

SJF NEWS

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Friday 6th December 2019 (Issue 13 - 2019/20)



Citizen of the Week

There has been no Celebration Assembly today because it has been Santa in School Day. There will be no Celebration Assembly next week either because we have our first Curriculum Showcase of the academic year. The Citizenship awards for the next two weeks will therefore be carried forward to Friday 20th December, the last day of Term, and revealed along with the recipient for that week. Thank you.

Term 2 Smiley Scores

St Andrew's House	St David's House	St Patrick's House	St George's House
 394	 354	 328	 333

Blue Day

Last Monday all the members of St Andrew's House were invited to come to school wearing something blue instead of their normal school uniform. This was to mark the feast of St Andrew, their House patron. Miss D'Roza, the Head of House, organised a range of activities for them in the afternoon, which everyone enjoyed!

Here is a message from Miss D'Roza:

The first annual St John Fisher Highland Games took place on Monday afternoon and 4 teams competed for the title. Games included caber tossing, a haggis run, a tattie spoon race and sheep tossing. Everyone had a wonderful time and Team Thistle are the 2019 champions.



Calendar Reminders

The **SJF calendar** is available online on the Homepage 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)

10-12-19	• Panto Day (Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield) – later return, details to follow (<u>full</u> school uniform)
11-12-19	• FS2 Nativity Play (dress rehearsal for school) • Christmas Dinner Day 2019! (a non-uniform - Christmas jumper/party clothes - day)
12-12-19	• Y3 Liturgy (9.05am, School Hall) – the family and friends of our Y3 pupils invited • FS2 Nativity Play (2.15pm, School Hall) – there will be a raffle to raise funds
13-12-19	• Curriculum Showcase (8.45am-9.45am, School Hall) – all welcome!
16-12-19	• KS1 Nativity Play (dress rehearsal for school)
17-12-19	• KS1 Nativity Play (2.15pm, School Hall) – there will be a raffle to raise funds
18-12-19	• KS1 Nativity Play (2.15pm, School Hall) – there will be a raffle to raise funds • Last day of class Advent liturgies
19-12-19	• KS2 (Years 3-6) Community Carol Service (2.00pm, Our Lady of Lourdes) - all welcome!
20-12-19	• End of Term 2 & Non-Uniform Day (Christmas jumper/party clothes)

School Christmas Holiday (23-12-19 to 03-01-20)

06-01-20	• INSET Day (school <u>closed</u> to pupils for staff training)
07-01-20	• Start of Term 3 (School reopens to pupils with Wake Up Shake Up at 8.40am)

Attendance this week			
1 st	Y6	98.4%	Bobby Bear will visit next week
2 nd	Y3	97.8%	Brenda Bear will visit next week
3 rd	Y4	96.9%	Elvis Owl will visit next week
4 th	Y1	96.7%	
5 th	FS2	96.1%	
6 th	Y2	96.0%	
7 th	Y5	96.0%	
Target = 98%		Average Attendance = 96.7%	



Get Set, GO! (8.40am)			
1 st	Y3	86%	
2 nd	FS2	85%	
2 nd	Y1	85%	
4 th	Y2	82%	
5 th	Y4	78%	
5 th	Y5	78%	
6 th	Y6	71%	
		Average = 81%	

Again a slightly better average attendance this week, but overall, school attendance was still below target this week in all classes other than Y6. Hopefully more class will manage to be above target next week.

Catholic Life

December Prayer

During Advent we prepare for Christmas by saying sorry for our mistakes and trying hard to make those changes that we need to make. Our prayer is called the Act of Contrition.

O my God
Because you are so good –
I am very sorry that I have sinned against You,
And by the help of Your grace –
I will not sin again.



Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Our next 'Liturgy of the Word' will be on **Thursday 12th December 2019**, and will be led by the young people of **Y3**. We invite their family and friends to join us in the School Hall just after 9.00am.

Celebration Assembly

Our next Celebration Assembly will be on **Friday 20th December 2019**, the last day of Term 2. Everyone is invited to join us. We will present three 'Citizen of the Week' awards as well as all the usual other awards. As usual it will start just after 9.00am in the School Hall. Thank you.



Advent & The Daily Advent Class Reflections

Our daily Advent class reflections will continue until **Wednesday 18th December 2019** apart from the following days:



- × any PE days
- × Santa in School Day (06-12-19)
- × Panto Day (10-12-19)
- × in **FS2, Y1** and **Y2** on **12-12-19** (FS2 Nativity Play, Years 3-6 will go ahead)
- × in **FS2, Y1** and **Y2** on **17-12-19** + **18-12-19** (KS1 Nativity Play Years 3-6 will go ahead)

The season of Advent is all about getting ready, spiritually, for the birth of Jesus. Apart from the dates specified above, parents, carers, family and friends are welcome to join us on the following days-

- **FS2:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
- **Y1 & Y2:** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
- **Y3 & Y4:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
- **Y5 & Y6:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Please book on the day through the School Office if you wish to attend. If you are attending, please arrive at 3.00pm so you are on time for a 3.10pm start as we will not interrupt the liturgies in order to admit late arrivals. All are welcome and we thank you for your understanding and support.



Panto 2019!

Arrangements on Panto Day

As you are aware on **Tuesday 10th December 2019** we are all off to the Sheffield Lyceum to watch and enjoy the 1.00pm performance of this year's panto, 'Cinderella'! The performances are later than in previous years so we will have to leave school at 12.00pm. The children will therefore have an earlier lunch from 11.00am so that we are all ready to depart on promptly. Our return time will have to be flexible dictated by the:

- (i) length of performance
- (ii) time taken to depart the theatre and make our way to the coaches
- (iii) journey time back to school

We estimate that we will return to school between 4.30pm and 5.00pm and we ask that you wait on the playground which will be opened at 4.15pm. We will contact parents/carers via email if we are expected back significantly earlier or later than these times.

As it will be dark when we return, and the children will be tired, we will be taking great care when we release the children. We therefore ask you to be patient with us and to wait in the playground.



Please do **not** try to intercept the children straight off the coaches as this will make things very difficult for colleagues and volunteers who are trying to keep track of all the children.



Lunch on Panto Day!

Information has already been shared about lunch arrangements on panto day, but a reminder that **there will be no hot lunches on panto day**. The children will either have a cold packed lunch prepared at home or by school.

If you have not done so already, please make sure that you select **ONLY** the SANDWICH option.

The choice of sandwich fillings is egg or cheese. Pupils will also have a biscuit, a piece of fruit and some crudites along with a bottle of water.

If you selected a lunch before the notifications about lunch on panto day, please log back into your 'ParentPay' account and amend or cancel your selection(s). Unfortunately we will **not** be able to provide extra lunches for children if parents/carers forget to place an order, so please ensure that you send your child with a packed lunch from home if this happens. Thank you

Volunteers on Panto Day!

Thank you to those who are supporting us on the day. Please note that there will be a briefing for staff and school-based volunteers at **8.30am** and one for parent/PTFA volunteers at **11.30am** in the staff room on Tuesday. Please report to the School Office. Thank you.

JPAC on Panto Day!

JPAC will operate as usual when we return to school. Children need to be booked in in the usual way.

Beat Your Best

The SJF Weekly Personal Challenge!

The week each student was given a spoon and an egg. Working in a square the students had to walk around the area avoiding the cones that had been set out in the square as well as the other students who were taking part!

The children aimed to be the last one in the square with an egg still on their spoon. Students were eliminated from a round if their egg fell off their spoon. This purpose of the game was to improve the students' concentration, balance and listening skills (as they listened for instructions during the game).



Well done to everyone who participated in this week's 'Beat your Best Challenge'! The challengers did really well! Congratulations to the following who managed to beat their best!

FS2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Caleb Kyrell	Edward Lillyann	Hugo Sebastian	Lena Mateusz	Polly Max	Faith	Phoebe Tamzin

Achievements Outside of School

At St John Fisher we celebrate all achievements in and out of school. Whether achievements are big or small we love to publish and celebrate them. Please email them in via: enquiries@st-johnfisher.org. This week's achievements are:

- **Charlie** in **Y1** achieved both his 5 m distance badge and hi Octopus 3 Award which means he moves up to the next group! Congratulations Charlie on your two fantastic achievements!
- **Jenson** in **Y1** achieved the 10m swimming distance award for which he received a certificate, badge and medal! Congratulations Jenson on your magnificent achievement!



- **Rebecca** in **Y1** made her promise at Rainbows recently! Well done!
- **Lexi** in **Y2** received a Gold Award at a Sheffield Children's University ceremony at the Town Hall recently! She has completed over 100 hours of different out of school activities! What an amazing achievement!
- **Isabelle** in **Y3** achieved her 'Angelfish 1' swimming certificate and badge recently! A super achievement!
- **Ellie** in **Y3** entered a soft toy drawing competition at IKEA, Sheffield and her design was selected to be one of the five store winners! She now goes forward to the national and potentially international rounds for the chance to have her design made into one of the new IKEA toys! An incredible achievement Ellie, congratulations!



The PTFA Santa in School Day 2019!

Today we were visited by Santa! All the children and staff looked brilliant dressed in Christmas jumpers or party clothes! The day began with Santa's arrival on the school roof! The children visited Santa in his amazing grotto and the many Christmas market stalls with their buddies, and all had a brilliant time! It was fantastic!



I would like to thank our incredible PTFA and volunteers for all their hard work in organising and running this special event. They have been planning it all through the year and worked really hard to make the day so special for the children. Their effort in all things is astounding! I would like to thank the volunteers who also gave of their time so generously in order to support the PTFA so the children had a fantastic time! I would also like to thank Fr Paul for allowing the PTFA to transform the Parish Centre into Santa's grotto and winter wonderland! It looked absolutely amazing!

Events like this – which contribute so richly to our children's experience of school - do not happen by magic. If you are able to help the PTFA please do get in touch. All offers of help are really appreciated. If you want to find out more about our PTFA please get in touch. New members and their ideas are always welcomed and appreciated. An amazing event which the children loved! Thank you PTFA. Thank you everyone! Please follow the website link for more pictures. www.st-johnfisher.org/news/santa-in-school-day-2019/





Important Reminder

Here is a reminder from Mrs Pickering regarding cough sweets and lozenges:

"In the past we noticed that a few children have brought cough lozenges in to school. Whilst we understand that parents/carers are giving these in order to ease their children's cough/sore throat symptoms, they are a form of medicine and so have the potential to cause harm. They also present a potential choking risk.

We have strict procedures regarding the use of medicines in school and a healthy eating philosophy that does not allow children to have sweets. Our concern also is that lozenges brought in to school without the knowledge of staff will be shared and consumed by children as if they are sweets. Please support us by not sending your child into school with lozenges. Thank you for your support."

Extreme Weather & School Closure

Some weather apps have forecast snow so I thought I would take the opportunity to offer a reminder about what happens in the event extreme weather.

In the event of bad weather we will always endeavour to open. However if the weather conditions are extreme or the threat of extreme weather later in the day is compelling, I will also have to give serious consideration to the safety of our children; you, their families; and my colleagues travelling to and from school.



If the weather is extreme then I have three options:

1. to open school as normal
2. to open school with a later start time and/or earlier or staggered finish time
3. to close school completely

My decision will always be based on the best information available to me, including the latest weather information as well official advice from the local authority and emergency services.

I will also take account of what neighbouring schools are doing – and it is often the case that there is a flurry of calls between Headteachers very early in the morning when we are all faced with extreme weather. I repeat, our priority is to provide an education to our children so we would always try to open if we can.

We will use the **Parentmail** service to contact parents/carers by text AND email – to inform you of our decision. This is one of the reasons why it is important to inform us of any change of details (including mobile telephone numbers and email addresses). **If your details are NOT up-to-date, please contact us as soon as possible!**



ParentMail

We will share important information via our website: www.st-johnfisher.org so please keep checking and sign up for alerts at the bottom right-hand corner of the home page (www.st-johnfisher.org/home/).

We will also notify the local authority and BBC Radio Sheffield and details of the arrangements will be shared on their websites. We notify the local authority and BBC Radio Sheffield if we have a later start and/or are closing earlier. Please note that we will **not** notify them if we are opening as normal.

Sometimes when we are open the weather conditions can deteriorate dramatically during the school day. If this happens, we will use Parentmail again in order to notify parents/carers that school is closing earlier. The website will be updated (and alerts sent to those who register for them) and we will contact the local authority and radio stations. If we are remaining open as usual we may post confirmation of this on the website.

Late Start

A decision on the time of the late start will be made on the day based on the information available to me. Typically, a later start time will either be 9.30am or 10.00am. This means that children can arrive right up to the *later* start time without being marked as 'late' in the register. Children can also be dropped off before the later start time and will be looked after by staff in school, where it is warm. JPAC will operate as normal, and will contact customers directly or through our Parentmail service if their information changes.

Early Finish

The timing of an earlier finish will again depend on the weather conditions and the best information I have to hand. We will aim to contact parents/carers via Parentmail and ask them to arrange for their children to be collected from a certain time or as soon as possible. If children are left, staff will obviously remain to care for them until they are collected. However your cooperation is expected and appreciated because if the weather becomes particularly difficult, I also have to consider how my colleagues will get home safely once the children are collected. If children are just left with us, it could cause staff significant additional problems. If you are not contacted and there is no information on the website then it is safe to assume that school will be closing at the normal time. **No need to phone us.**

Phoning School

Please read the text messages, emails, website alerts and look at the website itself, as well the local authority and radio station websites. Calls to school should only be made in exceptional or emergency situations and not simply to confirm something that has already been shared. This is because it is important that the phone line is left as free as possible so that staff are able to make/take important calls. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Local Christmas Day Masses (<http://www.st-johnfisher.org/news/local-christmas-day-masses-2019/>)

Our local Catholic churches of Our Lady of Lourdes (Hackenthorpe), St Theresa's (Manor Top) with St Anthony's (Gleadless) are now united within a single parish dedicated to St Maximilian Kolbe, with Fr Paul O'Hara as Parish Priest.

Here are the times of local Catholic Masses for Christmas Day 2019:

- **CHRISTMAS EVE** (Tuesday 24th December 2019)
 - ✓ 5pm at St Theresa's Church, Prince of Wales Road, S2 1EA
 - ✓ 6.30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Spring Water Avenue, S12 4HJ
- **CHRISTMAS DAY** (Wednesday 25th December 2019)
 - ✓ 10am at St Anthony's Church, Sandby Drive, Gleadless, S14 1DF

Curriculum Exhibition

You are invited to join us for our first exhibition of the year on the morning of **Friday 13th December 2019**, in the School Hall from 8.45am to 9.45am. It is a great opportunity to view and celebrate the children's work!

Statement to Live By

Next week our 'statement to live by' is '**Simple things make me happy**'

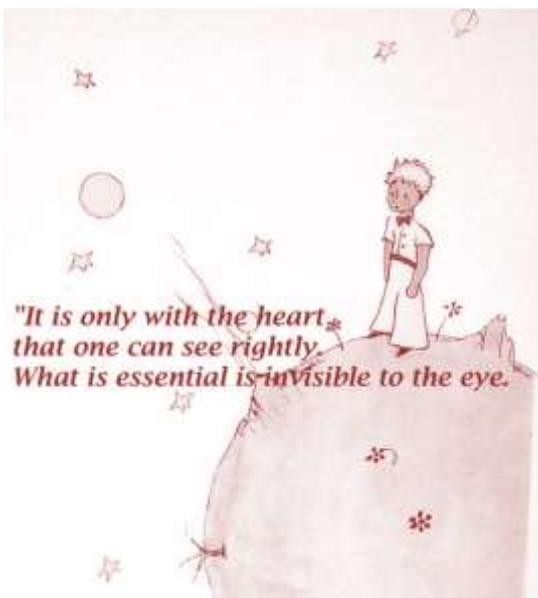
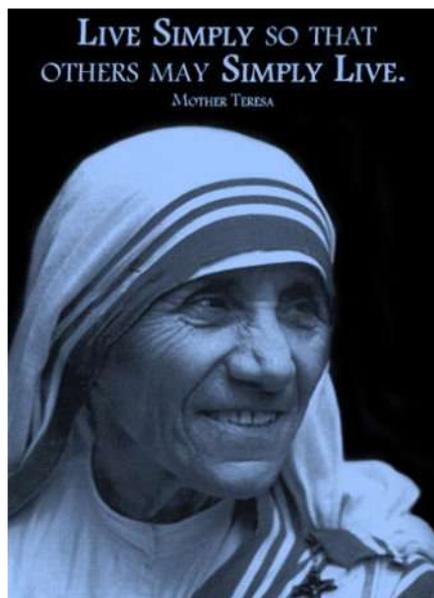
Time to talk: At this time of year, as thoughts turn to decorating houses and buying presents, we have been thinking about the true meaning of Christmas as we continue to journey through the season of Advent.

The children have been reflecting on those important things in their lives that money simply cannot buy.

Try to list some of these important things in your lives.

Why not think about some of the simple ways you can make others happy.

What is it (or who is) that make your lives happy and special? Family members? Friends? Who?



Best wishes,

Mr Barratt