

SJF NEWS

www.st-johnfisher.org | www.ourladyoflourdes-sheffield.org.uk

Wednesday 22nd December 2021



Dear Parents and carers,

When we planned our 2021-2022 calendar it was with the hope that the pandemic would be easing and we would all be able to move steadily back to doing things like we always used to. We looked forward to inviting parents, carers, families and friends back in to school and church again in order to join us for Masses, liturgies, services, assemblies, showcases, nativity plays and other events. We looked forward to being together again.

Frustratingly for *all* of us, however, this has not been possible, though we have worked really hard to do all we can to make sure that school still feels as happy and normal for the children, as possible. The main purpose of this short newsletter is to thank you and everyone who has supported us to do this.

I want to start by recognising the great support that so many of you have given us during this difficult time. We are very appreciative of any words of support and encouragement that are shared with us. We are all doing our absolute best to balance so many different pressures in these difficult times. We are very happy to answer questions, including any regarding our response to the pandemic, so please do contact us if you need to. Be reassured that you can also speak to us in confidence if you are struggling with anything and need our support. We will always listen and do our very best to find the help that you need.

I would like to pay tribute to my wonderful colleagues. Their dedication to our school and children is incredible. I would like to thank them for their hard work and for the way they support the children with their learning and emotional wellbeing. It is often a reality that challenging times bring out the best in teams, and in my view, this has most certainly been the case, time and again, here at SJF. In all their roles, they have been fantastic!

I would like to thank our Governors who work very hard for our school. So much of the important work they do - supporting and challenging us to be the best we can be - goes on unseen. However, it is so crucial to the smooth running and success of our community - and especially during these times of great challenge. They are all volunteers, which makes their dedication and service to our community all the more special.

I would like to thank our wonderful PTFA committee and all those who support them. Again, they are volunteers who do so much to give the children such wonderful experiences. They do lots to bring our community together and to support us financially so that the children can have all those special extras. I cannot stress enough the importance of the PTFA to our community and invite you to get involved in any way you can, contributing new ideas or supporting an event or two. Please contact them (ptfa@st-johnfisher.org).

I would like to thank Fr Bede and all our special friends from the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes. Their practical support, for example, giving us access to the parish hall for lessons or their car park has been key to our management of the COVID threat. Fr Bede's brilliant support of our Catholic life is absolutely key and is much appreciated by everyone, especially our children. His advice and support of staff has also been important.

I would like to thank Mr McGurrin, Mrs Downes and Mr Matthews sincerely for all their support with our weekly hymn practises and for leading the music liturgy at Masses and other services. Mr McGurrin was Headteacher of our school from 1982 until 2007 and Mrs Downes was our FS2 teacher until July 2012 and so it is very special that they both continue to be involved in school life in such a special way alongside Mr Matthews.

I would like to thank Mr Manze and Mrs Noone, the CEO and CFO of our Trust, for their unflinching support over the last year or so. Like our Governors, much of their vital work goes on, each day, under the radar of most, but it has been so important in enabling us to continue moving forward in this most challenging of years.

Finally, I would like to thank our children - the only reason we all do what we do. They are amazing! There is something very special and unique about our children. Their love and care of each other is something we are privileged to witness every day. Their hunger and fearlessness when learning; the optimistic sense of wonder and awe with which they view our world; the trust they show in us to be their champions, in learning and in life, is humbling. We thank them, and wish them, and all of you, a very blessed and happy Christmas!



COVID Update & Reminders

Please follow the [LINK](#) for the latest update. Thank you.

Key Stage 2 Carol Service

I would like to thank the children of Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) for leading a beautiful Christmas Carol Service. I would also like to thank everyone who prepared the Service and the children. It was beautiful! Please follow the [LINK](#) to see a recording of our Service.

SJF Autumn Curriculum Showcase

Please do not forget to check out our virtual Autumn Curriculum Showcase by clicking [here](#). Thank you.

Attendance: Final Full Week			
1 st	Y2	98.6%	Bobby visited this week
2 nd	FS2	96.9%	Brenda visited this week
2 nd	Y5	96.9%	Elvis visited this week
4 th	Y1	96.7%	
4 th	Y4	96.7%	
6 th	Y6	95.0%	
7 th	Y3	86.3%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 95.2%	

Attendance: Term 2			
1 st	Y2	97.8%	
2 nd	Y5	96.9%	
3 rd	FS2	95.2%	
4 th	Y1	94.9%	
4 th	Y6	94.9%	
6 th	Y3	94.2%	
7 th	Y4	94.0%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 95.5%	

Attendance: Year to Date			
1 st	Y2	97.8%	
2 nd	Y5	97.3%	
3 rd	Y6	95.4%	
4 th	Y3	95.3%	
5 th	Y4	94.7%	
6 th	Y1	94.6%	
7 th	FS2	92.8%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 95.5%	

Congratulations to our Y2 pupils, who not only achieved the highest attendance in the final full week, but they also managed to have the best attendance record in Term 2 and for the year so far! This is absolutely brilliant news, congratulations! Well done also to the children of Y5 are not far behind!

Attendance at school and engagement with the learning activities set when children are at home are so important not just for children's development but also for their wellbeing too.

Spelling Bee & TT Rock Stars Finals

This week we had the finals of our Spelling Bee and TT Rock Stars competitions. The first round was in class with the class winners going on to represent their year group in whole school finals in which they had to tackle age-appropriate questions.

Thank you to everyone for having a go. A huge 'well done' to all our finalists. You all did brilliantly!

Spelling Bee Finalists			TT Rock Stars Finalists	
Y1	Freddie	Dylan	Jenson	Scarlett
Y2	Chenai	Elliot	Jack S	Lotanna
Y3	Charley	Jai	Keyla	Louis
Y4	Bruno	Sofia	Luca	William
Y5	Ellie	Hannah	Cavani	Evan
Y6	Dylan	Jessica	Filip	Giovanni



Finally congratulations to our overall winners. Firstly we have **Elliot** in **Y2**, our Spelling Bee Champion and secondly we have **Luca** in **Y4** our TT Rock Stars Champion!

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to all the children who made their First Holy Communion last Saturday. We pray for them and their families as they take this important step on their personal sacramental journeys. The Mass was a beautiful celebration led by Fr Bede and our children were wonderful.



Sincere congratulations to Alana, Isabelle, Katie, Edie, Aalia, Marika, Hugo, Sebastian, Eva, Dominique, Isaac, Bruno, Diion, Sam, Lexi (a former pupil) and Piotr, who also attends another school. We thank Fr Bede and Mrs Robinson-Oates, the parish catechist, who prepped the children so well.

Our Catholic Life

Collective Worship Overview

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Statement of Belief Citizen Assembly (Headteacher)	SJF Virtues Assembly (Class-Based)	Themed Assembly (Staff-Led)	Weekly Liturgy of the Word (Class-Led)	Celebration Assembly (All Staff)

Parish News

Information about parish and Diocesan life including times for Christmas Masses, Confession and sacramental preparation is available via this [link](#).

Our Term 3 Virtues to Live By

Next term we will be focusing on the virtues of **faith** and **simplicity**.



Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Our next Liturgy of the Word will be on **Thursday 20th January 2022** and will be led by the young people of **Y2**. A recording will be available to watch by clicking [here](#).

Class Advent Liturgies 2021

Thank you to all our chaplains and staff for preparing our daily Advent liturgies and to all the children who have joined in so enthusiastically as we all prepare for Christmas.

KS2 Annual Carol Service 2021

This years' KS2 Carol Service has been recorded and is available to watch via our website by clicking this [LINK](#).

Our January Prayer

A reminder that our January prayer is called the Agnus Dei or 'The Lamb of God'. The prayer is recited during Mass, and recalls The Last Supper of Jesus and His apostles during which the bread and wine were transformed in to the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the first time. It is therefore a very special prayer. The words are:

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.



New Year Mass

We are hoping that our new year Mass will be able to go ahead as planned on **Wednesday 12th January 2022** at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. However, if anything changes we will let you know.

Statement to Live By

Our 'statement to live by' is '**I try to love others as I love myself**'

Time to talk: Why do some people think that they are better than others? What happens when people put themselves above others?

Are these people right to think they are better?

How would our world be different if everyone one fair and loving to everyone else?

Would our world feel safer? happier?



SJF Calendar of Events

Please click [here](#) in order to see the weekly update on our home page or hit [LINK](#) for the 2021-22 calendar.

Finally...

On behalf of everyone here at St John Fisher I would like to wish you all a very peaceful, safe and happy Christmas. I hope that 2022 brings godd news and good fortune to all!

F Barratt
 Headteacher

