

SJF NEWS

www.st-johnfisher.org | www.ourladyoflourdesheffield.org.uk

Friday 29th March 2019 (Issue 26 - 2018/19)



Citizen of the Week

The week's recipient is **Lottie** in **Y4** who has been developing a much more positive attitude over the past few months. The result is that she is becoming a happier, more confident and resilient learner. Lottie appreciates that sometimes she will understand something immediately and sometimes it will take time and extra effort. She always does her best and has a good go first and if something still does not click then Lottie knows to ask for help, in line with our 'Statement to Live By'. Congratulations Lottie, we are all proud of you!

Calendar Reminders

Our **SJF calendar** is available online on the Homepage of our website and in two formats via these links:

- <http://www.st-johnfisher.org/parents-and-carers-zone/calendar/>
- [http://www.st-johnfisher.org/cmsfiles/items/downloads/doclett-20180713194822-9030/SJF%20CALENDAR%20%20\(2018-2019\).pdf](http://www.st-johnfisher.org/cmsfiles/items/downloads/doclett-20180713194822-9030/SJF%20CALENDAR%20%20(2018-2019).pdf)

15-04-19	• Start of Term 5 (8.40am: Wake Up! Shake Up! 8.45am: Get Set, GO!) • Pupil Progress Review & Target-Setting Meetings (2.00pm – 5.00pm, School Hall)
16-04-19	• Pupil Progress Review & Target-Setting Meetings (5.00pm – 7.00pm, School Hall)
17-04-19	• Community Passion Play Dress Rehearsal (for pupils only)
18-04-19	• Maundy Thursday • No Liturgy of the Word • Community Passion Play (Our Lady of Lourdes, 2.00pm for family/friends of Years 3-5 pupils)
19-04-19	• Good Friday (school closed)
22-04-19	• Easter Monday (school closed)
23-04-19	• Y6 Mock SATs Week (full attendance is especially important) • Y1 Phonics Meeting for parents and carers (3.30pm, Y1 classroom)
25-04-19	• No Liturgy of the Word (because of the Resurrection Mass)
26-04-19	• Resurrection Mass (9.30am, Our Lady of Lourdes) • No Celebration Assembly
29-04-19	• Red Day (for pupils of St George's House only carried forward from 23-04-19)



Climbing Frames & Tyres

Please do **NOT** allow your children to use the climbing frame or tyres before and after school. Pupils using the equipment during the school day are supervised by school staff.

Pupils will be reminded, but we ask that you also support us. Thank you.

Term 4 House Smiley Scores

St Andrew's House  326	St David's House  297	St Patrick's House  357	St George's House  290
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Term 4 Champions

Congratulations to the pupils and staff of St Patrick's House who managed to accrue the most smiles in order to become the Term 4 champions!

Red Day

The Feast of St George on Tuesday 23rd April 2019. We usually move the 'colour day' to the Friday closest to the feast day however because school is closed for the Good Friday holiday on 19-04-19 and it is our annual community Resurrection Mass on 26-04-19 (and children must always look smart in full school uniform when we attend Mass) 'Red Day' will take place on **Monday 29th April 2019** instead. This means that the members of St George's House (only) can 'dress down' and come to school wearing something red, rather than school uniform on that day. The children in all the other Houses are expected to wear **full school uniform** on that day. Thank you.



Catholic Life

Our Lenten Prayer: 'The Confiteor'

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned -
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done,
and in what I have failed to do;

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.



Parish Life during Lent and Easter 2019

If you are looking to make this year's Lenten season extra special for you and your family you can use the link to find out what is happening in the parish website: www.ourladyoflourdesheffield.org.uk.

Community Passion Play 2019

Our Passion Play takes place at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church on **Maundy Thursday** (18-04-19). It will be led by the young people of Years 3, 4 and 5 and will start promptly at **2.00pm**. It is not a ticketed event but as space in the church is limited we ask that *only* the family and friends of the children involved attend. Please arrive in good time.

We thank Fr Paul for again allowing us to use our beautiful church for this special service which will depict the key events of Holy Week leading right up to the crucifixion of Our Lord.

Afterwards all those who attend are invited to join us in the School Hall to wait for their children whilst they get changed. Simple refreshments will be served by our friends from the PTFA. Please let them know if you are able to volunteer and assist. Thank you.



Lenten Class Liturgies

I would like to thank the children, my colleagues and everyone who has supported our Lenten Class liturgies this year. Though season of Lent continues right up to Wednesday 17th April 2019, we will not be able to have any open class liturgies in Holy Week because of the review and target-setting meetings as well as the dress rehearsal and performance of our 2019 Community Passion Play in the first week back.

Annual Resurrection Mass 2019

We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with a special community Mass on **Friday 26th April 2019** at **9.30am** at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Please note, there will be no Celebration Assembly on that day.

The Great SJF Penny War Fundraiser in Aid of 'The Good Shepherd Appeal'

Please continue to support our great **2019 SJF Penny War** fundraising event in support the Bishop's annual 'Good Shepherd' appeal which supports small charities that provide a vital service to vulnerable people across South Yorkshire, north Derbyshire and north Nottinghamshire.

In our 'Penny War' the children collect pennies and two-pennies for their class. These are placed in class collecting tins at the start of the day. A penny is worth one point and a two-pence coin is worth two points.

Silver coins can also be used by children to 'sabotage' another class' total.



Silver coins placed in another class' tin will reduce its total. A 5p coin will reduce the total by 5 points; a 10p coin will reduce the total by 10 points; a pound coin will reduce it by 100 points; and a two-pound coin will reduce a class total by 200 points. Paper money can also be used to devastate another class' total! The tins will be opened at the end of Holy Week and the money counted. Silver coins and notes will be deducted. The class managing to collect the most points *after deductions* will earn a 'Golden afternoon'!

Holy Week Explained...

From the Catholic Family Website (<https://cathfamily.org/holy-week-explained/>)

Holy Week is a wonderful season packed to the brim with meaningful ceremonies that bring us to reflect on the mystery of God's love. Easter can also make us uncomfortable because it challenges us to acknowledge our sinfulness. We would rather believe that our weaknesses are acceptable, but this is the whole point. Easter is the time for a new spiritual discipline; a chance to evaluate and meditate on our own imperfections and stand in awe of the radical love of God who died to set us free.

A. Palm Sunday (14-04-19)

The Service is slightly longer than a usual Sunday Mass which marks the beginning of Holy Week.

We begin by reading the recount of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. Palms are blessed with holy water. Usually, this part of the service takes place outside the church, but if not practical, can take place inside before Mass begins. The Gospel reading recounts the whole passion story, which is why this day is also known as "Passion Sunday". Palm Sunday has a bitter-sweet tone. On the one hand the story is upbeat with the crowd joyfully proclaiming Christ as the long-promised Messiah, yet by the end of the week, he is executed brutally.



B. Holy Thursday (18-04-19)

In the morning is the **Chrism Mass** where the holy oils are blessed by the Bishop at the Cathedral, with as many priests as available, for use during the coming year.

In the evening is the **Mass of the Lord's Supper**. This includes the washing of the feet. The Mass is concluded by stripping the sanctuary of all decoration (flowers, altar cloth, banners etc) and by the transfer of the Eucharist from the tabernacle to the Altar of Repose (usually a side altar). Everyone is then invited to stay in church for a while afterwards to 'keep watch' with Christ, as Jesus asked *His* disciples to keep watch while he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane (known as the Agony in the Garden).



C. Good Friday (19-04-19)

The Death of Jesus | Luke 22
"It was now about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the land until the ninth hour. The veil of the temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' With these words he breathed his last."



There are two ceremonies on this day, the Stations (or Way) of the Cross in the morning and the Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm.

Stations: There are a variety of traditions for encountering the Stations of the Cross and there are two approved versions. Most churches observe the tradition of having the 14 stations displayed on the walls of the church, a tradition dating back to St Francis of Assisi). Pope John Paul II instigated the Scriptural Way of the Cross which includes the Agony in the Garden and an optional 15th one for the Resurrection.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion: This is not a Mass but is a communion service with the veneration of the Cross where the people are invited to kiss the feet of Jesus on a crucifix or show some other sign of

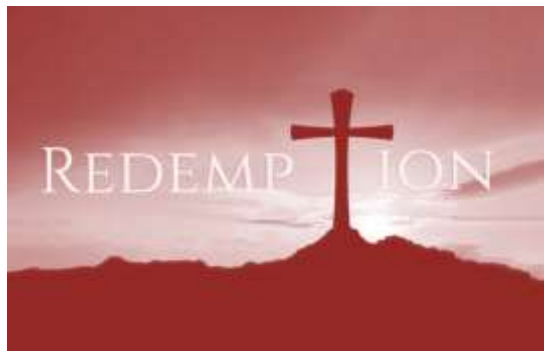


reverence. The readings again recount the passion of Jesus and there is a sombre mood. The service takes place at 3pm as it is understood that this is the time at which Jesus died.

D. Holy Saturday (20-04-19)

The Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday is the peak service of the Church calendar and has four parts:

- 1. Service of Light** – the church is in darkness, the people gather around a large fire from which the new Paschal candle is lit. The light is then spread from person to person until all have a lit candle.
- 2. Liturgy of the Word** – there are nine readings on this night though some services will use less. They begin with the Creation and retell the story of redemption. Many churches will employ audio visual aids for some of these readings.
- 3. Liturgy of Baptism and Confirmation** – this is when new members to the Church are baptised/confirmed.
- 4. Liturgy of the Eucharist** – the newly baptised members present the bread and wine in the offertory and make their first communion.



E. Easter Sunday (21-04-19)

Mass on this Sunday is all about the Resurrection of Jesus. It is because Jesus rose from the dead on a Sunday that Christians call Sunday, "The Day of the Lord" and is the day of the week dedicated to worship. This differentiates Christian tradition from the Jewish Sabbath which is on a Saturday. The word 'Alleluia', which has not been said during Lent returns as a victory cry!



Weekly Liturgy of the Word

As there is no liturgy in Holy Week our next 'Liturgy of the Word' will be on **Thursday 2nd May 2019** and will be led by **Y5**. We invite our Y5 families and friends to join us.

Celebration Assembly

Our next assembly is on **Friday 3rd May 2019** in the School Hall and we invite our FS2 families to join us.

<u>Writing Champions</u>						
FS2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Kayl	D'Mari	Alexia	Ruby	William	Tyler	Kacper

Golden Children

The Golden children are chosen by teachers each week.

FS2	Roman for trying really hard all term to improve his listening skills and behaviour! His efforts have been noticed and everyone is super-impressed! Keep it up!
Y1	Sebastian for being a real superstar recently! He is trying really hard in all his work and it is really showing in the fantastic work he is now producing! What a star!
Y2	Lily for trying really hard all term to learn her spellings! It really paid off with the Spelling Bee! We are all VERY proud of you!
Y3	Kessy for having a fantastically positive attitude every day! You make everybody smile! Well done superstar!
Y4	Jason for a great and positive attitude to all learning! Well done and keep it up!
Y5	Amelia for having a sensible, mature and hardworking attitude! A super role-model! Keep it up!
Y6	Marcus for having a greatly improved attitude to learning! Well done! Keep it up!



The First Great St John Fisher Spelling Bee

[\(http://www.st-johnfisher.org/news/the-great-sjf-spelling-bee-926/\)](http://www.st-johnfisher.org/news/the-great-sjf-spelling-bee-926/)

Congratulations to Preston (Y1) who was crowned our first Spelling Bee Champion of Champions! He performed brilliantly in spite of tough opposition from the other Year-Group Champions!



All the finalists had to spell words from age-appropriate lists and everyone performed brilliantly. The competition was very close and the Year-group champions can certainly feel very proud of themselves, they were amazing! Each received a dictionary as a prize. The competition returns next term along with a Times Table Rock Star Challenge, so start practising!



Spring Curriculum Exhibition (<http://www.st-johnfisher.org/news/our-sjf-curriculum-showcase-256/>)





Fantastic News!

FS2 Classroom

I am delighted to share the fantastic news that following a successful bid we have been awarded another capital grant to further improve our school building. The focus this time will be the FS2 classroom and the stairwell just outside. The electrics and lighting will be updated so that they are both adequate for our needs and meet modern safety and efficiency standards. The project will include the installation of a new suspended ceiling, some necessary redecoration, a replacement kitchen area and some reordering of the space so that there is greater flexibility and definition of learning zones. Work will be completed during the summer holiday so that the classroom is ready for the start of the new academic year in September.

Bicycle and Scooter Shelter

You may recall that following the break-ins, parents and carers generously raised money to give our children something that they wanted for school. A long-term aim of our School Council had been to have an adequate shelter to store bicycles and scooters, and so we decided to use the money to purchase one. Even with the generous amount raised however, sourcing an adequate one proved a challenge, as everything was so expensive. I am therefore grateful to Mrs Ramsden who not only managed to locate a sizeable shelter, but also negotiated a decent discount and its transportation from Kent! It has now been installed and will be available for use from the beginning of the new term. 'Thank you' to everyone who contributed to the fund; to Mrs Ramsden for sourcing it; and to Mr Ramsden and Mr Andrews for installing it.

Bicycles/scooters are not to be ridden around the playground before and after school and will not be available for children to use during the school day. They are also left in the shelter at the owners' own risk.

Parking Around School

PCSO Shalom from South Yorkshire Police has been monitoring the parking situation around school and is taking the following actions in response to his observations; the concerns of school; the concerns of parents/carers made directly to Police; and complaints received from the neighbours living close to school.

Firstly he is hoping to arrange for the local authority to monitor parking more regularly, using its 'camera van' to photograph vehicles parked illegally. Secondly he is writing to the Highways Authority in order to ask them to repaint the yellow lines and zigzag lines outside school. Thirdly he is recommending that the Authority installs additional concrete bollards to prevent illegal and unsafe parking on the pavement outside school.

The safety of our children is everyone's concern, including before and after school. Unreasonable parking increases the risk of an accident occurring – it is as simple as that. We can all play our parts to safeguard our children and their families by simply parking safely, even if this means parking slightly further away from school and walking in. Please support us. Don't be the cause of an accident. Thank you for your support.

Attendance in the last week of Term 4		
1 st	FS2	99.6%
2 nd	Y4	99.5%
3 rd	Y6	97.3%
4 th	Y3	96.9%
5 th	Y1	95.5%
6 th	Y2	94.2%
7 th	Y5	93.5%
Target = 98%		
Average Attendance = 96.6%		

Term 4 Attendance		
1 st	Y4	99.4%
2 nd	FS2	98.3%
3 rd	Y3	97.5%
4 th	Y1	96.2%
5 th	Y2	95.8%
6 th	Y6	95.1%
7 th	Y5	93.3%
Target = 98%		
Term 4 Average = 96.5%		

2018/19 Attendance		
1 st	Y4	98.1%
2 nd	Y1	97.6%
3 rd	FS2	97.3%
4 th	Y3	97.0%
5 th	Y2	96.9%
6 th	Y6	96.5%
7 th	Y5	96.3%
Target = 98%		
2018-19 Average = 97.1%		

to Get Set, GO!		
1 st	Y4	94%
2 nd	Y6	92%
3 rd	FS2	91%
3 rd	Y3	91%
5 th	Y1	90%
6 th	Y2	88%
7 th	Y5	87%
Average = 90%		

The tables show attendance figures for each class. Congratulations to the **Y4** pupils who have managed strong attendance consistently! Well done everyone!

There are **190** school days per year, so each day counts. This leaves **175** non-school days which can be used for holidays and appointments that can be booked in the holidays. Please ensure that your child(ren)'s attendance is as good as it can be.

Working with MAST, we will be contacting and looking to support families where attendance and regular/unauthorised term-time holidays are issues.



Achievements Outside of School

Achievements can be left in the postbox in the school foyer or emailed to us (enquiries@st-johnfisher.org). We celebrate all achievements that are significant to the children concerned.

- **Charlie** in **FS2** completed his twenty-first Junior Park Run recently – equivalent to a marathon! In doing so he managed to smash his 'personal best' by a whopping 45 seconds! His personal best is now 13.25 for 2km! Congratulations Charlie, a fantastic achievement!
- **Lola** in **Y2** has achieved the British Gymnastics Proficiency Award for Level 8! What a magnificent achievement! Well done Lola!

Extreme Reading Challenge 2019

The votes have been counted and the outcome will be shared with the children next week before publication in the newsletter. Thank you.

PTFA

On behalf of our friends from the PTFA I would like to thank everyone who designed and entered decorated eggs into this year's Easter Egg competition. The PTFA invited back Lois from Pennine Foods to again judge the competition, and Lois also provided prizes. As usual the entries were fantastic and so it was extremely difficult for Lois to judge. Thanks to everyone who entered and congratulations to the Year-Group winners:

FS2 Hyrum **Y1** Preston **Y2** Katy **Y3** Dylan **Y4** William **Y5** Bethany **Y6** Lola

Pictured are the some of the entrants with Lois and her colleague from Pennine Foods.



Non-Uniform Day

Thank you to all those who made a voluntary contribution when we had a non-uniform dress-down day on the last day of Term 4. Luckily we just managed to receive enough contributions to cover the cost of the author visit in Book Week, which is really good news. Thank you everyone.

Parenting Support

Thank you to everyone who attended 'drop-in' session arranged by Mrs Pickering on Monday 25th March. Please get in touch if you ever need help/advice and we will do all we can to support and/or signpost you.





Sports Leaders' Blog

Use the links to check out our Sports Leaders' blog in order to keep up-to-date with SJF news and what is happening with the national 'School Games' programme:

- www.yourschoolgames.com
- <https://www.yourschoolgames.com/schools/st-john-fisher-catholic-primary-school-a-voluntary-academy/>

The SJF Times Tables Rock Stars!

Following on from the success of our first Spelling Bee we will also be introducing a brand new competition to identify Times Tables Rock Stars from each year group from Years 1 to 6! It will follow a similar format over the weeks culminating in class-based competitions to find two 'Rock Stars' from each year group who will then represent their classes in a whole-school 'Times Tables Rock Star of Rock Stars' Grand Final at the end of Term 5! We therefore encourage the children to make sure they know their times tables – using TT Rock Stars site to help.



The children in each Year Group need to know the following:

Y1	x2 x5 x10
Y2	x2 x5 x10 x3 x4
Y3	x2 x5 x10 x3 x4 x6 x8
Y4	x2 x5 x10 x3 x4 x6 x8 x7 x9 x11 x12
Y5	x2 x5 x10 x3 x4 x6 x7 x8 x9 x11 x12 x100 x1000 x20 x50 x30 x40 x60 x80 x90
Y6	x2 x5 x10 x3 x4 x6 x7 x8 x9 x11 x12 x100 x1000 x20 x50 x30 x40 x60 x80 x90 x25 and using place value knowledge to multiply by decimals e.g. $5 \times 7 = 35 \rightarrow 5 \times 0.7 = 3.5$ and so on...

Statement to Live By

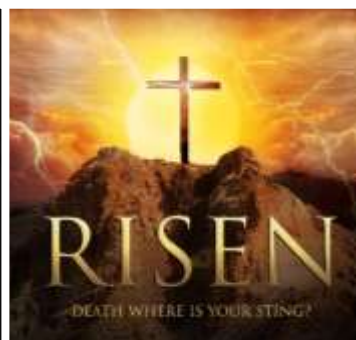
Our next 'statement to live by' is **"I know when to ask for help and who to ask."**

Time to talk: As we enter Holy Week and build up to the great feast of Easter we reflect on our own Lenten journeys and efforts to address our personal failings and *build* on our great strengths. We also think about how we use our own unique gifts and talents to make a positive difference to others. We know that we cannot do anything on our own. We need God and those He sends to help us - and so we must never be afraid or too stubborn to ask for help. What help do you need? Who can you ask? How can you help others?



Holy Week is a privileged time when we are called to draw near to Jesus: friendship with him is shown in times of difficulty.

— Pope Francis —



love...
bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.

Best wishes,
Mr Barratt

