

SJF NEWS

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Friday 8th December 2017 (Issue 13 ~ 2017/18)



Citizen of the Week

This week's recipient is **Rafal Boratyn** in **Y5** who understands the importance of working, resting and praying in life, and especially during Advent. Rafal always engages enthusiastically with the prayer life of our community and is a very responsible and trustworthy member of our community and tries hard to do the right thing every day! In doing this, he sets a wonderful example to others and we are all very proud of him as a result!

Calendar Reminders

11-12-17	✓ 'Jack and the Beanstalk' visiting pantomime in School Hall – funded by our fantastic PTFA
12-12-17	✓ Y6 children going to watch 'We Will Rock You!' at All Saints Catholic High School
13-12-17	✓ FS2 Nativity Play – School Hall at 2.15pm (please bring money for the raffle)
15-12-17	✓ PTFA 'Santa in School Day' (Santa arrives at 8.50am so please be late!) ✓ a non-uniform/Christmas jumper day
19-12-17	✓ KS1 Nativity Play – School Hall at 2.15pm (please bring money for the raffle)
20-12-17	✓ KS1 Nativity Play – School Hall at 2.15pm (please bring money for the raffle)
21-12-17	✓ Christmas dinner day (a non-uniform/Christmas jumper day)
22-12-17	✓ curriculum exhibition – School Hall from 9am-10am ✓ KS2 Community Carol Service – Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church at 2.00pm ✓ PTFA refreshments and raffle in the School Hall afterwards ✓ no Celebration Assembly ✓ end of Term 2
08-01-18	✓ school reopens – start of Term 3

Advent 2017

Class Advent Reflections

Please note that there can be **no** Advent liturgies on Monday 11th December next week because of the pantomime. We have therefore rescheduled them to take place on the following days instead.

- ✓ **FS2** on **Tuesday** and **Thursday**
- ✓ **Years 1 & 2** on **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**
- ✓ **Years 3 & 4** on **Wednesday** and **Thursday**
- ✓ **Years 5 & 6** on **Tuesday** and **Thursday**

The Advent liturgy schedule will resume the week after with liturgies taking place on the following days:

- ✓ **FS2** on **Tuesday** and **Thursday**
- ✓ **Years 1 & 2** on **Monday** and **Tuesday**
- ✓ **Years 3 & 4** on **Monday** and **Wednesday**
- ✓ **Years 5 & 6** on **Monday** and **Thursday**

If you would like to attend, please book through the **School Office** (rather than speaking to the class teacher). Please arrive at **3.00pm** and wait in the foyer by the School Office, so you are in time for the prompt start at 3.10pm. Regrettably, we are unable to admit anyone after this time. Thank you for your understanding.

Advent Prayer

Throughout Advent we will focus on a prayer we called 'The Act of Contrition'. It is a very special prayer in which we ask God to forgive us for the things we have done wrong. We also ask God for the strength to move on in our lives and not repeat the mistakes or commit other sins. The prayer is shared when people receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The words are:

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. Amen



Term 2 Smiley Scores

St Andrew's House  581	St David's House  493	St Patrick's House  488	St George's House  512
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St Andrew's Feast Day & Blue Day

The members enjoyed a wonderful craft afternoon organised by Miss D'Roza, the Head of House. I would like to commend the children for their great behaviour and for the wonderful work, they produced. I would also like to thank Miss D'Roza for all her hard work in organising and running the session. Everyone had lots of fun!

Achievements Outside of School

- **Luca Samba** in **FS2** was selected for a modelling assignment for 'Tomy Toys' and took part in a photo shoot this week! What an exciting opportunity Luca!
- **Zack Mahovo** in **Y1** achieved his Stage 1 swimming award! Congratulations Zack!

Christmas Cards

We encourage the children to share Christmas cards, but please note that Data Protection rules mean that we will not print out and share class lists.

Please ensure that the recipient's name is written clearly on the front of the envelop along with the class, and then posted in the post box in the entrance foyer.

The cards will be collected, sorted and delivered by Y6 pupils each lunchtime.



Christmas Lunch 2017

Our Christmas lunch is on **Thursday 21st December 2017**. Please do not forget to order if you want your child(ren) to enjoy one.

The main menu choice is roast turkey with cocktail sausage, Quorn roast with Quorn sausage, Halal roast chicken served with roast potatoes, stuffing, peas, carrots and gravy.

Dessert is a choice between Black Forest flapjack or fresh fruit and yoghurt!

As it is a special day all the children and staff can dress down and wear a Christmas jumper if they have one!

Santa in School Day

Next Friday 15th December is our Santa in School Day! As it is a very special time in our school year, we will also make it a **non-uniform** day.

All the children and staff can come to school dressed down with Christmas jumpers and hats if they have them!

I would like to thank the PTFA for their hard work in again organising this special event. This event takes almost a year to plan and prepare for and so it is important to recognise their hard work and dedication.

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 on the day or the night before with setting up please get in touch. All offers of help are appreciated, whether you can spare a little time or more.








If you want to find out more about our PTFA please get in touch. New members and their ideas are always welcomed and appreciated.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank Senior Pastor Chris Jeavons and the team at Spa View Church for hosting the event.

Santa is scheduled to land on the roof at just after 8.50am, so please do not be late! The best view will be in front of the library window!





Attendance this Week			
FS2		95.7%	Bobby bear will visit next week
Year 1		94.0%	Elvis the owl will be visiting next week
Year 2		96.7%	
Year 3		92.9%	
Year 4		94.4%	Brenda bear will visit next week
Year 5		96.3%	
Year 6		97.5%	
Target		97.5%	This week's average attendance: 95.4%

Unfortunately, attendance has again been affected by a terrible bug meaning that just one class managed to exceed target.

Let us work hard to ensure that attendance improves next week.

Please note that if your child is going to be late for school please telephone before 8.55am so that your child's dinner is not cancelled. Thank you for your cooperation.

Curriculum Exhibition

You are invited to join us for our first exhibition of the year on 22nd December 2017 (last day of Term 2). It is in the School Hall from 9.00am. It is a great opportunity to come along and have a look at the children's work.

Collective Worship

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

We will resume our liturgies in the New Year as it is assessment week next week and we are focusing on all the nativity plays, concerts and Advent class liturgies throughout December.

Celebration Assembly

Please note that here is no Celebration Assembly next week because it is 'Santa in School Day'! Thank you.

Important Reminders

Footwear

Children are required to wear proper black school shoes in school every day. Trainers (including all black trainers) and boots are **not** permitted. Children can wear them to, from school, and at playtime but they must have school shoes with them to wear in school and for lessons.

PE Uniform

Children are required to wear our SJF PE uniform on the day of their PE lesson. A reminder that this is a light blue round-neck T-shirt, burgundy shorts, a plain burgundy 'hoodie' or sweatshirt and plain light grey jogging bottoms. Items must be plain and in the correct colours. They must not be branded or embellished e.g. Adidas, Nike etc. Pupils cannot wear different coloured t-shirts or sweatshirts or jogging pants. Logoed items of SJF PE uniform are available from our official suppliers, 'School Trends' if you choose - via these links:

- ✓ <http://www.st-johnfisher.org/cmsfiles/items/downloads/SCHOOL-UNIFORM-LIST-2017.pdf>
- ✓ <https://www.schooltrendsonline.com/uniform/StJohnFisherCatholicPrimarySchoolS124HJ>

Our uniform is very important. In fact, it is a key part of our community's identity. It is one of the things, which underline our commitment to high standards. I therefore ask you to please support us by ensuring that the children always come to school wearing the correct school uniform on **both** PE and non-PE days. Thank you.





Lozenges

Here is a message from Mrs Pickering our lead for first aid/medical issues:

"We have noticed that a few children are bringing in cough lozenges to school. Whilst we understand that parents/carers are giving these to children in order to ease their cough/sore throat symptoms, they are a form of medicine and therefore 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.

We are looking at the impact of this and the legal and practical obligations and implications.

Whilst this is ongoing, we ask that you do not send lozenges into school. Thank you for your support."

Jack and the Beanstalk



Monday is panto day! Thanks to our PTFA, the children will enjoy a panto experience for the third year running. Unfortunately, we were not able to go to the Lyceum to see Mother Goose this year because no morning shows were scheduled (when the information was first sent out). I asked for the schedule to be reconsidered, but it was not possible.

So, instead, we have brought the panto to SJF! What is more it is being funded completely by our PTFA!

The fairy tale kingdom of Littletonia is in trouble – BIG trouble!

The greedy Giant Blunderbore rules the land, and our hero Jack is determined to defeat this gigantic meanie!

The children will be able to share the adventure, as a magical beanstalk grows right in front of the children's eyes.



Starring
Craig Revel Horwood
as the voice of the Giant

Jack will need their help, so that he will find the courage in order to climb the beanstalk and rescue Muriel the dancing cow from the nasty Giant's castle in the clouds.

Extreme Weather & School Closure

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of what happens in the event of extreme weather.

We will always endeavour to open in bad weather, however if the weather is extreme I also must give careful consideration to the safety of children, families and colleagues travelling to and from school.

If the weather is extreme then there are three options open to me:

1. to open school as normal
2. to open school with a later start time
3. to close school completely

A decision will always be based on the information available to me, including weather information and 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 of a day when we all face extreme weather conditions.



I repeat, our priority is to provide our children with an education, and so our aim is always to open.



ParentMail

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!

We will also share information on our website: www.st-johnfisher.org.

We will also notify the local authority and BBC Radio Sheffield and details of the arrangements will be shared on to their websites.

We will only notify the local authority and BBC Radio Sheffield if we have a later start or are closing earlier. Please note that we will **not** notify them if we are opening as normal.

Sometimes when we are open weather, conditions deteriorate during the school day. If this happens, we will use Parentmail in order to notify parents/carers that school is closing earlier. Again, we will update the website and also contact the local authority and Radio Sheffield.

We do not normally contact parents and carers if school is open as usual.

Late Start

A decision on the time of the late start will be made on the day depending on the information available to me. Typically, a later start time is either 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 inside school, where it is warm. KIDZONE 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 information I have to hand. We will contact parents/carers and ask you to arrange for the children to be collected 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 significant additional problems.

If you are not contacted and there is no information on the three websites then it is safe to assume that school will be closing at the normal time. **No need to phone.**

Phoning School

We have one telephone line. In the event of extreme weather, it is therefore VERY important that parents/carers read the text messages and emails sent to them and refer to the information shared on the school, BBC and local authority websites - rather than just call in.

It is important that the phone line is left as free as possible so that colleagues are able to make/take important calls.

In the past, the line has been clogged up by some parents/carers phoning school merely to confirm information already shared via text/email, or to ask if school is closing early etc before a decision is made.

Please help us by only calling if it is important or an emergency. I thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

In the event of extreme weather on Monday, the pantomime will be rescheduled, and you will be notified of the new arrangements once they are confirmed.



Writing Champions

FS2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Katie State	Isabelle Town	Kessy Higaro	Olivia Wood	Harry Cawthorne	George Marsden	Bertie Pickering

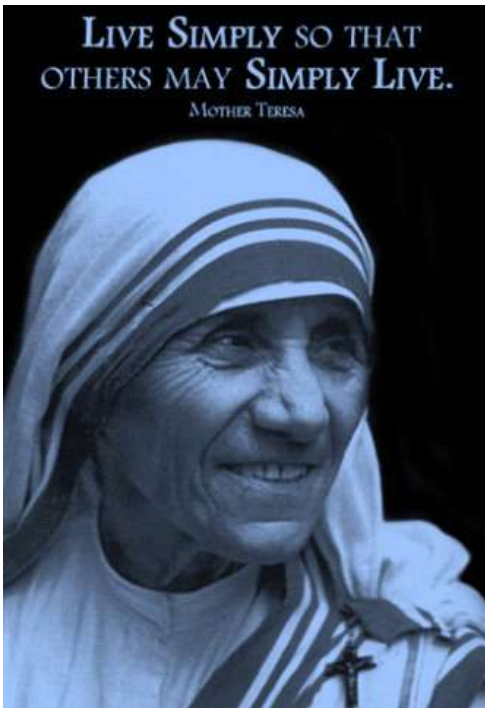
Golden Children

- FS2** **Alana Houghton** for talking about ways to make other people happy! We all read Alana's book about 'happiness buckets'! Well done Alana!
- Y1** **Katy Beatson** for working hard and for always giving of her best! What a star you are!
- Y2** **Maya Putchá** for working hard to improve her work and for thinking more about the challenges she faces!
- Y3** **Caitlin Hardy** for working hard and for trying her best even when she finds things challenging. Also being a fantastic friend!
- Y4** **Sophie Ball** for working particularly hard to concentrate on a task that was set in order to achieve success!
- Y5** **Joseph Kandare** for having a much-improved attitude to learning! Keep it up!
- Y6** **Harry Parkin** for giving his 'all' in Mathematics and for believing in himself so much more!

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 we thoughts turn to presents, we have been thinking about the true meaning of Christmas as we journey through the season of Advent. The children have been thinking about those important things in their lives that money cannot buy. Try to list some. Why not think about simple ways to make others happy. What is it or who is that make our lives happy and special?



Appreciate
the little things, for one day you may
look back and find they were
the big things.

Have a great weekend,
Mr Barratt