

SJF NEWS

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Friday 9th February 2018 (Issue 20 ~ 2017/18)



Citizen of the Week

This week's recipient is **Ava Steenson** in **FS2** who knows how to cooperate with others in both work and play, in line with our 'Statement to Live By'. Ava is good at sharing and being part of a team. She is also good at taking charge sometimes. Congratulations Ava for being such a positive member of the class! Everyone is incredibly proud of you!

Term 3 Smiley Scores

This week's 'smiley' totals and names of smiley awards winners, will be included in next week's newsletter.

Staff News

I am delighted to announce that Governors have appointed Mrs Lindsey Mappin and Mrs Emily Walton as Teaching Assistants to support teaching and learning throughout school until the end of the academic year. We are also working in partnership with Sheffield College to identify suitable candidates interested in becoming our new PE & Sports Apprentice. The successful candidate will support the teaching and learning of high quality PE and promote exciting sports and healthy living opportunities at break times and after school.

Safeguarding Update: Xbox One

Many parents have concerns about their children playing video games. They worry that their children are spending too much time gaming, with all the negative impacts of this on their wellbeing and development. Though valid concerns, there are also dangers that could be even more threatening. Xbox Live is much more than just a gaming console. It is actually a gaming community, connecting more than 48 million members around the world who are all looking for social entertainment. On one level this sounds like fun, but such connectivity opens doors to all sorts of risks, so you are advised to consider these three tips:

1. Approve friend requests

Gamers can participate in multiplayer games and even chat with each other on the Xbox Live platform. If you decide to let your child participate in this social aspect of gaming, then be sure that you have the 'finger on the pulse' of everyone your child is interacting with.

Remember, there are plenty of adult gamers out there, and your child will not necessarily be able to tell the difference between a friend, a peer and a grown-up. The best way to monitor player-to-player communication is to set up parental controls that require your password approval for each friend request. You can do this from the 'Family Centre' on the console settings.

2. Restrict inappropriate content

Prevent your child playing mature video games. Restrict games and videos based on their ratings. You can do this by going to "Settings" and choosing "Family" from the menu to access this feature.

3. Set time limits

It is easy for children of all ages to become absorbed in video games for hours at a time if they are left to their own devices. Evidence suggests that this is not healthy or good for them in terms of their physical and psychological wellbeing - even if the game itself is age-appropriate in terms of its rating.

Xbox's 'Family Timer' allows you to set daily and/or weekly time limits for your child. Once the time is up, the console will shut down until the timer is automatically reset by the parent/carer - the next day or week. Parents/carers can watch [this video tutorial](#) to learn how to activate the 'Family Timer' on a console. Gaming can be a fun and safe activity for children as long as proper boundaries are set and enforced.

Golden Children & Writing Champions

Details will be included in next week's newsletter. Thank you.

Assessment Point 3

Next week is the third assessment point of the academic year and so it is important that children attend every day. Thank you.



Book Week

Term 4 will begin after the forthcoming holiday on **Tuesday 27th February 2018** (as we have a staff INSET day on Monday 26th February). When we come back it will be Book Week and the children will have an exciting week of activities that promote the many benefits and joys of reading and writing.

As it has been one hundred years since women started to get the right to vote we have decided to theme our SJF Book Week around women, focusing on female authors and book characters. Interestingly only women over the age of 30 received the vote in 1918 and the age was not actually lowered to 21 until 1928!

On the day we return (27-02-18) we will be visited by Sue Wilkins, a Derbyshire author. She will spend a day with our younger children - reading from her books and answering questions for the children in **FS2, Y1** and **Y2**. Plans for older children (Years 3-6) are being finalised. Sue's books are not readily available on the high street so signed copies will be available to buy from her directly costing £6.00 each (RRP £6.99).

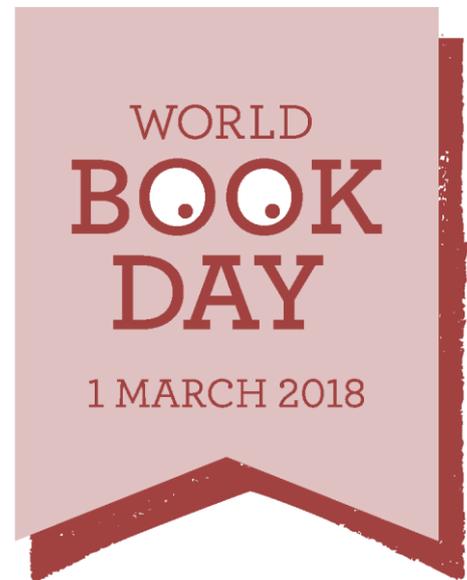
So that Sue knows how many books to bring with her, please make your payment via ParentPay BEFORE Wednesday 14th February. Please also return the slip attached to the letter sent home earlier in the week. As Sue is with us on the first day back after the holiday we will need to tell her how many books are required before we break up. You can find out more about Sue and her books on her website at www.suewilkins.co.uk. As there is also a cost for her visit we would very much appreciate a voluntary contribution of **£1.50** per FS2/KS1 child to help cover costs. Payments should also be made through ParentPay. Please contact us if you need another letter. Thank you.

World Book Day

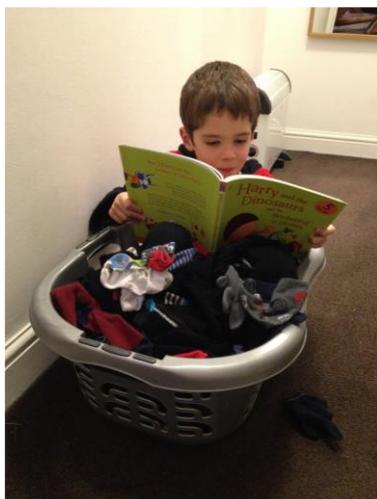
Thursday 1st March is World Book Day. As it is a special day, children and staff are invited to come to school dressed as a character from the **Harry Potter** series of books. Whilst children can wear Hogwarts uniforms etc. it is very important to remember that in many of Harry Potter's adventures the main characters also wore normal clothes. Some of their adventures also took place at night, like the time Harry went into the forest in the first book, so children can even wear pyjamas and dressing gowns if they choose! The key thing is not to feel pressured in to buying or making costumes. Basically anything will be acceptable on the day, and we would appreciate a £1 per child contribution for dressing up.

Extreme Reading Challenge

Between now and 1st March Think of the weirdest, strangest and funniest place to read a book and take a picture and email it in to us via our general email address: enquiries@st-johnfisher.org. All we ask is that no risks are taken and children come to no harm in the process of taking photographs! The winners will receive Book Vouchers. Here are some suggestions:



Extreme
reading



You can also send in funny pictures which have been photo-shopped to show reading in strange places!



When you email the pictures please confirm that you are happy for them to be posted on the website (please note that **no** children's names will be added to photographs posted on the website). If you do not want images posted please let us know when email in the photographs. We will also check the standing consent list before uploading any images, which we always do as a matter of course anyway. Thank you.

Sports Leaders

To fulfil the requirements and achieve the 'School Games Mark' this year, schools have to align themselves with some form of Personal Challenge. We know that some of the children are already doing really well with their personal challenges, but the Sports Leaders have decided to also organise a 'Beat your Best!' challenge each week at morning break. Children will be given a minute to complete a physical challenge which will be repeated each morning break-time that follows. The idea is that by Friday break-time children have beaten their Monday best. This week we trialled star jumps, how many can you do in one minute? Let us know!



Collective Worship

Lent

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter, the Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians see the six weeks or forty days (not including Sundays) of Lent as an opportunity to change their daily lives and become closer to God. Easter is the most important Christian festival, more important even than Christmas. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and climaxes during Easter Week. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week. During the 40 days of Lent, Christians recall the time Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. During this time Jesus was tempted several times by Satan, but was able to resist.



Fasting

Lent is a time of giving things up. For Christians, it is one way of remembering the time Jesus' fasted in the desert and is a test of self-discipline. There are many foods that some Christians choose not to eat in Lent, such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. Some Christians just give up something they really enjoy such as biscuits, crisps cakes or chocolate. Some also commit to doing something extra e.g. works of charity.

Shrove Tuesday

The day before Lent starts is Shrove Tuesday. This is also known commonly as Pancake Day. This day was traditionally the last chance to use up the foods Christians would not be eating during Lent. Today people



often give up chocolate or alcohol. Festivities take place in many cities all over the world, including Mardi Gras in New Orleans (USA), Carnival in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and Venice (Italy). People dress up, wear masks, parade and dance in the streets.

Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday Christian churches hold services during which Christians are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes. This is a sign of saying sorry to God for any wrong doing (penitence) and mortality. The ashes come from burning the palm crosses from Palm Sunday of the previous year. **We invite you to join us for our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday 14th February at 9.30am at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.** Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent; the start of our special journey towards the great feast of Easter.

Good Shepherd Lenten Appeal

Mrs Barrett is busy organising our annual fundraising event to support the Bishop's annual 'Good Shepherd' appeal which traditionally supports the vital work of the small Diocesan charities and support services. These help the people of Hallam Diocese which covers South Yorkshire and parts of North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire. She is planning a 'Penny War'. More details to follow shortly...



Diocese of Hallam

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Thank you to the children in FS2 for leading the liturgy. Next Thursday (15th February) there will not be a liturgy because of Ash Wednesday the day before. The next liturgy will therefore be led by the young people of Y3 on **Thursday 1st March**. As it is World Book Day the children may still dress up. We welcome the family and friends of our Y3 children are invited to join us in the School Hall just after 9.00am.

Celebration Assembly

We invite the family and friends of our Y5 and Y6 pupils to join us for our next Celebration Assembly on **Friday 16th February 2018**, which takes place in the School Hall and starts at 2.55pm. Thank you.

February Prayer

A reminder that our prayer for February is 'The Apostles' Creed' and the words are:

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary
suffered under Pontius Pilate
was crucified, died, and was buried
he descended to the dead.*

*On the third day he rose again
he ascended into heaven
he is seated at the right hand of the Father
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy catholic Church
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*



Attendance this Week		
FS2	95.8%	
Year 1	95.4%	
Year 2	97.9%	Elvis the owl will visit next week
Year 3	100%	Bobby Bear will visit next week
Year 4	99.2%	Brenda Bear will visit next week
Year 5	97.3%	
Year 6	94.9%	
Target	97.5%	This week's average attendance: 97.2%

The overall attendance is just below our 97.5% target this week. Please ensure that pupils attend school if they are well enough to.

Congratulations to all the children in the three classes above target this week!

Early Notice: Yellow Day (Feast of St David)

The first Thursday back (1st March) is the feast of St David. The children in St David's House are therefore invited to come to school wearing something yellow on **Friday 2nd March 2018** instead of school uniform.

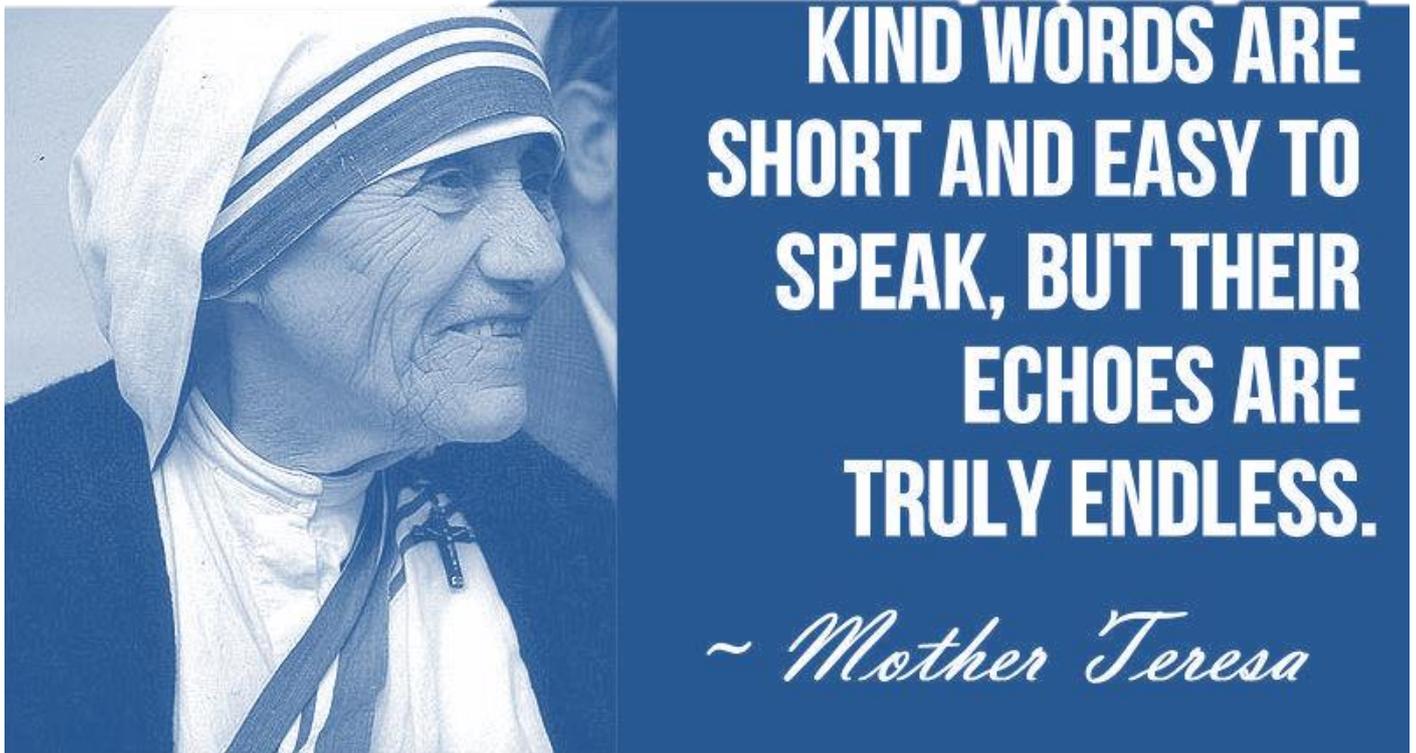
Achievements Outside of School

- **Olivia Whitely** produced a beautiful poster in her own time in support of The Children's Heart Surgery Fund because her cousin, Ebony, has also been supported by the work of this special charity! Well done Olivia!
- **Ruby Adelanwa** in **Y2** received a special gymnastics proficiency certificate recently for achieving Level 8! Congratulations Ruby, we are all very proud of you!
- **Eleanor Checkley** in **Y3** recently achieved the ASA Stage 6 swimming level! A fantastic achievement Eleanor! Well done!

Statement to Live By

Next week our 'statement to live by' is "**I try to use words that make the world better.**"

Time to talk: Why is it important to use kind words when we talk to (and about) others? Why is it wrong to say unkind words or share lies? How does it feel when people say positive things? How does it feel when they don't?



Best wishes,

Mr Barratt