

SJF NEWS

www.st-johnfisher.org | www.ourladyoflourdessheffield.org.uk | Friday 8th September 2023



Welcome!

It has been fantastic catching up with so many of you as we start our new school year! To our new children, families and colleagues I say 'welcome' - and to our existing children, families and colleagues I say welcome back! We are delighted to be joined by all our new starters, most of whom have joined our new FS2 class, and are already starting to settle in brilliantly. We also have some children who have joined us in other classes and are being well looked after by their new classmates and teaching and learning teams. We welcome their families and invite them to engage fully in the life of our special community.

We also welcome some new members of staff, Mrs Hambleton in **Y4**; Miss Lockham in **Y2**; Mr Murphy our new Inclusion and Learning Mentor; Miss Raynes and Miss Luxton, our new teaching assistants.

SJF Open Morning 2023

Our Open Morning takes place on **Saturday 23rd September 2023** between 10.00am and 12.00pm. If you know anyone interested in finding out more about our special school, please encourage them to come along and meet us.

We welcome children and families of all faiths and no faith, who are interested in being part of our community, though baptised Catholic children are prioritised.

We especially welcome the parents/carers of any children due to start primary school in September 2024.

Visitors will have an opportunity to meet our children; Headteacher and staff; as well as Governors and members of the PTFA as they look around the site and learn about what makes our school so special.



Weekly Awards

The usual weekly awards will start next week. During these first few days we have focused on supporting the children to reconnect and settle. There was no Celebration Assembly today because we gathered for our Welcome Mass this morning.

Pupil Voice at SJF



We are here for the children and their views and ideas are therefore very important to us. Pupil voice is prominent in our community and we encourage our children to engage and get actively involved in school life in various different ways. We have our School Council, Chaplaincy Team, Healthy Minds Team, Eco Team and Sports Majors' Team. Next week we will introduce all the members and coordinators for 2023-24.



School Council Elections

This week we held our annual general election, with candidates from **Y6** standing for election to one of the four senior roles on the School council.

Ten incredibly brave Y6 children put themselves forward as candidates for the four most senior positions on the council.



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Every candidate shared their ideas and reasons for standing with the rest of the children, who listened carefully, before deciding who to vote for. Classes visited our SJF polling station, which had been set up in our Marie Kerley Library. The children had one vote and there were photos of the candidates to help them remember. Staff were also on hand if required. The children put crosses on their own voting slips before posting it in one of our official ballot boxes. The votes were counted once all the children had voted.

The child who received the most votes could choose the senior role they wanted to do. The child with the second highest number of votes then chose from the three remaining roles, and so on, until all the positions had been filled. This year two candidates tied in fourth place and agreed to share the role.

SJF Senior School Councillors 2023-2024			
Chair Hugo	Vice-Chair Amelie	Secretary Ava	Treasurers Dominique & Jacob

I would like to thank the candidates for putting themselves. They were wonderful! Secondly, I would like to congratulate the five children who were elected and wish them success for the year ahead in their new roles. I would also like to congratulate the councillors elected in each of the classes, from Y1 to Y5, at the end of the last academic year, and wish them a happy and successful year on the council too. Finally, I would like to thank Mr MacInnes, who coordinates the School Council and supports its important work.

SJF Calendar

Our new 2023-2024 calendar is available on our website by clicking this [link](#).

Open Morning

Just another plug for the Open morning on **Saturday 23rd October 2023**. Please spread the word with your friends, neighbours and on your social media! Thank you for your support.

INSET Day

A reminder that **Monday 30th October 2023** is a staff INSET day, meaning that school will be closed. We reopen for the start of Term 2 on Tuesday 31st October 2023.



Welcome Meetings

Welcome meetings take place for all classes start next week, in the Y6 classroom from 3.30pm. Supervised childcare in the Y5 classroom will be available.

Y5 Y6	Monday 11 th September	Y1 Y2	Tuesday 12 th September	Y3 Y4	Thursday 14 th September
FS2	Thursday 21 st September*	*Please note that FS2 parents can visit class at 3.00pm, before the meeting.			

SJF Houses - Update

Emblem	Head of House	Feast Day	SJF Colour Day	2023/24 Charities
St Andrew 	Miss D'Roza	Thursday 30th November 2023	Members' Blue Day Monday 27 th November 2022	Mission Together
St David 	Mrs Raynes	Friday 1st March 2024	Members' Yellow Day Friday 1 st March 2024	CAFOD
St Patrick 	Mr Hobson	Sunday 17th March 2023	Members' Green Day Friday 15 th March 2024	The Hallam Good Shepherd Appeal
St George 	Mrs Steenson	Tuesday 23rd April 2023	Members' Red Day Monday 22 nd April 2024	Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice



Term 1 Smiley Scores

Smiley scores will be published in next week's newsletter and updates will be shared through the Class Dojo website, so please make sure that you sign up so you can check how your children are doing.

School Uniform

We are very proud of our school uniform, which reflects our ethos, standards and high expectations. It really is core to our identity. Pupils are therefore expected to dress smartly in our school uniform every day and we are grateful to parents/carers for supporting us.

Pre-Loved Uniform & Help

We understand that there are many pressures on household budgets at this time and therefore support the government's position on supporting families. Please contact us if you need help kitting your children out.

Thank you to the generosity of our families we now also have a good stock of quality pre-loved school uniform which is managed by our friends from the PTFA for a £1 per item donation. All items are fully laundered and sorted. Please continue donating quality items of uniform that are no longer needed so we can pass them on.



Official Uniform Suppliers

We have two official suppliers called 'Logo Leisurewear' and 'School Trends'. These are the only organisations licenced to sell SJF uniform with a school logo.



Here are the links to the SJF pages on the websites of our two official suppliers:

- for **Logo Leisurewear** SJF uniform please click [HERE](#)
- for **School Trends** please click [HERE](#)



Parents and carers can, of course, purchase uniform items without a logo from other sources, as long as they are in the correct school colours.



SJF Blazer
(Optional)

Dark grey cardigan or jumper



SJF Book Bag
(for younger children, stores more easily than a rucksack)



SJF Tie
(Elastic or normal)



Light blue shirt
(Short-sleeved avoids awkward cuff buttons)

SJF Coat
(Optional)



Dark grey trousers, mid-length shorts, pinafore dress or skirt
(To be worn with dark grey socks or tights)



SJF scrunch
(Optional)



Light blue gingham dress

(Optional in Terms 1/5/6 only and to be worn with white socks)

PE Uniform



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Please note that children are expected to come to school wearing their PE uniform on PE days. The official items can be purchased, with logos, from either supplier. If parents/carers opt to source items from elsewhere they must be absolutely plain with no logos, slogans or other embellishments. **No designer labels e.g. Nike, Puma or Adidas etc.** The sweatshirt must be plain maroon/burgundy and the bottoms must be plain light grey joggers. **No leggings.**

PE Days 2022-2023 (from 06-09-22)

- **Mondays** FS2
- **Tuesdays** Years 1 and 2
- **Wednesdays** Years 3 and 4
- **Thursdays** Years 5 and 6



Earrings and Jewellery

A reminder that children are **not** permitted to wear earrings/studs or any kind of jewellery at school. We ask parents/carers to arrange for their children's ears to be pierced at the beginning of the summer holiday, if this is what they want, so that the holes are healed in time for September. The wearing of sensible analogue watches is encouraged. Smart watches, with connectivity to 4G/social media etc. are not permitted.

School Shoes

Whilst trainers/high boots **can** be worn to/from school e.g. in bad weather or to play football **at break-times**, pupils are expected to wear proper school shoes in school i.e. NO high boots or trainers (even black ones).



(except on PE days and for break-times)

Reminders

- no leggings at any time
- no open necked shirts/blouses
- no blue polo shirts – plain/logoed light blue t-shirts ONLY
- mid-length shorts
- black school shoes not trainers (trainers can be worn on PE days or at break-times to save school shoes)
- white socks with summer dresses (Terms 1, 5 and 6)

Children's Medication

Parents and carers with children who have medication in school are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient supplies in school and that the medication is in date. Please check at the start of the year and complete/update the care plan if appropriate.

Wraparound Care

If you would like to find out more about the wraparound care – before and after school - offered by our trusted partners, JPAC, please call Ryan Robertson (07971 957839) or click [here](#) for more information. Thank you.



Reading Volunteers

We are in desperate need for more reading volunteers. The commitment does not have to be big and we can be flexible with timings. If you would like to find out more, please contact us. All volunteers will be subject to appropriate safeguarding checks that comply fully with the requirements KCSIE 2023. Thank you.

Term 1 Curriculum Overviews

The Term 1 Curriculum Overviews will be sent out shortly. Please contact us if you have any questions or if you need our help to support your children, or you can support us. Thank you.



SJF Governors

Governors fulfil such a vital role in the life of our school and wider trust. In Catholic academies, like ours, there are different sorts of Governor. The majority of members are Foundation Governors. These are appointed by the Bishop of Hallam on the recommendation of the Parish Priest. Two Governors are elected by parents and carers and there are also staff Governors. Please contact us if you are interested in finding out more about this interesting role, or considering becoming a Governor in our school, or another school.

Governors' Names	Current Governors' Designations (September 2023)
• Mr D Beever	Foundation Governor (Chair of Governors)
• Mr G Pursehouse	Foundation Governor (Vice-Chair of Governors)
• Mr J Ball	Foundation Governor
• Mrs F Nelis	Foundation Governor
• Mrs C Prestige	Foundation Governor
• vacancy	Foundation Governor
• vacancy	Foundation Governor
• Mr A Drummond	Parent Governor
• Mrs B Otieno	Parent Governor
• Mr F Barratt	Headteacher
• Mrs MM Barrett	Staff Governor (teaching staff)
• Mrs L Ramsden	Staff Governor (support staff)



The Pupil Premium Grant

If you are in receipt of income-based benefits then your child(ren) might be entitled to receive a **Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)** which comes to school and **free school meals** for your child(ren) until they leave primary education. The grant is also available to children in care and those with parents serving in the UK armed forces.

If you think that you might be entitled to the grant, or want to find out more please speak to us in confidence. It is important to claim the PPG even if your child is in FS2/Y1/Y2 and receives the free school meals funded by the government for children in these classes and Mrs Ramsden can advise you about this too. Thank you.



PTFA WELCOME MEETING

Parents/carers are invited to a very special welcome meeting to find out more about the important work of our PTFA. The meeting takes place after school on Monday 18th September 2023, in the Y6 classroom at 3.30pm. Supervised childcare will be available close by. The PTFA does so much to enhance the experience of all the children.

Without their support we would really struggle to fill the gaps and do the things that they do which includes:

- ✓ fund transport for the annual pantomime visit and provide treats and volunteers
- ✓ organising and delivering the fantastic Santa in School event
- ✓ arranging regular discos and family socials
- ✓ providing gifts parents for Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day
- ✓ organising gifts from the community of parents/carers for Y6 leavers
- ✓ providing support at school events e.g. curriculum showcases, Sports Days, performances etc.
- ✓ organising the Friday Fayre and annual Y5 Enterprise Challenge
- ✓ raising funds for projects like the transformation of our library, and our exciting new wildlife area.

Everyone can agree both that the work of the PTFA is (and has always been) key to our school life - and that it is organised by a very special and dedicated group of volunteers, who are also parents like you. All they ask is for other parents/carers to come along and listen to their exciting future plans. They really do so much for the children and our school, so we would all be really grateful if you could please find a little time to come along. Supervised care will be provided for the children of everyone who attends.



Our Catholic Life

Welcome Mass

I would like to thank Fr Bede for celebrating our Welcome Mass. It was a wonderful way to root the year and pray for God's blessings as look forward full with hope and optimism. The children, sitting with their younger buddies, behaved and engaged beautifully, joining in so well with the singing and responses.

I would like to thank Fr Bede for leading the celebration so joyfully, ensuring that Mass was such a positive way to start our new school year! I would like to also thank Mr MacInnes for preparing our new Y6 pupils - who were outstanding! They read and fulfilled their various roles brilliantly and with such maturity. I would like to thank Mrs Barrett and Mrs Broadhead for the support they provided to Mr MacInnes and the children. As is usual, our Mass was filmed and will be available to view by clicking [here](#).

September Prayer

Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee

Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen



Coming In Song

Ubi caritas et amour (Where charity and love are, God is there)
Ubi caritas, deus ibi est

Collective Worship

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

SJF Website

Work continues to be done to revamp the SJF website, in part to take on board feedback and ideas shared in the last parent/carer questionnaire. As an interim measure the existing website has already been simplified. The tick box on the home page, to register for alerts has been reinstated after it disappeared temporarily following the redesign



Subscribe for Alerts

- Y1
- Y2
- Y3
- Y4
- Y5
- Y6
- FS2

Enter Your Email Address

Just tick the box of the class or classes that you require. You will then receive automatic reminders from the calendar and updates when information or news relating to your children's class(es) is shared.

Reading at SJF

Reading continues to be a huge focus for us as a school community. As well as making full use of our beautifully refurbished library we have invested heavily in improving stocks of books. For the third year we have published our own SJF Book List for 2023-24. It contains a range of books from both new and traditional authors and illustrators with the aim of exciting and engaging our children, and get them reading. Book areas in classes and book nooks around school are also being updated and this year we hope to introduce new book nooks into the playground and outdoor learning areas.



READING FOR PLEASURE

According to Dean Boddington (@Misterbodd 2020) though reading is great, reading for pleasure is greater! Sharing stories at home is a fantastic way to encourage children to read for pleasure!

We hope that some of these tips will help your family's reading journey.

Reading doesn't have to be expensive either. Local libraries have a great children's selection with lots of new exciting books! They even offer audiobooks and eBooks online (<https://www.borrowbox.com/>).

What are the benefits of Reading for Pleasure?

The Reading Agency reports that is a more powerful factor in life achievement than socio-economic background.' If children are encouraged to read for pleasure, encouraged and supported by their parents/carers, they are more likely to become readers for life, increasing their life chances significantly.

Some tips to support reading for pleasure at home include:

- ✓ taking time to read as a family all sorts of different things together
- ✓ reading aloud
- ✓ creating your own reading dens/areas at home and/or in the garden
- ✓ trying a selection of different books available for children to read such as [newspapers](#), magazines, audio books, [eBooks](#), [recipes](#) and graphic novels (comics and comic-like books)
- ✓ joining the local library
- ✓ joining in with summer reading challenges

Please take note of the children's school library days, and share the books they bring home. Encourage them to discuss their choices and to share a little detail about why they liked or disliked it when they read it.

Operation Encompass



Our school is an **Operation Encompass** school. Operation Encompass is a notification we receive when any of our children has been exposed to, or involved in any form of domestic incident. The notification is usually received at the start of the next school day.

Operation Encompass will ensure that specially trained members of staff on the Safeguarding Team are informed so that they can respond appropriately to support the safety and wellbeing of children and their parents/carers. Where necessary the school may be able to make provisions or adjustments in order to assist the young person and their family. To find out more about Operation Encompass you can click on this [link](#).

All SJF staff receive regular safeguarding updates and training and processes are being and reviewed and updated to take full account of the requirements of the **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023** document.

At St John Fisher, the Safeguarding Team is:

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Mr Barratt
- **Designated Safeguarding Deputies (DSDs):** Mrs Barrett, Mrs Hadfield and Mr Murphy
- **SJF Safeguarding Link-Governors:** Mr Beever (Chair of Governors) & Mrs Prestidge (Strategy & Operations)

School Lunches

Please remember that children's lunches must be ordered by **midnight each Thursday** for the following week. You have the option to order for more than one week if you choose.



Taylor Shaw will work with our School Council to in order to design and set the menus. Please talk to your children about their meal choices to avoid disappointment in school!





Our Term 1 Learning Value

Our value for this term is 'Determination'. Being determined is having the ability to keep going, even when there are setbacks. It's accepting that things don't always work out the way you expect them to, but continuing to set new goals that help you to grow as a person. Believing in yourself, being patient, and being the best that you can be are all important parts of determination!



What does determination look like to you?

- ✓ you can say "Yes I can!"
- ✓ you can set yourself your own challenging goals
- ✓ you have confidence to keep going, even when it is tough

If you have determination, what do you realise?

- ✓ never, ever, ever give up
- ✓ you can reach your potential if you believe in yourself
- ✓ your confidence gives you the strength to carry on

How can you can show determination?

- ✓ having a positive and determined mind-set
- ✓ setting challenging goals and having the courage to try
- ✓ be a superhero
- ✓ say "Yes I can!"

Eat Smart Sheffield

The Eat Smart Sheffield team has produced two resources for parents/carers:

- a newsletter for parents/carers that pulls together a range of information, advice and top tips on how to eat healthily throughout the day. This can be accessed [here](#).
- a free webinar for parents/carers on 21st September from 9.30am via Zoom which can be booked [here](#).



Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance every day is vital for children's development and wellbeing. Our target is **98%**. The local authority is working closely with all Sheffield schools to improve attendance across the city, meaning that our attendance figures are monitored closely. Persistent absence will be followed up in line with guidance with those families needing support. The biggest issue for our community has been term-time holidays, and so we hope that parents/carers will avoid taking their children out of school for holidays in term time.

Punctuality is very important as well. Lost minutes add up to missed days too, so please try to be on time.

REMEMBER:

- 08:40 Wake Up! Shake UP!
- 08:45 Get Set, GO!
- 08:55 Registration



Every school day counts BUT every minute is equally important!



ST CLARE Catholic Multi Academy Trust



98-100%
up to 2 days of lost learning

Children have the best possible chance of thriving and achieving their targets and outstanding success

95-97.9%
up to 10 days of lost learning

Teachers and the Learning Mentor will monitor attendance and offer support.

92-94.9%
up to 15 days of lost learning

Below the government target. Children are likely to struggle to keep up with classmates and may even fall behind, impacting their success and sense of wellbeing. Support will be offered and target might be set

90-91.9%
up to 19 days of lost learning

Children are at risk of persistent absence and will be monitored by our Learning Mentor and 'Attendance Champion', Mrs Barrett. There will be a plan, with meetings and targets set, based on advice of the local authority

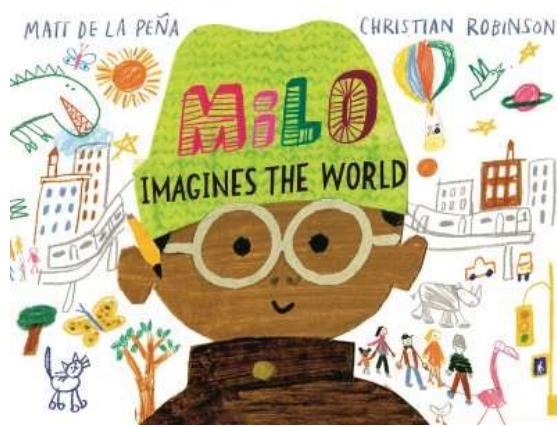
<90
more than days of lost learning

Persistent absence. It is very likely to have a significantly negative impact on the children's wellbeing, progress and achievement. Parents/carers are at risk of being fined by the local authority or prosecuted. Support will be offered, targets set and a plan put in place to not only improve attendance but to also try to address all the negative impacts of the missed days.

Our Feature Books of the Week!

Please click [here](#) to view our new 2023-24 SJF book list.

- **Milo Imagines the World**
 - Matt De La Pena
 - Christian Robinson
 - click [here](#)
- **October October**
 - Katya Balen
 - click [here](#)



Statement to Live By

Our new 'Statement of Belief' is: **"We are all special"**

Time to talk: To know we are special is to know that we are loved. We are amazing - created by a God who loves us. We have our own gifts and talents, which make us unique. What makes you special? What makes your friends special? What about your family members? When we doubt ourselves it is important that we try and remember that we are *all* very special.





Sheffield Children's **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

FREE Webinar For Parents / Carers

'10 Top Tips for a Healthier Bank Balance - How to Eat Well AND Save Money'

Thursday 21st September
9.30am – 10.30am
Via Zoom

Would you like some tips on how to eat healthier on a budget?

Want to know how to get the most out of your supermarket shop?

Want some ideas & inspiration on how to feed your family whilst not breaking the bank?

Then why not join us for our webinar:

'10 Top Tips for a Healthier Bank Balance – How to Eat Well AND Save Money'

Part of our '10 Top Tips' Webinar Series, this session includes how to be savvier at the supermarket, tips on shopping and cooking on a budget, and how to reduce food waste.

Presented via Zoom and delivered by nutrition professionals, the session will be informative but fun, with time throughout to answer any of your questions.

[BOOK HERE!](#)

For more information, please contact:

lisa.aldwin@learnsheffield.co.uk or delya.lane@nhs.net



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

