

SJF NEWS



www.st-johnfisher.org | www.ourladyoflourdesheffield.org.uk | Final Newsletter 2023-24

★ Farewell Y6 – The Class of '23

★ We bid a fond farewell to our very special class of '24, at the end of their primary school journey with us. The time has certainly flown, as it always does. It only seems like yesterday that we were welcoming them for the first time. Throughout their time with us each child has contributed so richly to school life, as they have each tried so hard to live and share our school values. We are so proud of the fantastic young people they have become.

We therefore thank them for being special members of our SJF family and for all they have given and shared over the years, and we pray for each of them and as they embark on the next exciting phase of their lives.

Each child will leave with all our love and best wishes for the very happy and successful futures they all deserve as we say goodbye to:



- Jomi
- Bruno
- Sofia
- Erin
- Isaac
- Zayd
- Hugo
- Seb
- Alfie
- Alana
- Emily
- Diion
- Eliana
- Florence
- Connie
- Willow
- Dominique
- Noah
- William
- Jacob
- Aalia
- D'Mari
- Luca
- Sam
- Poppy
- Bella-Rae
- Katie
- Ava
- Amelie
- Kacper
- Preston
- Lochlan



September 2023



July 2024



We also say a final farewell to some of our parents/carers who have also been special members of our SJF family.

We thank them for choosing us to be their partners, by entrusting their children into our care, and secondly for their support our community. We wish them all well.

God of our journeys, we ask, that like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, our leavers will always recognise You in their own life journeys, as you guide them every day. Be with them in their triumphs and challenges. We give thanks for the special times that have been shared and for the beautiful memories that they leave us with, memories we will cherish forever.



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Catholic Multi Academy Trust



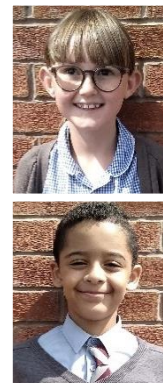
The Leavers' Mass 2024

This year's Leavers' Mass was a very special and moving occasion, and we thank everyone involved in its organisation, and for preparing the children, who were magnificent. They fulfilled their various roles happily and with such confidence. We thank Fr Bede for celebrating Mass, and for his inspirational words of affirmation for our young people and their parents/carers. We thank the children's families and friends who were able to join us, along with Mr McGurrin, Governors and the PTFA. At the end of Mass, the children received a special bookmark, just as they did when they first joined our school. They also received a beautiful gift from our PTFA and a flower – a gift from us, to their parents and carers. Following the presentation of gifts the children did not return to their places, but went to be with their families, marking the end of their SJF journeys.

One SJF tradition is that four additional awards are given. These are voted for by school staff.

The Liam McGurrin Award for Citizenship

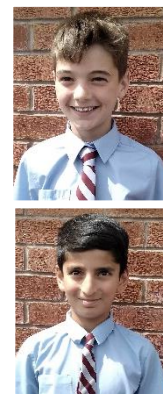
The award recalls and celebrates the rich legacy of Mr McGurrin, who was our school's Headteacher from 1982 until 2007, and remains a great friend and stalwart supporter of our community. The Liam McGurrin Award for Citizenship is presented to a child who lives our school values, evident, in their behaviour, attitude, words and actions in school. It was special that this year's award presented by Mr McGurrin, himself. Many received votes from staff, and this year two children tied, having received the highest number of votes.



This year's recipients are **Katie** and **Luca**.

The Nick Zelly Memorial Shield for Sporting Achievement

The award honours the memory of a former pupil, Nick Zelly, who, during his time with us, contributed so much to school life, especially in the field of sport. He is remembered, fondly, as an enthusiastic sportsman and a skilful footballer, who had been talent-spotted by Sheffield Wednesday FC and was a highly regarded member of their academy.



During his SJF journey he was developing as a promising leader and supportive teammate because he lived the school's values and cared deeply for his friends and classmates.

Tragically, Nick died from complications after contracting meningitis when he was in Y8 and a pupil at All Saints Catholic High School. The idea for a memorial shield was conceived by Mr McGurrin and Nick's parents as a way of honouring his memory, and to inspire our children not just today, but all who will follow too. It is therefore a very special award, given to those who emulate Nick's wonderful example. Again, two children tied with the most votes.

This year's recipients are **Hugo** and **Zayd**.

The Excel Award

The Excel Award is presented to a child who, whilst demonstrating our school values, makes significant progress relative to their starting point. It celebrates, more than anything, the positive attitude, behaviours, decisions, resilience, determination and focus that shaped their journey.



This year's recipient is **Lochlan**.

The Endeavour Award

This award is presented to a child who has exhibited our school values as they have faced, tackled and striven to overcome any sort of significant barrier in their lives, that might otherwise have held them back or blocked or limited their inclusion or achievement of their goals.



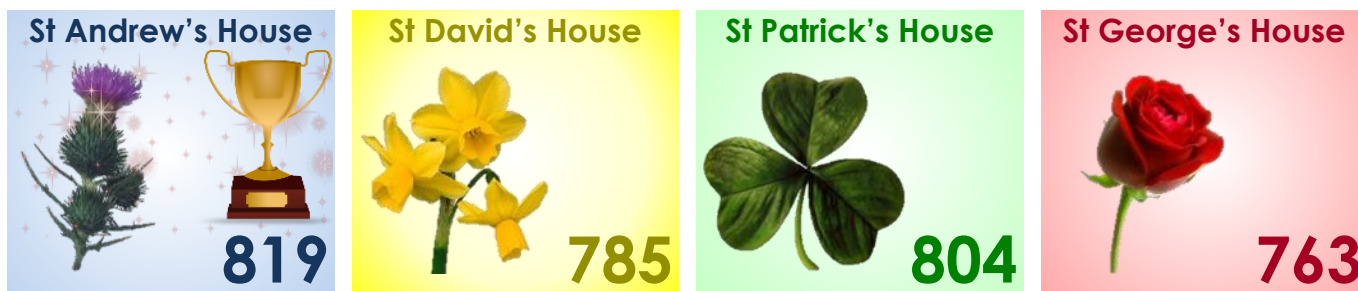
This year's recipient is **Sam**.

We congratulate the recipients of these special awards, and **every** Y6 child, who have all shone as very special members of our SJF family. We will miss them all!



SJF Smiley Scores

Term 6 Scores



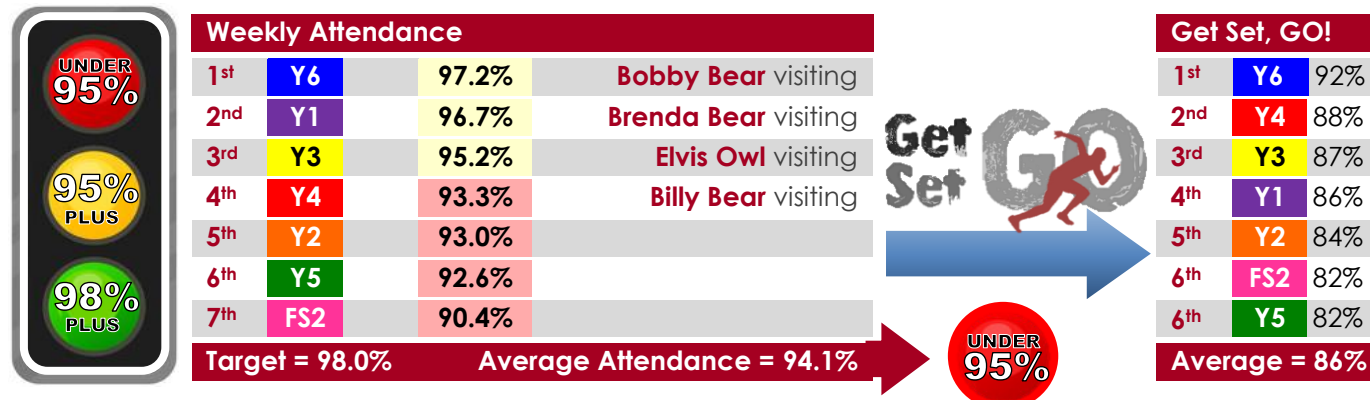
2023-2024 Termly House Champions

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
St Andrew's House	St Patrick's House	St Patrick's House	St George's House	St Patrick's House	St Patrick's House

2023-2024 Overall Scores



Attendance



Attendance: Term 6 - Overall			Attendance: 2022-2023		
1st	Y4	97.8%	1st	Y4	97.5%
2nd	Y1	96.5%	2nd	Y5	95.8%
3rd	Y3	96.0%	2nd	Y6	95.8%
3rd	Y5	96.0%	4th	Y3	95.6%
5th	Y6	95.0%	5th	Y1	95.4%
6th	FS2	94.5%	6th	Y2	94.8%
7th	Y2	93.7%	7th	FS2	94.4%
Target = 98.0% Average Attendance = 95.7%			Target 98.0% Overall Average Attendance = 95.6%		



Our Catholic Life



Diocese of Hallam

Our lady of Lourdes Parish News

Information about parish and Diocesan life, including the times of Masses and sacramental preparation can be found [here](#). To view the latest parish newsletter, please click [here](#), Thank you.

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

End of Year Mass of Thanksgiving

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the celebration of our end of year Mass of thanksgiving. It was fitting way to mark the end of what has been another successful and happy year. We thank Fr Bede for celebrating Mass, so joyfully, and all the children and adults, representing different parts of our community, for supporting the liturgy, including Governors, PTFA, parish, and children from all year groups. We give thanks for the way everyone works together in order to make our school the special place that it is.



Parishes of St Theresa and Our Lady of Lourdes with St Anthony

Father Bede and the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes

We thank Fr Bede and all our special friends from the parish for their fantastic support of school life, and of our Catholic life in particular.

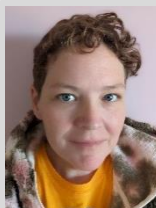


Our relationship with Fr Bede and the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes with St Anthony is extremely important to our school community. It is integral to our Vision and Mission. We are grateful for the way we are able work together, so successfully, in the service of our shared community.

Our SJF PTFA

We thank the PTFA Committee members, and all who have supported them, for their commitment and tremendous hard work this year. They are incredible, as they work so generously in the service of our children, parents, carers and wider school community. It is truly staggering how much they do and achieve!

In spite of the many pressures, including their small size, the PTFA committee somehow managed to organise fantastic events like Santa in School; school discos; Bags2School; the Friday Fayre and Y5 Enterprise Challenge; gifts for Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day. They have also supported our Curriculum Showcases, Sports Day, Open Morning, the BBC 'Children in Need' appeal; our annual visit to the Sheffield pantomime; and all the work they have done to assist with the development of the new wildlife area. Our amazing PTFA Committee members this year are Catherine Cooper and Jess Pattison (Co-Chairs); Cat Ball; Janine Crapper; Lauren Howarth; Swathi Paul; and Lucy Wells.



Catherine Cooper



Jess Pattison



Lauren Howarth



Swathi Paul



Cat Ball



Lucy Wells



Janine Crapper



If their amazing examples have inspired you to get involved and support our school in a very special way, please email the committee (pfpa@st-johnfisher.org). Your commitment to the PTFA does not have to be a big one. Any ideas or offers of support are appreciated, hugely. Thank you.



Our SJF Governors

I would like to thank our Governing Body for their continued dedication and support of our school community. Much of the vitally important work they do goes unseen, but their support of the strategic leadership of our community, especially around curriculum and safeguarding, has been absolutely key.

We thank Dan Beever (Chair), Greg Pursehouse (Vice Chair), Jon Ball; Faye Draper; Nuala Nelis; Rev. Beki Otieno; Clair Prestidge, Andrew Drummond, Sarah Ludlam and our Staff Governors, Mrs Barrett and Mrs Ramsden. We have vacancies for anyone interested in becoming a Governor, and further information about what this entails will be shared at the beginning of the new school year. Thank you.



Chair
Dan
Beever

Foundation Member



Vice-Chair
Greg
Pursehouse

Foundation Member



Jon
Ball

Foundation Member



Andrew
Drummond

Foundation Member



Finnuala
Nelis

Foundation Member



Clair
Prestidge

Foundation Member



Rev. Beki
Otieno

Parent/Carer Member



Faye
Draper

Co-Opted Member



Interested?
Please contact us.

Parent/Carer Member

Our SJF Team

I would like to say a massive 'thank you' to all my incredible colleagues, for their hard work and dedication to our children and community. I am so grateful, and proud of them too, for the great work they do in all their different various and important roles, supporting our children to feel happy, safe and loved - and to thrive!

It has been a particularly tough time in education in recent years as all schools struggle with severe budgetary pressures at a time when the demands on our stretched resources continue to increase exponentially. In common with other schools we have to continually work out how we can do (and give) more, with less - and less. It is (and has been) very difficult. However, in spite of this, our staff team have, time and again, rolled up their sleeves and pulled together, in order to rise and meet each and every challenge. They have worked so hard; so flexibly; and with such grace, dedication, good humour and love - because they all care so passionately about your children and our community. I therefore applaud each and every one of them. **If you think you can help us at this key time, please consider joining our team of Governors when the call comes.**



We also bid a fond farewell to some very special people...

Mr Andrews

After many years, we say goodbye to Mr Andrews, our Buildings Manager. Mr Andrews first joined our community in 2006, and always took great pride in his important work. He was very positive about all the developments that improved the buildings and grounds, working hard, every day, to ensure that the school looked its best for the children and staff.

In recent years, Mr Andrews suffered with ill health, which prevented him from working, and eventually led to the difficult decision to retire. Mr Andrews will be remembered for his dedication and tremendous sense of humour. He will also be remembered for being very kind to everyone. We thank him, and wish him a very long, happy and healthy retirement.

Mrs Prentice

After eleven years, Mrs Prentice leaves us to return to her nursery roots. When Mrs Prentice joined us in the summer of 2013, she was my first appointment, joining us, bravely, at a very challenging time, not long after a difficult inspection. She went on to play a key role in our bounce back, working for the majority of her service, in FS2. Mrs Prentice also spent a year in Y5, during the pandemic, and has been part of our Y2 team this year.

Mrs Prentice will be remembered for her sense of fun and deep care for our children and colleagues. During her service she contributed so much and we thank her, and wish her every happiness.

Miss Luxton

At the end of her contract, Miss Luxton is leaving us to take up an exciting full-time teaching assistant role in another school. Miss Luxton worked very hard this year as part of our Y2 team. Whether supporting children 1:1, in class, or as a phonics tutor, she was always utterly focused. Her enthusiasm and sense of fun was appreciated by the children and staff with whom she worked. In only a short time Miss Luxton has left a big mark, and as she now takes her next step, we wish her continuing happiness and success.

Mrs Holloway

We say goodbye to Mrs Holloway after ten amazing years of service to our community.

During her service with us, she was a class teacher in Years 4, 5 and 6. She also served our community as a curriculum leader initially for RE and then latterly, for Mathematics.

As RE lead, she supported staff and drove many of the improvements that helped secure the fantastic judgements in the RE and Catholic Life inspection, in 2016, under a previous inspection framework.

As Lead for Mathematics, Mrs Holloway was key in developing the Maths curriculum and supporting staff to drive and sustain improvements and gains.

Mrs Holloway has always been a very special member of our team. Her compassion and care for others marked her out, along with her dedication and commitment to her various different roles and responsibilities. She was always respected and highly regarded by colleagues in and out of school.

She leaves us with all our prayers and best wishes, to take up an exciting new role much closer to home.

Miss Birch

Back in February Miss Birch left us to begin her maternity leave just before the birth of her son, Brody, and both are doing incredibly well.

Miss Birch was an important part of our team, supporting a child on a 1:1 basis. Her contract has now come to an end, meaning that she will not rejoin us in September, though we will see her when she returns to JPAC, our wraparound care providers.

Seen by everyone as a kind and compassionate member of our school community, Miss Birch was respected by colleagues and children alike. She leaves with all our thanks and best wishes.



SJF Questionnaire 2023-24

Please click [here](#) to view the outcomes from the recent parent/carer questionnaire. Thanks.



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Reading for Pleasure: Our Latest Feature Books of the Week



READING FOR PLEASURE

“The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go.”
-Dr. Seuss

Please click [here](#) to view our new 2024-25 SJF Book List, which will be shared soon. Please click this [link](#) to find out more about this year's Sheffield Reading Challenge. It is lots of fun, and will really help your children.

Please click [here](#).

Summer Reading Challenge 2024

Delivered in partnership with libraries

Marvellous Makers

THE READING AGENCY | Celebrating creativity | CREATE

Illustrations by Natelle Quek and logo artwork by Lizzie Everard. All © The Reading Agency 2024.



Y1 Visit to The Old Moor Wetlands Centre

Our **Y1** children enjoyed a day at the RSPB Old Moor Wetlands reserve. The educational visit linked to their science work, related to plants and trees. They also enjoyed pond-dipping; asking lots great questions about what they observed. Even the rain did not dampen their enthusiasm. We thank the staff who arranged and organised this fantastic opportunity for our children, as well all the parent and carer volunteers who accompanied the staff and children. Please click [here](#).



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SJF Eco Team News

Here is a message from Mrs Steenson

As the school year ends, the SJF Eco Team has a lot to look back on and be proud of.

The team has been part of a government-backed initiative for the release of their new 'Nature Parks' app and has worked towards small projects to help it run.

The team has planted spring bulbs in our new wildlife area, hoping to attract more pollinators to our grounds.



The members have considered, carefully, the importance behind the project during their regular meetings and worked with 'The Sheffield Swift Network' in the spring of this year. Members have also worked on fundraising ideas that will be inherited by next year's team. Members also met to address the idea of recycling and littering, as well as working with the PTFA to create a fantastic stall at our recent Friday Fayre, which aided their record-breaking fundraising efforts for our whole school to enjoy.

This year's members should feel very proud of the all they have achieved this year, and I am incredibly grateful to them. Their dedication and enthusiasm has benefited our school and environment as a whole!

SJF School Council News

Here is a message from Mr MacInnes



I would like to thank this year's SJF School Council, for their great work this year.

It has been fantastic to observe grow tighter as a team, supporting each other. Some children have also shown leadership qualities. All the children have grown in confidence, asking the questions they want to ask and shaping the agenda that they have worked to.

The children have learned to debate as they have experienced, firsthand, how the democratic process works. They have learned how to listen actively to - and show respect for - the views and opinions of others as well.

Visitors have been so impressed with the way they have engaged so positively, and I have been very proud of them all too. Thank you, children.

SJF Chaplaincy Team News

Here is a message from Mrs Broadhead



Thank you, to this year's SJF Chaplaincy Team members. It was their responsibility to plan and deliver creative assemblies and acts of worship across the school, inspired by Scripture, with the aim of engaging and moving others to act, behave and see others as God would hope. They all rose to the task magnificently and have been so incredible! We have all seen it and the inspectors who visited earlier this year, also saw it, and were so impressed with their focus, engagement and knowledge.





As the team grew in understanding and confidence, they also supported children across school to plan celebrations and acts of worship.

We also congratulate and thank the team for planning and leading us in our final Chaplain's Celebration focused on 'Awe and Wonder' in which you reminded us of God's greatness and the beauty of His creation.

What a wonderful team you have been, thank you, and to our Y6 chaplains, we hope that you take the rich experiences gained in to the next stage of your lives.

SJF Healthy Minds Champions News

Here is a message from Mr Murphy

We thank this year's incredible team, for the way they have each embraced the challenge of being a Champion. They fulfilled their roles brilliantly, engaging well with the training offered by our friends from the Sheffield Healthy Minds Team.

They have then taken every opportunity to support other children and share positive messages, in the work on the playground, in assemblies, in talks with parents/carers, in The Hub at lunchtimes, and via their popular podcast, which can be viewed on our website. Their work has even caught the eye of people across Sheffield and has been discussed in conferences!



We thank these and all the children who have engaged in the various 'pupil voice' groups this year. We also thank all the staff who have supported the important work of our SJF 'pupil voice' groups this year:

- **SJF School Council** Mr MacInnes
- **SJF Eco Team** Mrs Steenson
- **SJF Sports Majors & Leaders** Miss Raynes, Mrs Broadhead and the LINKS School Sports Partnership
- **SJF Chaplaincy Team** Mrs Broadhead
- **SJF Healthy Minds Champions** Mr Murphy



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End of KS2 Outcomes 2023

Congratulations to our **Y6** leavers for their impressive achievements in the end of Key Stage 2 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) and we await the result of some appeals, however, as they stand, the figures are shown below. The 'combined' figure is the percentage of children who managed to achieve age-related expectations in Mathematics, Reading and Writing.

Mathematics		Reading		Writing		GPS		Combined	
SJF	National	SJF	National	SJF	National	SJF	National	SJF	National
84%	73%	91%	74%	88%	72%	94%	72%	78%	61%

Uniform Reminders

Our uniform is important and pupils are expected to wear it and look smart every day. Our uniform is key to our school's identity and reflects our ethos, standards and high expectations. Please support us.

Official Uniform Suppliers

We have two official suppliers and items with the official logo can be bought from either 'Logo Leisurewear' or 'School Trends'. **No one else**, including the market at Crystal Peaks, has permission to sell uniform with the SJF official 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 also purchase uniform items in the correct colours without a logo from other sources. Please note that our official suppliers are the only organisations permitted to sell SJF uniform with a logo.

SJF Blazer
(Optional)

Dark grey cardigan or jumper

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

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 Tie
(Elastic, clip-on or normal)

SJF scrunch
(Optional)

Light blue gingham dress
(Optional in Terms 1, 5 and 6 only and to be worn with white socks)



PE Uniform

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 and the bottoms must be **plain** mid grey joggers. **No leggings**. Suitable trainers of any colour or make can be worn on PE days.

PE Days 2023-2024

- **Monday** FS2
- **Tuesdays** Years 1 and 2
- **Wednesday** Years 3 and 4
- **Thursdays** Years 5 and 6



Official PE uniform with logo or plain in the correct colours.

Earrings and Jewellery

No designer labels and no leggings.

A reminder that children are **not** permitted to wear earrings/studs or any kind of jewellery at school – even taped up earrings. Please consider having your child's ears at the beginning of the summer holiday so that they are ready for September, if this is something you want. The wearing of sensible watches is encouraged.

School Shoes

Children must wear sensible black school shoes. Velcro shoes for younger children are preferable. Trainers/high boots **can** be worn to/from school e.g. in bad weather or to play football **at break-times**, as long as pupils have appropriate school shoes with them to change in to and wear around school. So, **no** high boots or trainers (even all black ones) to be substituted for proper school shoes please.



(trainers can be worn on PE days and at break-times when playing sport)

Other Uniform Reminders

- ✗ no leggings at any time
- ✗ no open necked shirts/blouses
- ✗ no blue polo shirts
- ✓ mid-length shorts
- ✓ black school shoes
- ✗ **No** 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)

Reading Volunteers

We thank our three amazing, and very dedicated, reading volunteers for all their support this year! Their service has been vitally important to us all, and so appreciated by all the children they have helped. Please let us know if you would like to join their ranks (enquiries@st-johnfisher.org). We really do need you! Thank you.





STEEL CITY CHORISTERS

STEEL CITY CHORISTERS AUDITIONS

DO YOU KNOW A CHILD WHO LOVES TO SING?

For children Y2 - Y13 and adults with good sight-reading skills.



**AUDITIONS:
MONDAY 2ND
SEPTEMBER 2024**

BY APPOINTMENT
AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH, OWLERTON.

Book a place by emailing Eleanor, our Director of Music, at:
enquiries@steelcitychoristers.org.uk

We are an independent and innovative choir of children that sings in the cathedral tradition. We offer a first-class musical education and sing for a wide range of churches and communities in and around Sheffield. We have been involved in 100 performances since September 2020.

"Absolutely beautiful!" (Professor Brian Cox)

"Steel City Choristers has rapidly developed very high standards...the musical education is excellent ...I commend them without reservation." (Hilary Davan Wetton, Artistic Director, Military Wives Choirs)

Our policy on earrings is clear – they cannot be worn to school. If you want to get your child's ear(s) pierced please wait for the very beginning of the summer holiday, to have it done, so they are healed and sorted in time for the new term, in September. Thank you.

SJF Open Morning 2024

WELCOME

Spread the word! We have an Open Morning from 10.00am to 12.00pm on **Saturday 28th September 2024**. It will be a great opportunity to have a look around and meet some of our children, staff, Governors and other parents in order learn more about our special community. All are welcome!

WELCOME BACK

Reopening

School reopens for children, for the start of the new 2023-24 academic year on Wednesday 4th September 2024, with Wake Up! Shake Up! from 8.40am. Please check out the 2024-25 calendar, and sign up for alerts, if you have not done so already.

An Irish Blessing for you All

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind always be at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

And rains fall soft upon your fields.

And, until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



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