

Welcome Back!

I extend a warm welcome back to all our children and families, and especially to those who have just joined us from other schools. We will do all we can to ensure that you all feel very much part of our special community. On Monday we welcome all the children joining our Foundation Key Stage (FS2) for the first time! Mrs Darken and Mrs Prentice (FS2) have been doing home visits this week in order to meet the families of our newest and youngest members and prepare them for this next exciting stage of their lives. My colleagues and I will continue to do all we can to ensure that this new academic year gets off to a positive start for everybody and ultimately ends up being a happy successful one for each of our amazing pupils.

Welcome Mass

This morning we gathered as a school community for our annual start of the school year 'Welcome Mass'. The theme was friendship and the service gave us all an opportunity to root the year – along with all our hopes and ambitions - in prayer and praise. I would like to thank Fr Paul for celebrating Mass; the young people of Y6 for leading the liturgy and for reading and fulfilling their various roles in such a mature and dignified way; and Mrs Barrett for leading the music; the children (who sat with their buddies) behaved impeccably; and everyone who was able to join and support us. It is a very special Mass and an important way to mark the start of a new school year.

Citizen of the Week

The first recipient of this special award was **Finley Jones** (Y6) who has made a fantastic start to the new school year. He has settled quickly and impressed everybody with his focus and readiness to learn. He understands that we are all special, in line with our 'Statement to Live By' this week, and has been generous in showing kindness to others. By doing this he has set a great example to the younger children. As there was no Celebration Assembly this week, Finley's award was presented at the end of this morning's 'Welcome Mass'. It is a measure of the deep affection with which Finley is held by his peers when I observed their reaction as his name was called out. Genuine delight! Congratulations Finley, and best wishes for a super year ahead!

Staff & Governor News

I am delighted to welcome **Mr Shepherd** who is our new Y3 teacher, **Mr MacInnes** who is our new Y5 teacher and **Madame Crompton** who will be teaching French to children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6). We also welcome **Mr Blantern**, a trainee teacher on an initial teacher training programme run by our Sheffield Catholic Teaching Schools! He will be based in Y2 with Mrs Broadhead for the majority of the year, except for when he is on placement in another school.

We also welcome back **Mr Cross**, our PE Apprentice, in partnership with Sheffield College, who will be supporting the teaching and learning of PE; running 'Wake Up! Shake Up! Each morning; working with the Sports Leaders; and offering a range of competitive and non-competitive sport and other healthy activities to pupils at break times and after school. He will also be supporting teaching and learning around school.

In spite of the huge financial pressures we face I am grateful to our Governors for agreeing to fund some additional temporary teaching assistant hours at the end of last year. Following a selection process at the beginning of the school holiday Mrs Mappin and Mrs Walton were appointed. Mrs Holloway remains with us supporting teaching and learning in Y6 until she commences her maternity leave.

At the end of the last academic year Mrs Bridget Ambrose stepped down as a Governor. During her tenure she offered school a great deal of support and as part of a dedicated team of Governors, has played a key role in our journey and helping us to build our reputation as an inclusive school that welcomes and champions the rights and opportunities of all children, including the most vulnerable. During that time she has also been an active member of the PTFA and on the Committee too. We thank Mrs Ambrose sincerely for her dedication, commitment and continued support.

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 people like Mrs Ambrose get involved in school life it really makes such a huge and positive difference! There are so many ways you can get involved and help our school. You could be a:

- ✓ 'Reading Volunteer' like Mrs Sherwood, Mrs Steenson, Mrs Saxton-Clayton, Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Fitzpatrick
- ✓ 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 24th September 2018** in the school hall. Refreshments will be available from 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start.

It is 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 to attract new members and develop new ideas for events to bring our community together and raise much-needed funds for our children. If you can spare an hour why not come along, may be with a friend or two, thank you.



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.

Lottery Grant

The PTFA has applied for a £10k lottery grant on our behalf to further enhance the new 'Oasis' outdoor learning area for learning, inclusion and community activities. We hope to find out soon whether it has been successful. It reflects our unceasing determination to make our school vibrant and exciting for our children.

Building Works

The Y6 classroom will be finished this week so that the children can finally move in. I thank them; my colleagues; the children; and all the parents and carers for the patience and understanding they have shown regarding the unavoidable delay. Once the classroom is ready, we will invite all the parents/carers in to have a look.

The Y6 classroom is not the only area to benefit from updating. Over the summer we have been busy making a number of significant alterations to further improve our school building. The hall has been completely redecorated; has a brand new electricity supply with more points; new brighter, more efficient and environmentally-friendly lighting; and a simple but fantastic new stage lighting system.

We have saved enough money from the build costs to have the entire floor in the School Hall stripped right back and treated over the next (October) holiday so that it will look brand new. This expensive procedure is long overdue and will complete the renovation of the School Hall.

The entrance to the Y5/6 cloakroom has also been redecorated and re-floored and has also had new efficient and energy-saving lighting set within its new suspended ceiling. We are awaiting new space-saving lockers, so that each child in Years 5 and 6 will have his/her own locker.



The electrics have also been updated in the Key Stage 2 classrooms (Years-3-6) as part of the works.

Outside you will see that the original foundation stone for the school has been saved, repositioned and re-set outside the Y6 classroom so that it is visible for everybody to see. You will also note that there are new railings around the ramp to the library and Y5/Y6 classrooms with new wooden planters along the front to add interest and improve the general look of this side of school.

Obviously there is still building equipment on the playground, though it is fenced off. Though supervised by staff, until works are complete and all equipment has been removed we would be grateful if parents/carers could help us by supervising their children closely at the beginning and end of the school day so that they do not go near or enter the building site. Thank you.

Review & Target-Setting Meetings

Thank you to everyone who met teachers on Tuesday and Wednesday for the 'Review & Target-Setting' meetings. During the meetings children's progress and achievement in the last academic year was reviewed and new targets set. New report formats were also shared.

Welcome Meetings

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

- ✓ **Years 1 & 2** Tuesday 11th September Y2 classroom
- ✓ **Years 3 & 4** Wednesday 12th September Y4 classroom
- ✓ **Years 5 & 6** Thursday 13th September Y6 classroom

Mathematics Workshop for Parents/Carers

You are all invited to a special workshop in the School Hall on **Tuesday 18th September**. The workshop will be led by Mrs Holloway and Mrs Broadhead. If you would like to find out more about how Mathematics is taught and how you can support your children at home, or if you struggle (or have struggled) with Mathematics and would like some tips and advice, please come along. Children will be supervised by staff close by.

Forthcoming Events

Please refer to the **SJF calendar** which was sent home before the holidays and available via this link:

<http://www.st-johnfisher.org/parents-and-carers-zone/calendar/>

It contains details of planned events in the academic year ahead so that you can plan and prepare for them. Below is a summary of what is coming up:

10-09-18	• FS2 final home visits
11-09-18	• FS2 children in half day, no lunch (8.55am-11.30am) • Y1 & Y2 Welcome Meeting (3.30pm in the Y2 classroom) – children will be supervised
12-09-18	• FS2 children in half day with lunch (8.55am-1.00pm) • Y3 & Y4 Welcome Meeting (3.30pm in the Y4 classroom) – children will be supervised
13-09-18	• FS2 children in half day with lunch (8.55am-1.00pm) • Y4 'Liturgy of the Word' (9.05am in the Hall) – family/friends of Y4 children invited • Y5 & Y6 Welcome Meeting (3.30pm in the Y6 classroom) – children will be supervised
14-09-18	• FS2 children in school all day from now on • Celebration Assembly (9.05am in the Hall) – family/friends of Y6 children invited
18-09-18	• Parent/Carer Mathematics Workshop (3.30pm in the Hall) – children will be supervised
20-09-18	• Y2 'Liturgy of the Word' (9.05am in the Hall) – family/friends of Y2 children invited • FS2 Welcome Meeting (3.30pm in the FS2 classroom) – children will be supervised
21-09-18	• Celebration Assembly (9.05am in the Hall) – family/friends of Y5 children invited



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 22nd September 2018** (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/>

All Saints
Catholic High School



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.

SJF Open Morning 2018

Our next Opening Morning will be on **Saturday 6th October 2018**. If you know anyone who might be interested in finding out more about our special school community 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.



Term 1 Smiley Scores & House News

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

Emblem	Head of House	Feast Day	SJF Colour Day	2018/19 Charity
<p>St Andrew</p>	Miss D'Roza	Friday 30 th November	Members' Blue Day: Monday 3 rd December	CAFOD
<p>St David</p>	Mrs Raynes	Friday 1 st March	Members' Yellow Day: Friday 1 st March	Mission Together
<p>St Patrick</p>	Mrs Pickering	Sunday 17 th March	Members' Green Day: Friday 15 th March	Anthony Nolan
<p>St George</p>	Mr Hawley	Tuesday 23 rd April	Members' Red Day: Monday 29 th April	Hallam Caring Services



Golden Children

FS2	Start next week
Y1	Poppy for trying so hard all week and for always listening and doing the right thing. Poppy is an absolute pleasure to teach!
Y2	Lily-Mae for making a fabulous start to Y2 and for taking on the whole-class challenges!
Y3	Mateah for making a great start in a new school! Well done superstar!
Y4	Alex for settling in so well into Y4 and for working so hard in every lesson! Keep it up!
Y5	Sami for having such an enthusiastic attitude in all lessons all week!
Y6	Eesaa for making such a great start to Y6 and for having a really positive attitude towards his new learning! He is setting great example! Keep it up!

Writing Champions

FS2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Next Week	Samuel	Priscilla	Max	Philemon	Phoebe A	George

Uniform

Official Supplier

I would like to thank everyone who emailed me with details of the issues they have had with School Trends. I have a meeting on Thursday with the Area Manager who covers our school and I will share your concerns. We have been researching alternative suppliers as we press ahead with plans to engage with 2-3 official suppliers going forward. Uniform information is available via this link:

<https://www.schooltrendsonline.com/uniform/StJohnFisherCatholicPrimarySchoolS124HJ>



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 school e.g. in bad weather or to play football at break-times, pupils are expected to wear proper school shoes in school.

PE Kit

Children are asked to wear only the school colours on PE days. The full PE kit with logos is available from our official suppliers. You also have the option to purchase the jogging suit from other suppliers. All we ask is that it is **COMPLETELY plain** and **unbranded** – a plain burgundy sweatshirt/hoodie and plain **light** great joggers.

Our uniform is very important to us and so we thank you for your cooperation and support to help us maintain high standards every day.

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 representatives are hoping to be at every Welcome Meeting next week if you have any questions about anything. Thank you.

Achievements outside of School

- **Luca** in **Y1** completed The Sheffield 'Mischiefs Makers' Summer Reading Challenge! Congratulations Luca!
- **Tamzin** in **Y5** also completed The Sheffield 'Mischiefs Makers' Summer Reading Challenge as well achieving Junior Lifesaving Resuscitation Certificates 1 and 2! Fantastic achievements Tamzin, well done!



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.ourladyoflourdesheffield.org.uk/> .

Parish Children's Masses

Each month there is a special children's Mass on a Sunday and everyone is invited! It is also a great way to meet up with other families and to feel part of both our special parish and school communities. Everyone is invited to come along and it is always nice to welcome new faces.

The first children's Mass of this new academic year takes place on **Sunday 16th September** at **10:30am** at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and then every **3rd** Sunday of the month after that. Reminders will be emailed and included on the website and in newsletters.

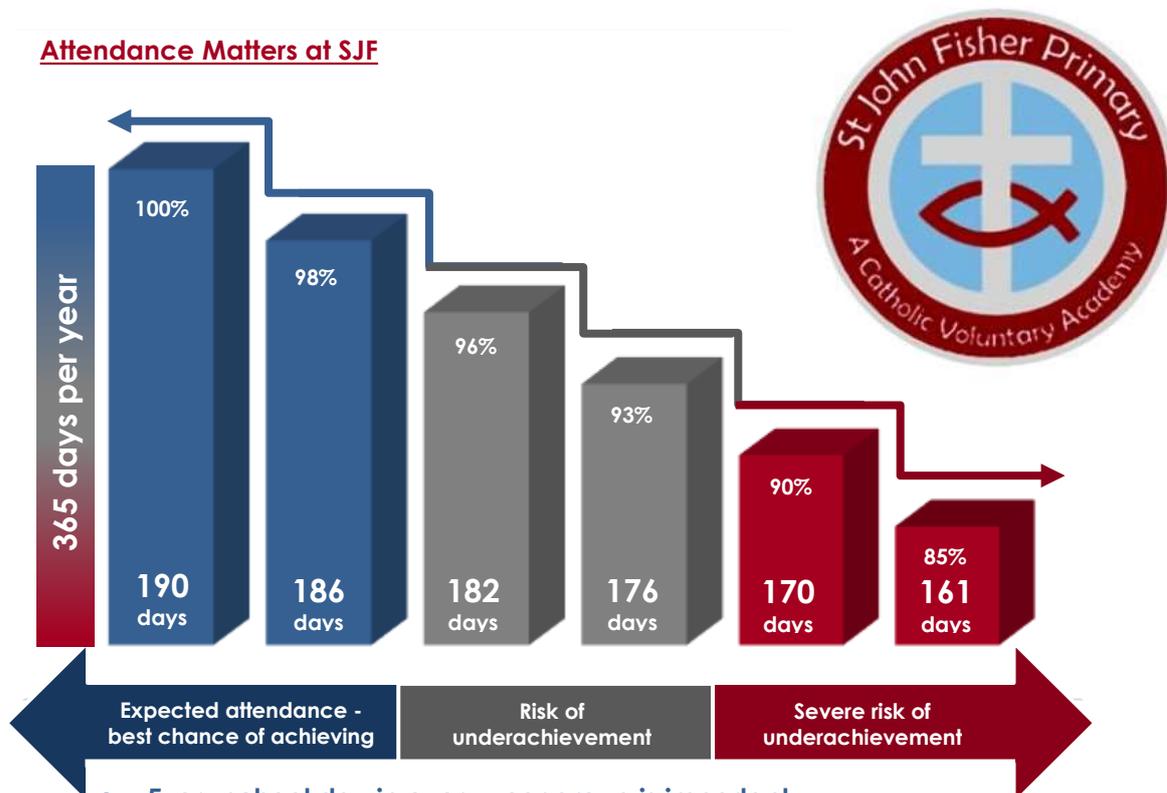
Communion & Confirmation 2019

Registration forms for First Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2019 are now available from Our Lady of Lourdes Church and St. Anthony's Church.

Catholic children who are in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 - from September 2018 - are eligible for First Holy Communion. Catholic children in Y6 (or above) - from September 2018 - are eligible for Confirmation.

For further details of the preparation course and parental commitments please see Fr. Paul.

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 well**

Attendance in every year group is extremely important and time out during term time does have 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 impact, or do not matter as much as for older pupils. To underline the importance of high attendance the target is now 98%.



We understand that occasionally there are circumstances when a term-time absence is 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	Y5	97.8%	Bobby Bear will visit next week
2 nd	Y6	97.4%	Brenda Bear will visit next week
3 rd	Y3	96.8%	Elvis Owl will visit next week
4 th	Y2	96.7%	
=5 th	Y1	96.4%	
=5 th	Y4	96.4%	
7 th	FS2	92.7%	
Target = 98%		Average Attendance = 96.9%	



Get Set, GO!			
1 st	Y6		
2 nd	Y2		
3 rd	Y3		
4 th	Y4		
4 th	Y1		
6 th	FS2		
7 th	Y5		
next week			

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

