

# SJF NEWS



www.st-johnfisher.org | www.ourladyoflourdesheffield.org.uk | Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## Staff News

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Mr Murphy, our Inclusion and Learning Mentor, recently became a father for the first time. We send our congratulations and love to him and to Mrs Murphy - and their beautiful baby daughter, Harper. Mr Murphy is on paternity leave, currently, spending precious time with his family, and we send them all our very best wishes.

## Awards of the Week





There was no Celebration Assembly this week because the photographer was in school taking individual photographs. The various awards and birthday announcements will therefore be presented and made at next Friday's Celebration Assembly instead.

## SJF Healthy Minds Champions

The rearranged presentation of badges to our new HM Champions will take place on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**, which is the first Celebration Assembly that Mr Murphy and all our new HM Champions are in school.



## Term 1 Smiley Scores

St Andrew's House	St David's House	St Patrick's House	St George's House
 <b>507</b>	 <b>431</b>	 <b>446</b>	 <b>420</b>
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## Our Catholic Life

### Weekly Liturgy of the Word

During our Liturgy of Week we welcomed, formally, our youngest children in **FS2** and all the children who joined us recently. Supported by their amazing **Y4** buddies, the **FS2** children were fantastic, even singing a song and receiving a special 'welcome' bookmark. We thank them, their buddies and their families and friends who joined us to support them.

Our next liturgy will be led by the young people of **Y3** on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**. There is no liturgy next week because it is our first assessment points (AP1) of the school year. The following week there is no liturgy because we have our Harvest Mass.

## Harvest 2023

Our SJF Chaplaincy Team is helping to organise our annual 2023 Harvest appeal and Mass, on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023** at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, starting at **10.00am**.

Our liturgy will be led by the young people of **Y4** and - as always - everyone is invited.



**ST CLARE**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



**SJF Harvest Appeal 2023**

Our Chaplains have planned for the collection of food items in aid of the St Wilfrid's Centre, as part of our Harvest appeal 2023. The St Wilfrid's Centre is a special community that cares for the most vulnerable people in our city, including homeless and socially excluded adults. It provides a safe space where they are welcomed with compassion and understanding.

There they can receive practical advice and assistance as well as an opportunity to experience a sense of belonging; and the support needed to help them regain their self-esteem and self-worth.

If you would like to support our special harvest appeal, it is important that donated food is **non-perishable**. Items such as tins/jars of meat, fish, soup, vegetables and fruit; packets of cereals, dried 'Pot Noodle'-type products, biscuits, hot chocolate, tea and coffee, UHT milk, instant mashed potato, pasta, pasta sauce, rice and dried noodles, tea and coffee and any other nutritional items that have a long shelf life are ideal. Basically, anything tinned, dried or in jars (with long 'use-by' dates) would be perfect. Donations can be left by children in the the main foyer right up to the day of Mass **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**.

**Collective Worship**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Citizenship Statement of Belief Assembly</b> (Headteacher) & <b>Chaplains' Liturgies</b> (Years 5 and 6)	<b>'Virtues to Live By' Class Assembly</b> (Teachers & Chaplains)	<b>Themed Assembly</b> (Teacher-Led)	<b>Weekly Liturgy of the Word</b> (Class-Led)	<b>Celebration Assembly</b> (Headteacher & Deputy Headteacher) <b>Chaplains' Liturgies</b> (Years 1, 2, 3 and 4) <b>Story Liturgy</b> (FS2)

**October Gathering Song**

As I kneel before you  
 As I bow my head in prayer  
 Take this day, make it yours  
 And feel me with your love.

Ave Maria,  
 Gratia plena.  
 Dominus, te cum  
 Benedicta tu.

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,  
 Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope  
 To thee do we cry,  
 poor banished children of Eve



To thee do we send up our sighs,  
 Mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.  
 Turn then, most gracious advocate,  
 Thine eyes of mercy toward us,  
 And after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
 O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Amen.

**Our October Prayer**

Our prayer of the month is 'Hail Holy Queen' which is a traditional Catholic prayer dedicated to Our Lady. As it is not said as often these days, we wanted to include it in our annual SJF prayer programme.

Week 1 Attendance			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Y5	98.8%	Bobby Bear will visit next week
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Y6	98.8%	Brenda Bear will visit next week
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Y3	98.1%	Elvis Owl will visit next week
4 <sup>th</sup>	Y2	97.7%	Billy Bear will visit next week
5 <sup>th</sup>	Y4	97.2%	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Y1	96.7%	
7 <sup>th</sup>	FS2	95.8%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 97.7%	



Get Set, GO!		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Y5	84%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Y4	76%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Y6	76%
4 <sup>th</sup>	Y3	75%
5 <sup>th</sup>	FS2	70%
6 <sup>th</sup>	Y1	69%
7 <sup>th</sup>	Y2	69%
Average = 74%		





**REMINDER: FS2 Parent/Carer Workshop**

All **FS2** parents and carers are invited to an important workshop on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023** focusing on:

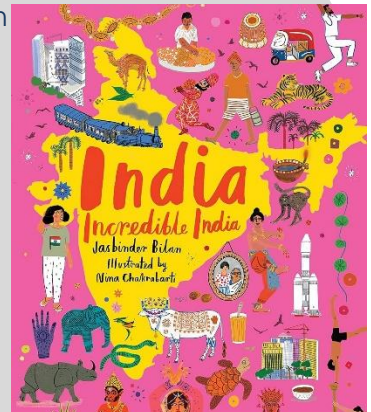
- phonics and early reading
- mark-making and early writing
- early mathematics

It will cover how we teach and support the children. There will also be tips for how parents and carers can support their children at home and, of course, there will an opportunity for questions to be asked. This special meeting which will take place in the **Y6** classroom and will begin straight after school at **3.30pm**. Supervised childcare will be provided close by. Please try to attend. Thank you.

**Reading for Pleasure: Our Latest Feature Books of the Week**



- Please click [here](#) to view our full 2023-24 SJF Book List
- Below are details of this week's feature books, click the [link](#) to view a Waterstones synopsis of both
- **Ossiri and the Bala Mengro - Travellers Tales**
  - Richard O'Neill
  - Katharine Quarmby
- **India, Incredible India**
  - Jasbinder Bilan



**Beat Your Best: Our BYB Challenge**

Here is a message from Miss Raynes:

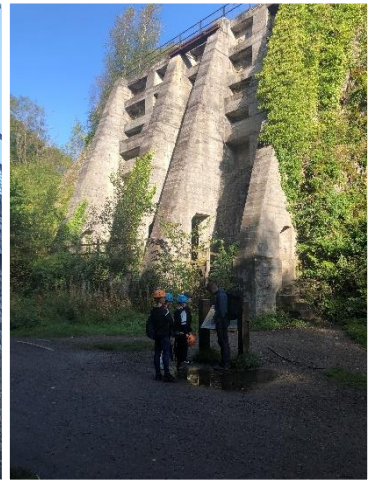
The Sports Majors are back with another Beat Your Best Challenge! Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to Jensen, Jake and Louis in **Y5** for helping create last week's BYB video whilst **Y6** were away on residential.

This week, the Sports Majors have chosen and 'catch and clap' activity. Please check out the video demonstration on the home page.

All you have to do is throw either a tennis ball, sponge ball or basketball in the air and see how many times you can clap before catching the ball – all in under a minute. How many claps do you think you can manage? Come find us on the playground this week to find out. Good luck!











### Y6 Hollowford Residential '23

Our Y6 children had a fantastic time during their recent fun-packed three-day residential visit to the Hollowford Centre in Castleton, Derbyshire.



It was great fun. The children had the opportunity to enjoy a number of different activities, including: a bracing night walk around either Peveril Castle or Mam Tor; canoeing, abseiling, orienteering, archery and caving.

They were all really well looked after by the experienced and fully qualified instructors as well as the staff at the centre. They were well fed and accommodated. Their engagement and behaviour were excellent, and we received many compliments from the Hollowford team. Everyone did what they could manage, and the comradery and teamwork were excellent. Look out for more photos on the website.

Our sincere thanks go to the team at Hollowford and to Mr MacInness who organised and led the visit supported by Mrs Grayson and Mr Barratt.

### Attendance Matters At St John Fisher

We know the last couple of years have been very difficult, and have impacted children's education in lots of different ways. Let us work together to keep absences to a minimum. The best place for children to be is in school, and the best way to catch up is to turn up. We want to help! Keep reading for some advice and tips...

#### *Why being in school matters...*

- ✓ being in school is the best way for children to catch up and close gaps where they exist
- ✓ being in school gives children more opportunities to achieve a depth of understanding that is greater than national age-related expectations
- ✓ being in school provides more benefits than those related purely to learning and education, it also helps children:
  - build and maintain friendships
  - enjoy new activities and experiences
  - build confidence and skills for future life
- ✓ being in school helps to keep children safe and well, because statistically, children with good school attendance are less likely to be involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
- ✓ being in school significantly increases the likelihood that a child will do better in school and achieve the success they deserve
- ✓ good attendance habits start at a young age and by working together to encourage/support this, we will set out values and habits that will help our children thrive and achieve success in their future lives

#### *How to support your child to go to school and to catch up...*

Talk to us straight away if your child is worried about coming to school, because we want to help. If your child is struggling to attend because they are nervous about coming to school or anxious about something in school, it is really important to let us know, so that we can try to understand and then do something about it.

Please call us (01142486009); email us ([enquiries@st-johnfisher.org](mailto:enquiries@st-johnfisher.org) or via the class email addresses); or speak to us in the school office or on the pedestrian gates at the start or end of the school day. We want to know and we want to help by making sure that the right support is in place for any children struggling.

#### *Term-Time Holidays*

PLEASE AVOID BOOKING TERM-TIME HOLIDAYS. This has been identified as the main issue for our school, both for big holidays and for odd days taken here and there. The graphic below offers a reminder that there are **175 non-school days** in an academic year for holidays and breaks to be booked. Unless circumstances are exceptional, time off for term-time holidays can never be authorised. Unfortunately, it has also been picked up that some families book term-time holidays every year, and some book multiple breaks in the same year.





Help your child catch up with the work they have missed if you can. Missed classes do not have to mean missed learning. Speak to us.

There are lots of resources we can direct you to, or make available to you. We will also help in school as much as we can.

Please follow the link below, to find out more about what is on offer to help children catch up and to support their physical, social and mental wellbeing.

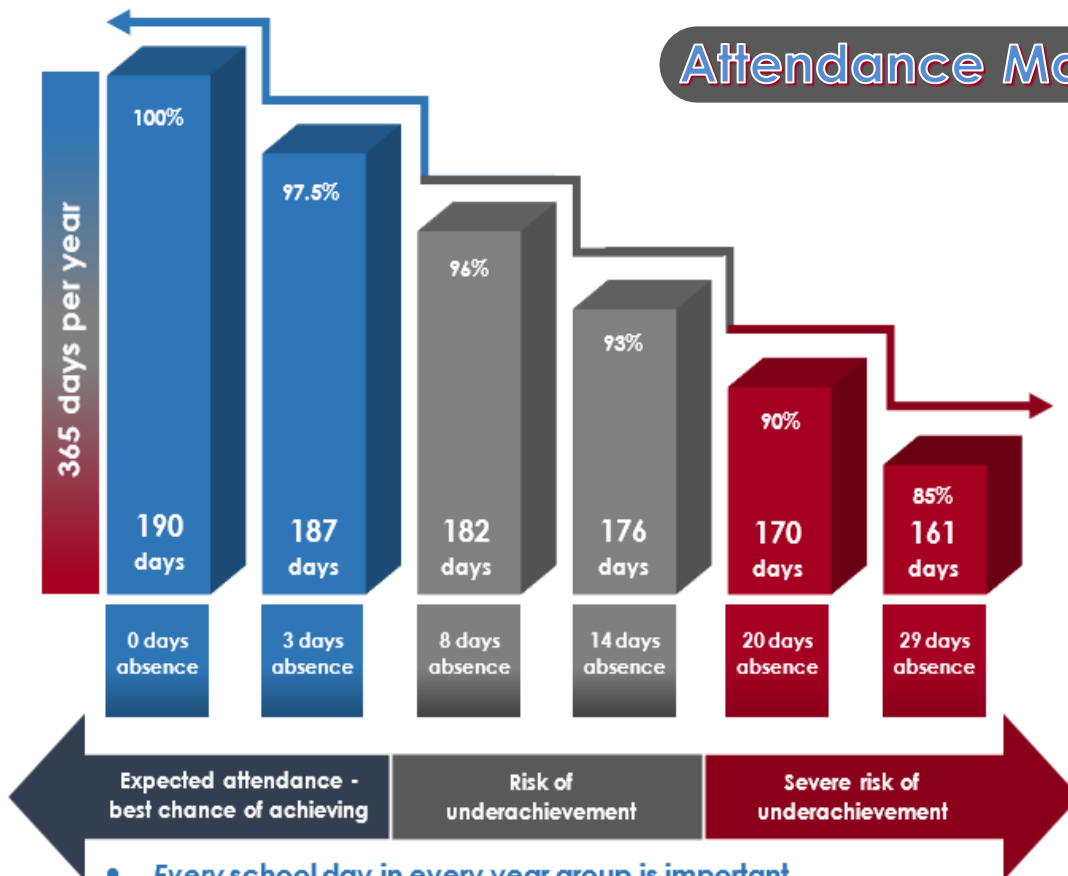
<https://educationcatchup.campaign.gov.uk/>

*Getting your child to school*

If you struggle getting your child to school, please speak to us. Support is also available from the local authority's 'Attendance and Inclusion Team' and you can reach them via this link:

[sheffieldinclusion&attendance@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:sheffieldinclusion&attendance@sheffield.gov.uk)

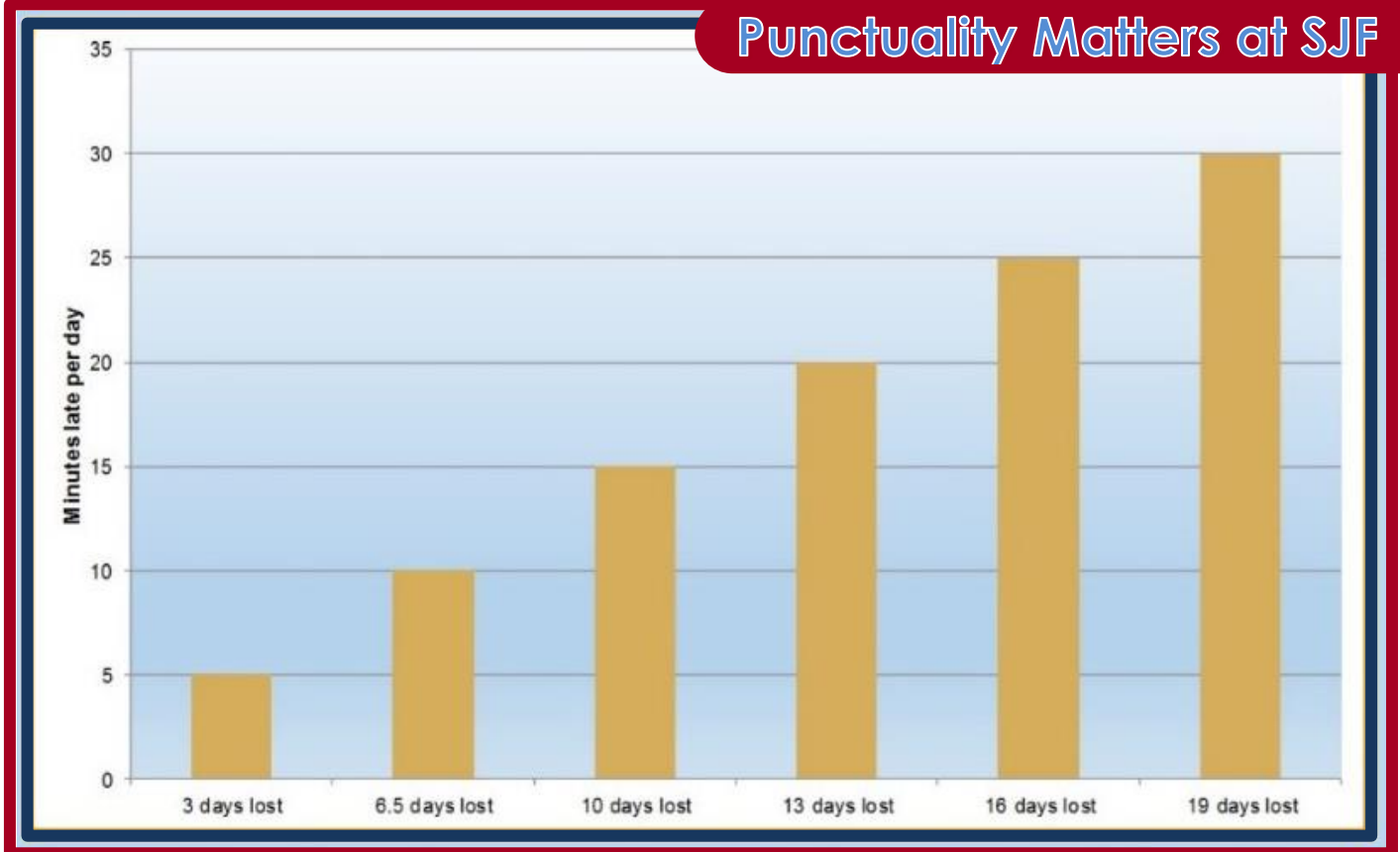
**Attendance Matters at SJF**



- Every school day in every year group is important
- Holidays in term-time can have an impact on children and their progress
- 98%+ attendance is the target (186+ days) this year
- Try to have no more than 4 days off a year
- There are 175 non-school days for holidays and appointments (where there is flexibility)
- Good attenders tend to feel more happy and secure in school, and achieve well



## Punctuality Matters at SJF



### Achievements outside of School

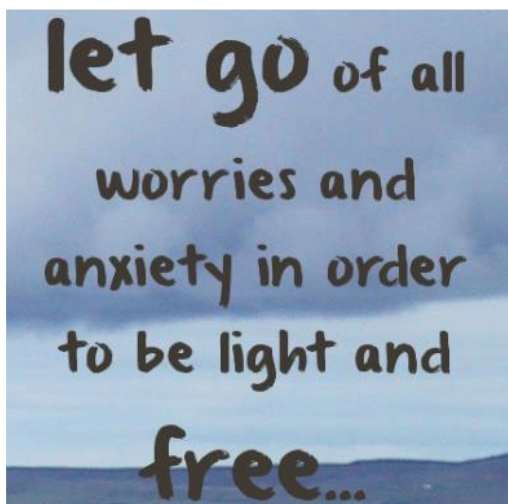
Please send us details of your children's achievements outside of school via our [enquiries@st-johnfisher.org](mailto:enquiries@st-johnfisher.org) email address. Whether the achievements are big or small we will share and celebrate the good news!

- **Hugo** in **Y1** participated in a reading challenge to read six books in six weeks and was invited to Magna for a day out during which he was presented with a certificate recognising his achievement. Well done!

### Assessment Point 1

Next week is our first formal assessment point of the academic year. Attendance every day is therefore very important. Thank you.

### Our Statement of Belief



Next week our 'statement of Belief' is "**I can say how I feel.**"

**Time to talk:** Why is it important to share our worries and say how we feel, especially if we are feeling sad or anxious?

Does it ever help to 'bottle up' your feelings? Why?

It is very important to remember that we all have the right to feel happy, safe and loved every day at school and at home.

In our school we know that it is important to 'Tell! Tell! Tell!' whenever we have a worry ball. We know that there will always be someone to listen and care.

Who would you choose to tell?

