I would like to offer my special thanks to all the school staff, past and present, during my time here. I have found them all so welcoming; great to work with and to share a laugh and joke. Their care for the children has been evident to see and they have all done an excellent job which they should indeed be proud of accomplishing.

St John Fisher School is a special place for staff and pupils and I think the Catholic ethos shines through in all that is done there which is part of what makes it so special. And I don't think that would be possible to the degree it is now without the headship of Mr Barratt to whom I would like to extend the greatest thanks. It has been a real joy to work alongside Mr Barratt. What he has achieved as Head of an excellent team of staff who have supported him in bringing the school up to 'outstanding' in terms of pupil education provision, the new and refurbished buildings and layout and in the Catholic Life of the school is an accomplishment for which we can all be truly grateful.

May I wish Mr Barratt, staff and pupils of St John Fisher School all the very best for the future. Thank you for all you have done for me. God Bless, Fr. Paul.

I would like to thank Fr Paul, sincerely, for his kind words and on behalf of colleagues, Governors and the children I would like to respond by thanking him for all he has done for our school and parish communities over the past twelve years or so.

During his service to our community Fr Paul has supported our school in many different and important ways. He has helped shape our highly regarded collective worship programme - recognised as 'Outstanding' in our last formal Section 48 inspection of RE and Catholic Life in 2016 and then confirmed the following year. From this work he has celebrated Masses and led countless whole-school and class liturgies and services, which are all such a feature of our daily school life here at SJF. Fr Paul has also worked with class groups and teachers, for example to develop children's awareness of the Sacraments or the features of a church building.

Fr Paul supported has school practically by enabling us to use the parish hall to support our curriculum and PTFA activities as well as serving for a time as a Governor, and playing a strategic role in the life of school. He has also supported school, individual colleagues and me generously by offering fantastic advice, ideas, encouragement and prayers at various times, often very quietly and without fuss, publicity or show.

Without doubt Fr Paul has been a true advocate and friend of our school, supporting and guiding us all on our journey. As he now prepares to leave us in August we pray for God's blessings, that the move goes well and that he is able settle quickly and be as happy as he has been at Our Lady of Lourdes with St Anthony's parish and latterly St Theresa's parish too. We will miss him and we will look forward to welcoming him back in the Autumn so that we can say a great big 'thank you' formally to him as a whole school community.

We look forward to welcoming his successor, Fr Bede Dike, who joins us from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Chesterfield, where he serves alongside the Parish Priest, Fr Adrian Tomlinson, who was formally the Parish Priest of St Theresa's (Manor Top) and St Joseph's (Handsworth). We also pray for Fr Bede as he prepares to move and join us here in Sheffield.





Fr Paul opening festivities to mark our school's 60th anniversary in June 2017



Pictured from left to right: **Fr Bede Dike**, Fr Bernard O'Brien, Lady Neill (Deputy Lieutenant of South Yorkshire), Bishop Ralph and Fr Desmond Edozie, Parish Priest cutting the cake to mark 125th anniversary of St Alban's parish, Denaby Main (source: Hallam News)

The September Plan

A reminder that the new plan for September, including details of staggered start and finish times will be shared as soon as it is complete. The following has been confirmed:

September 2020: The First Days

- **Tuesday 1st September 2020**
 - Staff in-service training (INSET) Day - school closed to all children
- **Wednesday 2nd September 2020**
 - children in Years 1-6 return (in uniform)
 - school uniform to be worn by children in Y1-Y6
 - children will spend the day with their former teacher in their former class
 - no FS2 today
- **Thursday 3rd September 2020**
 - children will spend the day with their former teacher in their former class
 - no FS2 today
- **Friday 4th September 2020**
 - children will spend the day with their former teacher in their former class
 - no FS2 today
- **Monday 7th September 2020**
 - children in Years 1-6 start in their new classrooms with new teachers from today
 - school uniform to be worn by children in Y1-Y6
 - FS2 taster day for Group A only
 - 9.15am - 11.30am
 - FS2 no uniform (home clothes) for Group A taster day
 - the parents of children in Group A will be contacted separately
- **Tuesday 8th September 2020**
 - FS2 taster day for Group B only
 - 9.15am - 11.30am
 - FS2 no uniform (home clothes) for Group B taster day
 - the parents of children in Group B will be contacted separately
- **Wednesday 9th September 2020**
 - FS2 taster day for Group C only
 - 9.15am - 11.30am
 - FS2 no uniform (home clothes) for group taster day
 - the parents of children in Group C will be contacted separately
- **Thursday 10th September 2020**
 - all new FS2 children in for the first time in class together until just before lunch today
 - 9.15 - 11.30am
 - FS2 no uniform (home clothes) for first whole-class taster day
- **Friday 11th September 2020**
 - all new FS2 children will be in together until after lunch today
 - 9.15 - 1.00pm
 - children require a packed lunch (please call if your FS2 child needs a free school meal)
 - FS2 no uniform (home clothes) for second whole-class taster day
- **Monday 14th September 2020**
 - all our new FS2 children will be in school full-time from today
 - staggered start and finish times for all year groups will be confirmed once finalised
 - children can start having school dinners under the 'Universal Free School Meals' scheme
 - school uniform (children will usually wear their PE uniform on Mondays but not today)
- **Monday 21st September 2020**
 - the second full week in school for our FS2 children
 - FS2 pupils come to school wearing PE uniform today and every Monday from now on...



Pupils' Work and Exercise Books

Pupils' exercise books will be sent home on the first day of the new school year. Please send children in with a plastic carrier bag. Exercise books belonging to our Y6 leavers that have not yet come home will also be available for collection.

Reports

As stated in earlier communications, copies of pupils' last interim report (originally posted home at the beginning of lockdown) including information on their progress and attainment up to lockdown along with targets have been re-sent with a letter from his/her teacher, and for pupils at the start and end of their SJF journeys in FS2 and Y6, an additional message from me. I hope you and your children have found liked this.

Returning Reading Books

If you did not manage to return reading books and lap top computers borrowed during lockdown please make sure they are returned on the first day of the new school year. Thank you.

PTFA Message: Pre-Loved Uniform

Unfortunately, we are unable to run any stalls to sell the pre-owned school uniform due to the COVID pandemic, however, we do still have a lot of good quality secondhand uniform available, including trousers (girls and boys), jumpers, shirts, cardigans, skirts, pinafore dresses, summer dresses, some PE kit and anoraks/fleeces. We also have quite a lot of fancy dress items especially useful for themed 'dress up' days.



Anyone looking for specific items should email Mrs Cox (christinecox20@gmail.com) stating their children's ages, sizes/measurements. Mrs Cox will then let you know what is available and arrange collection.

Most items, including fancy dress cost just £1.00 each or £2.50 for 3 items. Shirts are just 75p or 2 for £1. PE shorts and T shirts are 50p each. All the money raised will be used by the PTFA to benefit SJF children in various ways.

COVID-19 Precautions

None of the clothes have been worn recently. Most have already been washed, but could be washed again when you get home, as a precaution. Some of the fancy dress clothes are not washable, but could be quarantined for a few days, similar to what is carried out in clothing retailers.

End of School Year Gifts

A number of you contacted school disappointed that you could not leave cards or gifts for colleagues at the end of the school year, and asked whether it would be possible to pass something over when we reopen in September instead. There will be an opportunity to pass on cards/gifts/pictures. These can be left with colleagues in the School Office who will arrange for them to be passed on to the intended recipients once they have been quarantined for the recommended time. Thank you to those who sent us emails and e-cards. These have been shared and all were very much appreciated by colleagues.

Summer Reading Opportunities 2020

The Reading Agency and Libraries Present



SILLY SQUAD

Summer Reading Challenge 2020

sillysquad.org.uk



The first of the two links is to the this year's annual Sheffield Summer Reading Challenge and the second is to the Open University's Summer Reading Adventure:

1. The Summer Reading Challenge 2020 - Join the Silly Squad
 ✓ <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>
2. The Open University Summer Reading Adventure
 ✓ https://researchrichpedagogies.org/research/supporting-rah/summer-reading-adventure?fbclid=IwAR2NrrV-SBBDw6ohhDazK0zH3pOJUXCS_42CPIKRAJPMqLpUviiqDWy6x3k

Please encourage your children to take part. Those who do both/either will receive special recognition in September and the class with most children engaging will receive 'Golden Time'.

Summer Fun with Linken!

Please follow the link to find out more:

<https://www.st-johnfisher.org/news/link-summer-activities-/>



Finally

At the end of what has been a very challenging and exhausting year I would like to thank you all for your patience, understanding and support. It has certainly made the world of difference to us!

I would like to thank the children for their resilience, fortitude and fantastic efforts - whether they have been in school or at home.

I would like to thank the PTFA for their tireless and ongoing work on behalf of our community.

I would like to thank our fantastic Governors for their constant support and help.

Finally I would like to recognise the tremendous hard work and dedication of my colleagues over the year and especially since the UK was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. They are a very special team of people whose focus, hard work and dedication is incredible.

God bless you all and I hope that you all have an amazing holiday!

Mr F Barratt

