

SJF NEWS

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Friday 6th September 2019 (Issue 1 - 2019/20)

Welcome Back!

Welcome back for the new school year! We welcome all our children and families, and especially those who have just joined us in FS2 or from other schools. We will do all we can to ensure that everyone feels welcome. We are also working hard to ensure that this new academic year gets off to a positive start for everybody! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our staff and Governors for the coming academic year:

Class Teachers

A reminder that the classes are:

FS2	Mrs Darken
Y1	Mrs Hadfield (SENDCo) & Mrs Sambrook
Y2	Mrs Broadhead
Y3	Miss Brownbill
Y4	Mr Broadhead
Y5	Mr MacInnes
Y6	Mrs Barrett (Deputy Headteacher) & Mrs Holloway
French	Madame Compton (Years 3-6 only)

Teaching, Learning & Pastoral Support

- Miss D'Roza (Higher Level Teaching Assistant)
- Mr Hawley (Higher Level Teaching Assistant)
- Mrs Golland (Teaching & Learning Support)
- Mrs Mappin (Teaching & Learning Support)
- Mrs Pickering (Learning & Inclusion Mentor)
- Mrs Prentice (FS2 Teaching & Learning Support)
- Mrs Raynes (Higher Level Teaching Assistant)
- Mrs Walton (Teaching & Learning Support)

PE Apprentice

- Mr Johnson

Trainee Teacher

- Mrs Savage

Building Maintenance

- Mr Andrews (Building Manager)
- Mrs Hollingworth (Cleaner)
- Ms Brothwell (Cleaner)
- Mrs Seaton (Cleaner)

Lunch Time Supervisors

- Mrs Bower (Senior Supervisor)
- Mrs Hollingworth
- Mrs Thomas
- Ms Brothwell
- Mrs Gregory

School Administration and Finance

- Mrs Ramsden (School Administration Manager)
- Mrs Birch (Administration Officer)

Governors

- Mrs S Ludlam Foundation Governor & Chair of the Governing Body
- Mr M Watters Foundation Governor & Vice-Chair of the Governing Body
- Mrs C Prestige Foundation Governor
- Mr J Ball Foundation Governor
- Mr D Beever Foundation Governor
- Mrs H Beatson Foundation Governor
- vacancy Foundation Governor
- vacancy Parent Governor
- vacancy Parent Governor
- Mr F Barrett Staff Governor (Headteacher)
- Mrs MM Barrett Staff Governor (Teachers)
- Mrs A Pickering Staff Governor (Support Staff)
- Mrs L Ramsden In Attendance (Finance)
- Mr R Sawyer Multi-Academy Trust Chief Executive Officer

Please contact school (enquiries@st-johnfisher.org) if you are interested in finding out more about the important role of school Governors and being either a Parent Governor or a Foundation Governor here at St John Fisher. Thank you.



OFSTED Inspection

Please follow this link to the letter from the OFSTED inspector who visited us in the last week of the school year in July.

<http://www.st-johnfisher.org/news/ofsted-inspection-july-2019/>

I am delighted that our school continues to maintain its 'Good' rating.

Much is also said in the letter about the quality of relationships in school which result in our pupils feeling happy, safe and loved.

It is wonderful to read, that again, a visiting OFSTED inspector describes SJF as 'a happy school'.

Mention is made of the quality of teaching and learning and everything that is done to ensure that all our children are safe and achieve well, including those who are disadvantaged and/or living with special educational needs and disabilities.

The inspector mentions the quality of the building, and those of you who have been with us over the last seven years will appreciate the significant improvements. She was also impressed both with our understanding of our development areas and with our drive and determination to tackle them.

I would like to thank you all for your support of our school and for entrusting your amazing children in to our care. The inspector noted the overwhelming support from parents and carers that the school enjoyed and was complimentary about how much parents support school. This was reflected in the high number of respondents to the official questionnaire and was also underlined by the fact that 100% of respondents stated that they would recommend SJF to others. Absolutely incredible! Thank you.

I would like to pay a special tribute to the hard work and dedication of all my colleagues - in all their different roles - who each contribute so much day in and day out.

I would like to thank our Governors who work tirelessly to support school and to challenge and encourage us to be as good as we can be. Much of the vitally important work they do goes unseen, but is absolutely key to the continuing success of our community. There are vacancies currently, so if you would like to find out more please let me know.

I would like to thank Fr Paul for supporting the Catholic life of the school so generously.

I would like to thank the Diocese of Hallam and the local authority for their support also. Both have stood by us throughout the early challenges and our recovery and I am so grateful for all they have done - and continue to do.

Finally I would like to thank our extraordinary PTFA who work so hard to bring our community together whilst raising money for school. They play such **huge** part in school life, helping us to be the 'happy' school noted by a succession of inspectors and visitors to school. The PTFA is always on the lookout for new members and ideas, so **please** get involved if you can. Without the generous and continued support of parents it will simply not exist. If you can help - in small ways or big - please get in touch (ptfa@st-johnfisher.org).

Our school is a very special place and I promise that we will never stop working hard - every single day - to ensure that it continues to remain so. We want our children to know they are loved; to know they are special; and to feel proud of themselves so that they are able to enjoy school, achieve well and just shine!

Welcome Mass 2019

This morning we gathered as a school community for our annual start of the school year 'Welcome Mass'. The theme was 'friendship and belonging' and the service gave us all an opportunity to root the year - along with all our hopes and ambitions in both prayer and praise.

I would like to thank Fr Paul for celebrating Mass; the wonderful young people of Y6 for leading the liturgy and for reading and fulfilling their various roles so brilliantly; Mrs Barrett, Mr McGurrian, Mrs Downes and Mr Tandy for leading the music; Sami and Phoebe, our new altar servers; the children who sat with their buddies and all behaved impeccably; and all the family and friends who were able to join and support us. It was a very special Mass and an important way to mark the start of a new school year.



Citizen of the Week

We will start next week.

Staff News

I am delighted to welcome **Miss Brownbill** who is our new Y3 teacher. **Mrs Savage** is our new trainee teacher on placement with us as part of an initial teacher training programme run by our Sheffield Catholic Teaching Schools. She will be based in Y4 with Mr Broadhead for the majority of the year, except for a six week placement in another school. We also welcome **Mr Johnson**, our new PE Apprentice who will support the teaching and learning of PE; run 'Wake Up! Shake Up!' each morning; work with the Sports Leaders and offer a range of competitive and non-competitive sporting and healthy activities to pupils at break-times and after school. He will also be supporting general teaching and learning around school.

In spite of the huge financial pressures we face I am grateful to our Governors for agreeing to continue funding additional temporary teaching assistant hours for the time being. I hope that the additional funding promised repeatedly by central government actually materialises – and in time for us and other schools.

Getting Involved

St John Fisher is a community school in every sense of the word. As such the school is as reliant on people getting involved now, as it was when it was founded in 1956 – probably more so now as we face our ongoing funding challenges. When the parents, carers and family members of our pupils get involved it really does make a hugely positive difference! There are many ways to help us, you could be a:

- ✓ Reading Volunteer like Mrs Sherwood and Mrs Steenson
- ✓ regular or ad hoc classroom volunteer
- ✓ volunteer on educational visits
- ✓ visitor to school to share with the children your experiences, skills and knowledge
 - Mrs Houghton with martial arts
 - Mr Paige who supported 'Be Safe-Be Happy Week'
 - Mr Sambrook who talked to the children about his role as a member of South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
 - others who might bring in animals and artefacts to show the children or who might talk to the children about their career or something significant that has happened in their lives
- ✓ Governor
- ✓ PTFA member – either standing for election to the committee or by helping at all or some of the events

If you would like to find out more or help in any way, please get in touch! We would love to hear from you! All offers are welcomed and appreciated. Thank you!

PTFA Information Evening

The PTFA would like to invite you all to their information evening on **Monday 23rd September 2019** in the school hall at **3.30pm**. Refreshments will be available and children will be supervised in a classroom close by.

It will a great opportunity to meet PTFA members and find out what they do. It is also a great way to meet people and make new friends, especially if you are new to our community.

The PTFA is always looking for new members and to develop new ideas for different events and opportunities to raise money and bring our community together. If you can spare an hour PLEASE come along, may be with a friend or two, thank you.



Building Works

FS2 Classroom

You will be aware that last year I secured funds to refurbish the FS2 classroom. Unfortunately the funds were released late last year meaning that everyone was rushing to complete works over the summer holiday. The inevitable impact of this was that prices were pushed up, meaning that we would get less for our money. I felt that the quotes did not represent good value for money and so decided to reopen the tendering process with the aim of completing the works at a quieter time for the building companies in the hope that prices will come down and we will achieve the classroom our children and staff deserve. I will update you in due course.



The Oasis

The PTFA is looking to complete 'The Oasis' area as an outside learning and play area. Having first secured the funds via the National Lottery I am very grateful for all their support.

The Slide

A PTFA-funded slide down the bank is also being installed shortly to add to the trim-trail that we already have.

Forthcoming Events

Please refer to the **SJF calendar** via this link: <http://www.st-johnfisher.org/calendar/2018---2019-calendars/>

Below is a summary of what is coming up:

09-09-19	• FS2 children in for first full day
10-09-19	• Y1 & Y2 Welcome Meeting (3.30pm in the Y2 classroom) – children will be supervised
11-09-19	• Mission Together assembly • SJF School Council hustings and elections • Y3 & Y4 Welcome Meeting (3.30pm in the Y4 classroom) – children will be supervised
12-09-19	• Y5 'Liturgy of the Word' (9.05am in the Hall) – family/friends of Y5 children invited • Y5 & Y6 Welcome Meeting (3.30pm in the Y6 classroom) – children will be supervised
13-09-19	• Y1 Celebration Assembly (9.05am in the Hall) – family/friends of Y1 children invited
18-09-18	• Parent/Carer Mathematics Workshop (3.30pm in the Hall) – children will be supervised
19-09-18	• Y3 'Liturgy of the Word' (9.05am in the Hall) – family/friends of Y3 children invited • FS2 Welcome Meeting (3.30pm in the FS2 classroom) – children will be supervised
20-09-19	• Y2 Celebration Assembly (9.05am in the Hall) – family/friends of Y2 children invited
21-09-18	• Open Day at All Saints Catholic High School

All Saints Open Morning

The young people of Y6 class and their families are invited to attend a special open morning at All Saints Catholic High School on **Saturday 21st September 2019** (10.00am-12.00pm). All Saints Catholic High School is a very special place with strong links to our school community. Further information about the school is available via this link: <http://www.allsaints.sheffield.sch.uk/>



Sean Pender
Headteacher

All Saints Catholic High School is a Christian community within the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church, working in the spirit of gospel values.

Within this tradition our school mission is to:

- ✓ share a common philosophy of life
- ✓ teach the truths of our faith and the principles of Christian morality
- ✓ encourage our members to fulfil their intellectual, spiritual and physical potential
- ✓ prepare each person for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life

We aim to work in partnership with the home, our churches and local communities in delivering a high quality education for all. These relationships provide the foundation for developing lifelong wholeness and integrity.

Review & Target-Setting Meetings

Thank you to everyone who met teachers on today and yesterday for the 'Review & Target-Setting' meetings. During the meetings children's progress and achievement over the last academic year was reviewed and new targets set for the beginning of this year. The meetings also provided an early opportunity for parents/carers to meet teachers, and I hope you all found them useful. My colleagues certainly did. We are determined to hit the ground running so that our children can reach their potential, enjoy and achieve.

Term 1 Curriculum Overviews

The Term 1 Curriculum Overviews will be sent out shortly. Please do contact us if you need any help in order to support your children at home or if you can offer help to us. Thank you.



Assessment in 2019-20

Following our successful recent inspection and explicit advice from OFSTED - and in line with most other schools - we will be reducing the number of assessment points this year from five to three for Reading, Mathematics and Spelling/Punctuation/Grammar. RE will continue to be assessed throughout the year in line with Diocesan guidance and Writing will be assessed continually throughout the year internally and through a rigorous moderation process involving local school, as well as Catholic settings and schools in and out of Sheffield. The aim is to ensure that standards remain high and our children are where they need to be. This means that parents/carers will receive two short (interim) reports and one long report this year.

Welcome Meetings

Don't forget that next week we have our class 'Welcome Meetings' which are another opportunity for you to meet staff, especially if you did not have a Review & Target-Setting meeting last week. Lots of important and useful information will be shared. **Please try to attend.** All children will be supervised by staff in a room close by. For information the meetings are at the following times:

- ✓ **Years 1 & 2** Tuesday 10th September Y2 classroom
- ✓ **Years 3 & 4** Wednesday 11th September Y4 classroom
- ✓ **Years 5 & 6** Thursday 12th September Y6 classroom

SJF Open Morning 2019

Our next Opening Morning will be on **Saturday 5th October 2019**. If you know anyone who interested in finding out more about our special school please let them know and encourage them to come along and meet us.

We are especially interested in welcoming the parents and carers of children who are due to start school next September. It will be a good opportunity to meet children, staff, Governors and members of the PTFA.



We are very fortunate that places at our school are now in demand. We have more children than at any point since I started in September 2012. Our planned admissions number is 210 but Governors accept up to 32 in the classes from Years 3-6 where there is no statutory limit. Currently we have 216 pupils out of a maximum of 218 places. Demand for places in FS2 has increased year on year and so we always advise that people visit before applying. Please note that we also accept children of all faiths and no faith, if there are spaces, so please do encourage friends and family to come along whether they are Catholic or not. Thank you.

Term 1 Smiley Scores & House News

This week's smiley scores will be published in next week's newsletter.

Emblem	Head of House	Actual Feast Day	SJF Colour Day	2019/20 Charity
	Miss D'Roza	Saturday 30 th November 2019	Members' Blue Day: Monday 2 nd December 2020	The Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal 2020
	Mrs Raynes	Sunday 1 st March 2020	Members' Yellow Day: Friday 28 th February 2020	MIND
	Mrs Pickering	Tuesday 17 th March 2020	Members' Green Day: Friday 20 th March 2020	CAFOD
	Mr Hawley	Thursday 23 rd April 2020	Members' Red Day: Monday 4 th May 2020	Mission Together

Mathematics Workshop for Parents/Carers

You are all invited to a special workshop at **3.30pm** in the **School Hall** on **Wednesday 18th September**. The workshop will be led by Mrs Holloway and Mrs Broadhead. Please join us if you know how Mathematics is taught at SJF. You will also be given tips so you can support your children at home. Come along if you struggle (or have struggled) with Mathematics so that we can provide confidential support and advice.



Uniform

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

Official Uniform Suppliers

We now have two official suppliers and items with the official logo can be bought from either 'Logo Leisurewear' or 'School Trends'. No other company 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:

- **Logo Leisurewear:** <https://www.logoleisurewear.com/schoolshop/n-s/st-john-fisher>
- **School Trends:** <https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/StJohnFisherCatholicPrimarySchoolS124HJ>

Parents and carers can also purchase uniform items in the correct colours without a logo from other sources.

PE Uniform

Please 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, including designer label like Nike or Adidas etc. The sweatshirt must be plain maroon/burgundy and the bottoms must be plain light grey joggers.

Earrings and Jewellery

A reminder that children are **not** permitted to wear earrings/studs or any kind of jewellery at school. Sensible watches are permitted..

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 all black ones).

PE Days

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



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 works with our School Council to set the menus. Please talk to your children about their meal choices to avoid disappointment in school!

Pupil Premium Grant

If you are (or have been) in receipt of benefits of one kind or another then your children might be entitled to a Pupil Premium Grant and free school meals. The grant is also available to children in care or those with parents serving in the UK armed forces. The grant provides school with much needed additional money to support vulnerable children. It is therefore very important that you tell us, especially now, whilst school funding is such an issue. Please make sure you claim even if your child is in FS2/Y1/Y2 and receives free school meals anyway. Please speak in confidence to Mrs Ramsden or Mrs Birch in order to find out more. Thank you.

Parish News

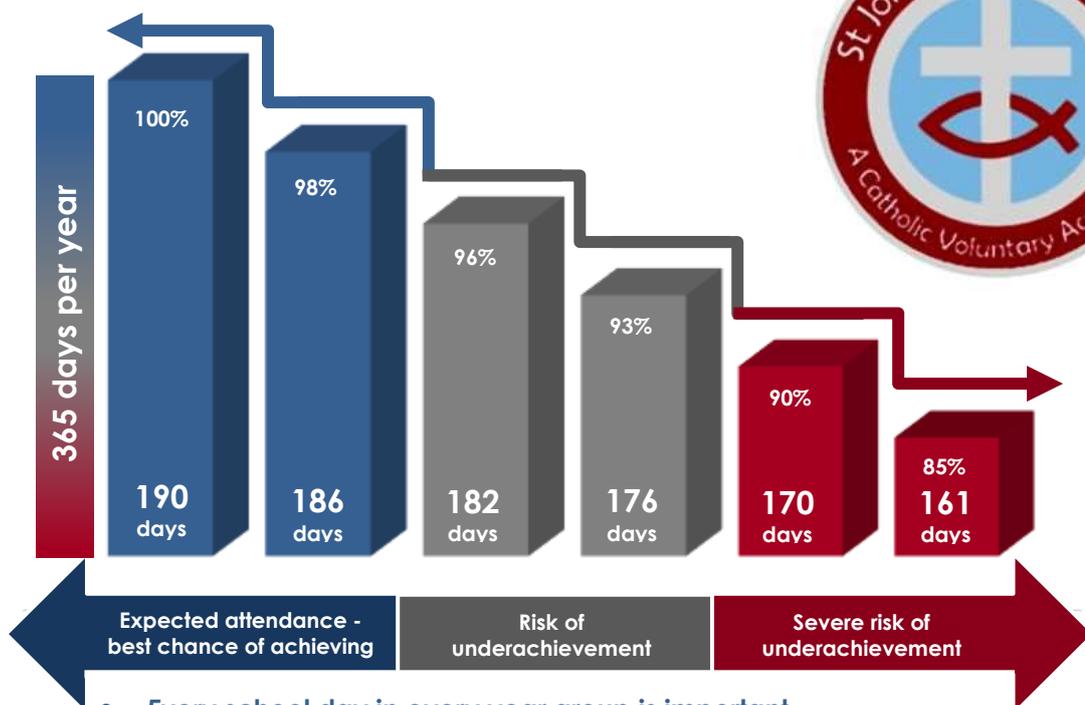
Information about parish and Diocesan life including the times of Masses and Confession and sacramental preparation is available via this link to the parish website: <http://www.ourladyoflourdessheffield.org.uk/> .

Parish Children's Masses

There are regular children's Masses and everyone is invited! It is a great way to meet other families and feel part of our parish community.



Attendance Matters at SJF



- Every school day in every year group is important
- Holidays in term-time can have an impact on children and their progress
- 98%+ attendance is the target (186+ days) this year
- Try to have no more than 4 days off in a year
- There are 175 non-school days for holidays and appointments (where there is flexibility)
- Good attenders tend to feel more happy and secure in school and achieve better

Attendance in every year group is extremely important and time out during term time has a negative impact on children's progress, achievement and sense of wellbeing and confidence. Sometimes parents/carers assume wrongly that term-time holidays for younger children have no negative impact, or that time out in primary school somehow matters less than at secondary school. To underline the importance of high attendance our target is 98% and we will be active in trying to achieve it. That said, we do understand that occasionally there are circumstances when a term-time absence is genuinely unavoidable and these situations will always be judged on a case-by-case basis, taking full account of the additional information parents/carers provide to demonstrate that there exceptional circumstances.

Attendance this week		
1 st	Y2	99.2% Bobby Bear will visit next week
2 nd	Y3	98.0% Brenda Bear will visit next week
3 rd	Y1	97.9% Elvis Owl will visit next week
4 th	Y6	97.7%
5 th	Y4	96.5%
6 th	Y5	95.7%
7 th	FS2	Not counted this week
Target = 98%		Average Attendance = 97.5%

Get Set, GO!	
1 st	FS2
2 nd	Y1
3 rd	
4 th	
	Y5
	Y6
next week	

Term 6 Attendance 2019		
1 st	FS2	97.8%
2 nd	Y4	97.6%
3 rd	Y3	95.7%
4 th	Y5	95.6%
5 th	Y2	95.5%
6 th	Y6	95.4%
7 th	Y1	93.5%
Attendance = 95.8%		

2018-2019 Attendance		
1 st	Y4	97.9%
2 nd	FS2	96.8%
3 rd	Y2	96.5%
4 th	Y3	96.5%
5 th	Y5	96.4%
6 th	Y6	96.4%
7 th	Y1	96.3%
Attendance = 96.7%		

Attendance in the last term was disappointing and brought the year totals down, meaning that no class managed to achieve an average of 98% attendance over the year – which is our target. Please avoid booking term-time holidays, especially in Years 2 and 6 when there continue to be extended statutory assessment periods for Writing throughout May and June, AFTER SATs. It will disadvantage your children.



School Council Elections 2019

Here is a message from Mr MacInnes, our School Council Coordinator:

Hustings and elections for the 2019-2020 SJF School Council take place on Wednesday 11th September 2019.

To ensure fairness and the widest possible participation, pupils can serve on the school council for a maximum of two terms during their time at SJF, but not in two consecutive years – there needs to be a gap in between each term of office. However, pupils can stand if they were a Chaplain last year, and they can be a Chaplain if they were a Councillor last year. Pupils cannot be both a Chaplain and a Councillor in the same year, so if they get chosen for both roles then they must choose their favourite one so that others can have a go.

The pupils in Years 1-5 will elect their councillors via a class vote following short hustings during which candidates will share their motivations and ideas and answer questions from classmates. In Y6, all eligible children can put themselves forward for election for one of the four Y6 roles: (i) Chairperson; (ii) Vice-Chairperson; (iii) Treasurer; and (iv) Secretary. There will be hustings in front of the school, with questions followed by a general election in which pupils in all classes will vote for their preferred Y6 candidates.

There will be a polling station set up in school on Wednesday and the ballot will be secret (and privacy respected) so that the democratic process mirrors what happens in real life.

The Y6 candidate receiving the most votes will be given first choice of the four key roles available. The candidate who polls the second highest number of votes will then choose from the three roles left – and so on until all four positions are filled.

All the successful candidates will then be announced and presented to the school at the end of Celebration Assembly on Friday and our sincere thanks will be shared with them and all the children who took part.

Appeal for Spare Uniform

We are now desperately short of spare underwear, socks, tights and trousers for younger children who have accidents in school. Unfortunately it appears that spare uniform has not been returned. If we do not have spare uniform we will need to send children home. If your child comes home wearing spare uniform for whatever reason, please wash and return it so that it is available for another child to use. Thank you.

Lost Property

The 'Lost Property' box is full! Please look through it for items that might belong to your child(ren). Unclaimed and unnamed items will be resold or given to families in need. Thank you.

Achievements outside of School

- **Luca** in **Y2** completed the Sheffield summer reading challenge and played some matches for his football team (New Bohemians) over the summer. Well done Luca!
- **Tamzin** in **Y6** also completed Sheffield summer reading challenge. Well done Tamzin!

Catholic Life

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

Ubi caritas et amor (Where charity and love are, God is there)
Ubi caritas, deus ibi est

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

I would like to thank the children of Y6 for leading our Welcome Mass. Next week the 'Liturgy of the Word' will be led by the children of **Y5** and we invite the families and friends of our Y5 children to join us in the School Hall just after 9.00am.

Celebration Assembly

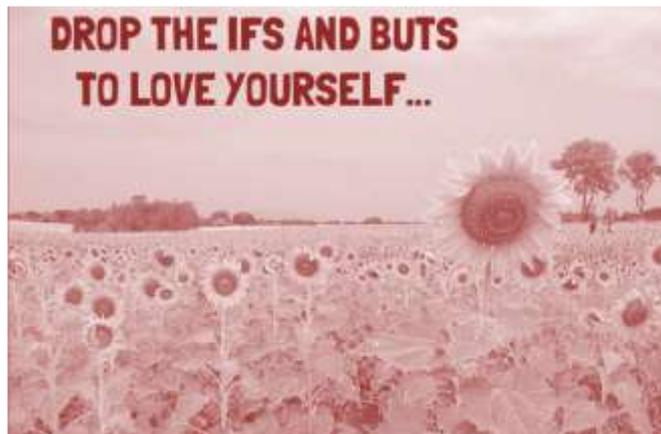
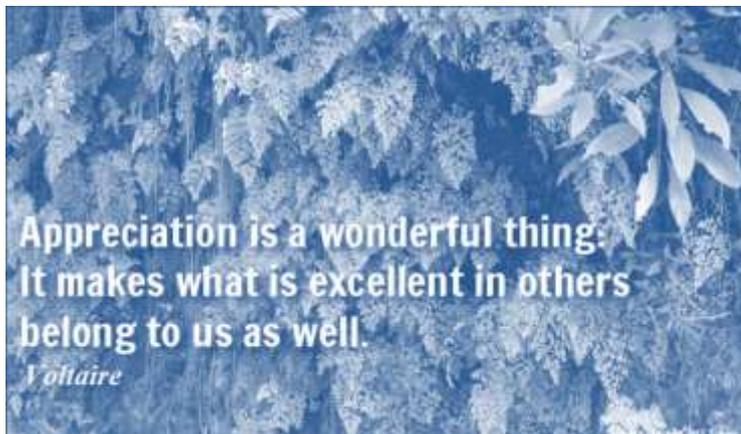
We invite the family and friends of our **Y1** children to join us for our Celebration Assembly next **Friday 13th September 2019** in the School Hall at 9.05am.



Statement to Live By

Our 'statement to live by' next week will be: **"I can say one good thing about myself"**

Time to talk: Sometimes we find it easier to say good things about others than about ourselves. Together think about the things that you are good at or the qualities that make you special and pick your favourite. Talk about why it is important to remember the good things about ourselves rather than dwell on the negatives. You can then explore why it is important to see the best in others too (rather than their faults).



Best wishes,
Mr F Barratt

