

SJF NEWS



www.st-johnfisher.org

www.ourladyoflourdessheffield.org.uk

Friday 6th September 2024



Welcome Back!

It has been great to catch up with so many of you as we start our new school year! To all our new children, families and colleagues we say a great big 'WELCOME!' - and to our existing children, families and colleagues we say a great big WELCOME BACK! We are so happy to be joined by all our new starters, most of whom have joined our **FS2** class, and are already starting to settle in brilliantly. We have also been joined by a number of older children, meaning that we are completely full in all classes apart from **Y6** and **Y1**, where there are still a few spaces. All our new children are being well looked after by their classmates and staff, and I invite you all to get involved in the life of our special school community.

Mr MacInness

I am delighted to share the fantastic news that Mr Macinnes' wife gave birth to a baby boy, last Sunday, and he has been on paternity leave since. He had planned to take a second weeklong bloc later in the term, however he now needs to take this next week, which will delay his return to school until Monday 16th September. I know he is very much looking forward to meeting the children in his new class and getting to know all their parents/carers too. We ask that you keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers. In the meantime the **Y6** class will continue to be covered Mrs Smith.

Mrs Hambleton

Mrs Hambleton undergoes abdominal surgery today and will be off work in order to recuperate for the next 10-12 weeks. The timing of the surgery meant that she was able to meet her new class on their first day. During her absence, her class will be covered by Mr Folmer, a very experienced teacher. We pray that everything goes well and that Mrs Hambleton makes a speedy recovery.

Internet Issues

A local area power outage resulted in our internet not working at the end of the week. This meant that the telephone did not work and it prevented us from sharing our latest 2024-25 book list; our first SJF weekly and FS2 Mouse Club newsletters and our Term 1 Curriculum Overviews. We apologise for any inconvenience.

SJF Open Morning 2023



Our Open Morning takes place on **Saturday 21st September 2024** between 10.00am and 12.00pm. If you know anyone interested in finding out more about our school, please encourage them to come along and meet us.

We welcome children of all faiths and no faith, who want to join our community, though baptised Catholic children will be prioritised. We especially welcome the parents/carers of any children due to start primary school in September 2025.

Visitors will have an opportunity to meet our children; Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and staff; Governors and members of our PTFA as they look around the site, asking any questions they have, in order to learn about our school and what makes it so special. Please spread the word for us!



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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



Pupil voice is very important in our community and we are active in encouraging all our children to get involved in school life in different ways. We have our School Council, Chaplaincy Team, Healthy Minds Team, Eco Team and Sports Majors' Team and will introduce their members and coordinators for 2024-25 next week.

School Council Election 2024

This week's planned election was postponed due to Mr MacInnes' absence, and will now take place after he returns, with **Y6** candidates standing for the four senior council roles: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.



Hustings will take place on **Wednesday 18th September 2024**, with each **Y6** candidate being given an opportunity to talk to the children about themselves, their ideas and reasons for standing. The children will then take turns to visit our SJF polling station in order to vote for the candidate who impressed them most. The candidate receiving the most votes will then choose the role they want to do; followed by the one who received the second highest number of votes and so on, until every position is filled. The Y6 candidates now have more time to prepare. The Y1-Y5 councillors were elected during the transition days in the summer.

SJF Calendar

Our new 2024-25 SJF calendar is available on our website by clicking this [link](#). Please check it for details of educational visits, assessment points, nativity plays, curriculum showcases, the dates when your children's class are leading the Celebration of the Word, other services and Masses etc. It is all there for you.

Open Morning 2025

Just another plug for the Open morning on **Saturday 21st September 2024**. Please spread the word with your friends, neighbours and on your social media! Thank you for your support.

INSET Day

A reminder that **Friday 25th October 2024** is a staff INSET day, meaning that school will be closed on that day.

Welcome Meetings 2024

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



Y3	Monday 9th September	Y1	Tuesday 10th September	Y5	Wednesday 11th September
Y4		Y2		Y6	
FS2	Thursday 19th September				



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 being determined!



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!”

SJF Houses – Update

Emblem	Head of House	Saints’ Feast Days	SJF Colour Day	2024/25 Charities
St Andrew 	Miss D’Roza	Saturday 30th November 2024	Members’ Blue Day Monday 2nd December 2024	Bluebell Wood Children’s Hospice (Focus in Term 6)
St David 	Mrs Raynes	Friday 1st March 2025	Members’ Yellow Day Friday 28th February 2025	Mission Together (Focus in Term 2)
St Patrick 	Mr Hobson	Monday 17th March 2025	Members’ Green Day Friday 14th March 2025	CAFOD (Focus in Term 3)
St George 	Mrs Steenson	Wednesday 23rd April 2025	Members’ Red Day Monday 28th April 2025	Hallam Caritas - The annual ‘Good Shepherd’ appeal (Focus in Terms 4 & 5)

Week 1 Smiley Scores

This week’s 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 receive a notification each time your child is awarded a smiley. Thank you.



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 in upholding our high standards.

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 (pfia@st-johnfisher.org) All items are laundered and sorted. Please continue donating unwanted quality uniform items 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



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 2024-25

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



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).



suitable trainers of any colour on PE days and for break-times.

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. If the holes are not healed children can wear clear spacers until holes are healed. The wearing of **sensible** analogue watches is encouraged. Smart watches, with connectivity to 4G/social media etc. are not permitted for online safety reasons.

Reminders

- **no** leggings or polo shirts at any time
- **no** open necked shirts/blouses
- mid-length shorts if these are being worn
- black school shoes (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 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. We have published our own SJF Book List for 2024-25 which contains a range of both new and more traditional titles, from well-known and new authors and illustrators. These titles are varied and cover fiction and non-fiction genres and poetry. Our aim is to get the children excited and engaged. We want them all to be enthusiastic readers.

Class book areas, book nooks around school are being updated and this year in school and outside, and we have formalised sessions in our fantastic Marie Kerley Library too. We are pushing ahead with our phonics and 1:1 reading strategies, with the aim of targeting all children needing additional support every day. The key is to get children reading for pleasure, rather than it be forced. It is so important that you find a little time, every day, to hear your children read, and to read to them. Research shows that this makes a huge difference to children, not just supporting them with their reading but with learning more broadly too.





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.



PTFA WELCOME MEETING

You 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 **Friday 4th October 2024**, in the **Y6** classroom starting at 3.30pm. Supervised childcare will be available close by. The PTFA does so much to support school life and enhance the experience of all our children.

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

- ✓ funding transport to/from the Lyceum pantomime, treats for children and volunteers staff
- ✓ organising and delivering the fantastic Santa in School event
- ✓ arranging regular discos and family socials and events
- ✓ providing gifts parents for Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day, annually
- ✓ 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

The PTFA is (and has always been) key to our school life. It is organised by a very special and dedicated group of volunteers; parents/carers, like you. Please pop in and listen to what they have achieved and their future plans. They really do so much for the children and our school, and would be so grateful if you could join them. The meeting does not take long, and your presence would make a huge difference. Supervised care, close by, will be provided for the children of everyone who attends.





The Pupil Premium Grant

If your family receives 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** until they leave our school. The grant is also available to children who are in care and to any whose parents serve in the UK armed forces.

If you think that you are qualify 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 universal free school meals funded by the government for children in these classes and Mrs Ramsden can advise you about this too. Thank you.



Term 1 Curriculum Overviews

The Term 1 Curriculum Overviews will be sent out shortly. Please contact us if you have any questions of if you need our help to support your children, or if you can support us. For parents/carers of our very youngest children in **FS2**, please also look out for the weekly 'FS2 Mouse Club' newsletter which also contains weekly curriculum information.

Please note the dates of our winter and summer curriculum showcases on **Thursday 13th February 2025** and **Thursday 10th July 2025**.

Medication

A care plan must be completed by parents and carers wanting medication to be administered to their children. We will only agree to do this when there is no alternative. The parents/carers of 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 a care plan, as appropriate, if anything changes.

Please do **not** send children with any medication without speaking to the school office first. This includes lozenges/cough sweets, Bonjela, lip salve, creams, lotions etc. which can be hazardous especially if passed around and shared, ingested or not used correctly, as intended. Anything found will be confiscated and parents/carers will be contacted immediately.

Volunteering at SJF

Reading Volunteers

We are desperate for more reading volunteers. The commitment does not have to be big and we can be flexible with timings. Please contact us if you would like to volunteer or more information (0114 2485009)

Swimming Volunteers

Please contact us (0114 2485009 or enquiries@st-johnfisher.org) if you can support school staff escorting **Y4** pupils to and from swimming lessons on Wednesday afternoons in Terms 1 and 2.

Wildlife Area Volunteers

if you would like to support us with the development and maintenance of our new wildlife area and new planting around school. Please contact us (0114 2485009 or enquiries@st-johnfisher.org).

Safeguarding & Volunteering

All volunteers will be subject to all the appropriate safeguarding checks in order to comply fully with every requirement of KCSIE 2024. Thank you.





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.

Subscribe for Alerts

Y1 Y2 Y3
 Y4 Y5 Y6
 FS2

Enter Your Email Address

Submit

SJF Website

Our SJF website contains lots of information to help you. If you would like to sign up for automatic alerts and calendar please subscribe. All you need to do is tick the boxes for your children's classes, adding your email address. If you have already signed up, you do not need to re-subscribe, it should update automatically. The 'Subscribe for Alerts' box should be back on our homepage from **Monday 9th September 2024**.

Our Catholic Life

Welcome Mass

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

I would like to thank Fr Bede for leading this joyful celebration! It was such a positive way to root our new school year! I would like to also thank Mrs Barrett for preparing our new **Y6** pupils - who were outstanding! They read and fulfilled all their various roles brilliantly! I would like to thank Mrs Barrett, again, for also leading the music. 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

Lord, teach me Your ways, open my eyes, come let me see Your face,
Lord, teach me to live, speaking Your truth, come let me know Your grace,
I will always trust in You, I will always trust in You!

Collective Worship

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Statement of Belief Assembly Virtues Assembly (Class-Based)	FS2 Story Circle	Themed Assembly (Teacher-Led)	Celebration of the Word (Class-Led)	Celebration Assembly Chaplains' Celebration

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 before you order, to avoid disappointing and upsetting your child when they are given what you have ordered for them!



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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 2024** document.

At St John Fisher, the Safeguarding Team is:

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

Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance every day is vital for children's development and wellbeing. Our target is **98%+**. The new government has been very clear and firm in its view that children must attend school every day and on time. The new Secretary of State has said that holidays in term-time are unacceptable unless the circumstances are truly exceptional and she backs the rule changes that have been designed to deal with persistent absence and term-time holidays, and is challenging local authorities and schools to do the same.

The local authority is therefore working closely with all Sheffield schools to improve attendance across the city, and is monitoring punctuality, attendance and holidays taken in term time, including in our school. Parents/carers of children with poor attendance, or who ignore advice and the rules around term-time holidays, now face the threat of increased fines and prosecution.

It is our hope that parents and carers will work with us to ensure that their children arrive on time and are in school when they are well. If anyone needs help we ask them to contact us. The biggest issue for St John Fisher continues to be the number of holidays taken during term-time, and this will be watched closely in the year ahead along with punctuality. 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!



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 Shared Curriculum

In last year's parent/carer survey a number of respondents expressed a wish to find out more about how our curriculum is taught. We have reflected on this and how we can support and encourage parents/carers to get even more involved if they want to, so they can support learning at home. Having taken this on board we have been exploring how it might work and what it would look like.

In Terms 1, 2 and 3, we are inviting parents and carers to observe (a) one of our story time sessions in each class; (b) your child's phonics or class reading session; and (c) a Maths challenge session. Please contact the school office beforehand if you would like to book a place for any of the sessions. Thank you.

Shared Story Sessions (3.00pm, The Marie Kerley library or classroom)

FS2 (Parents/carers can book one session)

- Wednesday 18th September 2024
- Thursday 19th September 2024
- Friday 20th September 2024

Y4

- Friday 27th September 2024

Y3

- Friday 4th October 2024

Y6

- Friday 13th September 2024

Y2

- Friday 11th October 2024

Y5

- Friday 20th September 2024

Y1

- Friday 18th October 2024



Shared Phonics and Class Reading Sessions (9.15am, various locations)

Wednesday 13th November 2024

- for parents/carers of children in **FS2 Y1 Y2**
- book through school office beforehand
- refreshments in the school hall from 9.00am
- parents/carers will be directed to the appropriate classroom to observe the session

Thursday 14th November 2024

- for parents/carers of children in **Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6**
- book through school office beforehand
- refreshments in the school hall from 9.00am
- parents/carers will be directed to the appropriate classroom to observe the session

Shared Maths Challenge Sessions (9.15am, various locations)

Tuesday 14th January 2025

- for parents/carers of children in **FS2 Y1 Y2**
- book through school office beforehand
- refreshments in the school hall from 9.00am
- parents/carers will be directed to the appropriate classroom to observe the session

Wednesday 15th January 2025

- for parents/carers of children in **Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6**
- book through school office beforehand
- refreshments in the school hall from 9.00am
- parents/carers will be directed to the appropriate classroom to observe the session

Reading for Pleasure: Our Latest Feature Books of the Week

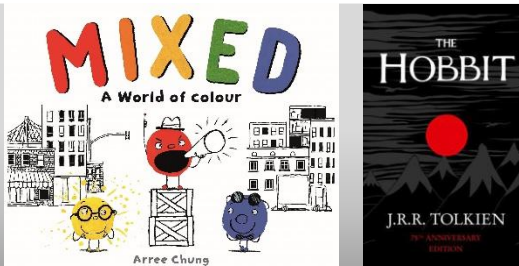


Please click [here](#) to view our full 2023-24 SJF Book List.

These are our latest feature books:

- **Mixed**
 - Aree Chung
- **The Hobbit**
 - J R R Tolkien

Please click [here](#) for the Waterstones book reviews.



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.

