



Welcome Back!

Happy new year! It has been wonderful to welcome you and all the children back to school for the start of Term 3. It has been great to catch up with the children as they have shared their Christmas news so excitedly.

Though COVID transmission rates remain stubbornly high, and our attendance figures are well down on where they should be, our situation is less severe than in some neighbouring schools which have been hit hard. We are watching the situation closely though, because we know that with COVID, things can change very quickly.

We will therefore continue operating under the December Plan (which is approved by the Sheffield Public Health Team), until the situation improves, the advice changes and rules can be relaxed. At that point we will aim to return to our September plan, hopefully by the start of Term 4. Based on what is happening in London, which is about 3-4 weeks ahead of Sheffield, I believe that this is a realistic aim. However, we must remain cautious in our responses to an unpredictable virus, and the new variants that appear to be emerging all the time. We will, of course, continue to keep you informed.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions/concerns about our response, or if you need any help and support. Please speak directly to me or one of my colleagues on duty at the start/end of the school day or contact us in the usual ways (0114 2485009 or enquiries@st-johnfisher.org). Thank you.

The St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust

As you know we are part of the Catholic Diocese of Hallam. It is the smallest and youngest of the Catholic Dioceses of England and Wales and covers South Yorkshire, areas of north-east Derbyshire and parts of north Nottinghamshire.



Diocese of Hallam

Since 1st December 2013 our school has been part of a small Diocesan-based **Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)**, along with: Emmaus (Sheffield); St Joseph's, Rossington and Our Lady of Sorrows, Armthorpe (Doncaster); and Holy Trinity (Barnsley). Ours is the only MAT in the Diocese so far and it is the long-term hope of our Bishop that our small family of five schools will be able to work more closely with other Diocesan schools for the benefit of all children and families.

Last year Bishop Ralph wrote: *"Our schools are central to fulfilling our mission, and to our parish communities. They actively promote social cohesion, engendering a sense of belonging for all."*



In this letter, the Bishop explained that after a great deal of reflection and work he had come to believe that the long-term future of all Diocesan Catholic schools would be best served if they became equal partners within one of two **Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts (CMATs)**. The St Clare CMAT will include schools in Sheffield, Rotherham and surrounding areas, whilst the St Francis CMAT will include the remainder of schools in South Yorkshire as well those located in the areas of the north Midlands that come under the jurisdiction of the Diocese.

Currently there are 47 schools in the Diocese. Aside from our Trust of five, there are 23 single academy Trusts and 19 traditional voluntary-aided schools. The plan is that in the coming months they will all join their appropriate CMAT. The plan is for our school to transfer in the first group, in March 2022.

A consultation letter has been emailed and sent home. It sets out the rationale and provides important background information along with an invitation to get involved in the consultation by sharing your views, comments and questions. A copy of the letter is also available on the SJF website and can be reached by clicking [here](#). You can also find out more about the development of the new Diocesan CMATs from the Hallam Diocese website by clicking [here](#). Once we have all transferred, HSPAT will cease to exist.



A special email address has been set up to gather views, it is ematconsultation@hspat.org. If you would like to respond, you are asked to enter our school name and location in the subject box. Questions and answers will be collated and shared in a special FAQs document. The email box will close on **Friday 22nd January 2022**.

Citizen of the Week & Weekly Awards

We postponed our Celebration Assembly this week because two classes were out on educational visits. We will therefore publish details in next week's letter instead. Thank you.

Term 3 Smiley Scores



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

Weekly Attendance			
1 st	Y2	99.1%	Bobby will visit next week
2 nd	Y4	95.4%	Brenda will visit next week
3 rd	Y6	94.9%	Elvis Owl will visit next week
4 th	Y5	94.5%	
5 th	Y1	95.0%	
6 th	Y3	93.4%	
7 th	FS2	88.5%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 94.5%	



Get Set, GO!		
1 st	Y2	93%
2 nd	Y4	92%
3 rd	Y6	91%
4 th	Y5	89%
4 th	Y1	89%
6 th	Y3	87%
7 th	FS2	83%
Average = 89%		

SJF Calendar of Events

Please click [here](#) in order to see the weekly update on our home page or hit [LINK](#) for the 2021-22 calendar.

Achievements outside of School

Please let us have details of your children's achievements out of school, via our school email address (enquiries@st-johnfisher.org) so that we can celebrate them in our weekly newsletter. Big or small, if they are important for your child then we will always be happy to share them. Thank you. This week we have one achievement to share:

- Rebecca in **Y3** has received the Gold Award at Rainbows! This is, apparently the most difficult badge get! Congratulations Rebecca, we are all very proud of you!

SJF School Council Update



The Y6 councilors met this week to discuss plans which will later be shared with the other councillors when the council next reconvenes. Here's a word from Caleb, our Vice-Chair.

"When we're able to meet with the rest of the council we are looking forward to moving along with our fundraising plans, as well as our work developing exciting new menus with Taylor Shaw."

Caleb, Vice-Chair of the SJF School Council



Our Catholic Life

Collective Worship Overview

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Statement of Belief Citizen Assembly (Headteacher)	SJF Virtues Assembly (Class-Based)	Themed Assembly (Staff-Led)	Weekly Liturgy of the Word (Class-Led)	Celebration Assembly (All Staff)

Parish News

Information about parish and Diocesan life including times for Christmas Masses, Confession and sacramental preparation is available via this [link](#).

Synod 2021-2023

Pope Francis has asked every one of the People of God to let him know how things are for them in the Church. He believes we are all trying to journey together through life, finding ways to communicate the fundamental message of Jesus, to love one another, in how we live our lives and in our words. That is the meaning of the word "Synodal" – it means "journeying together".

He has asked the Bishops of the world to ask you and then tell him. You can do this with other people in your parish; tell Bishop Ralph what you think between October 2021 to 7 March 2022.



Bishop Ralph will collect your thoughts and take them to a meeting of the bishops of England and Wales. Some of our bishops will gather in Rome for a Synod (meeting) in 2023 to listen to what you are saying about our journeying together. Following this Pope Francis will write to the whole Church reflecting what has been discerned from this process. As well as parish events there are opportunities to join one of three Diocesan-wide events, in-person or on-line:

- **Saturday 22nd January 2022** Blessed Trinity, Wickersley, Rotherham (10:00-12:30)
- **Saturday 5th February 2022** All Saints Catholic High School, Sheffield (10:00-12:30)
- **Saturday 19th February 2022** St Peter's Doncaster 1 (0:00-12:30)

Participants are asked to register to join by visiting the Eventbrite page and choosing the event they want to attend by clicking [here](#). Further information is available by clicking <https://hallam-diocese.com/synod/>.

Our January Prayer

A reminder that our January prayer is called the Agnus Dei or 'The Lamb of God'. The prayer is recited during Mass, and recalls The Last Supper of Jesus and His apostles during which the bread and wine were transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the first time. It is therefore a very special prayer. The words are:

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.



Our Term 2 Virtues to Live By

This term we are focusing on the key virtues of **faith** and **simplicity**.

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

I would like to thank Mr Macinnes and our **Y6** pupils for leading a beautiful liturgy on Wednesday, instead of our usual Mass, to mark the new year. A reminder that our next Liturgy of the Word will be next **Thursday 20th January 2022** and will be led by the young people of **Y2**. All recordings are available to watch by clicking [here](#).





Beat Your Best

This week we have another fun challenge demonstrated by Kessy, one of our fantastic Sports Majors. The challenge is to try and do keep the hula hoop around your middle for as long as possible Why not have a go at break time or at home? Why not see if you can beat your personal best!

Please click [here](#) to watch Kessy's demonstration.

Yorkshire Museum of Farming

Thank you to Mr Broadhead and Miss Brownbill for organising this amazing learning day for the children of Years 3 and 4 at the Yorkshire Museum of Farming. Everyone had a fantastic day! Thank you to all the volunteers who supported us so generously!

A report with photographs from this special day will be shared on the website and in next week's newsletter .



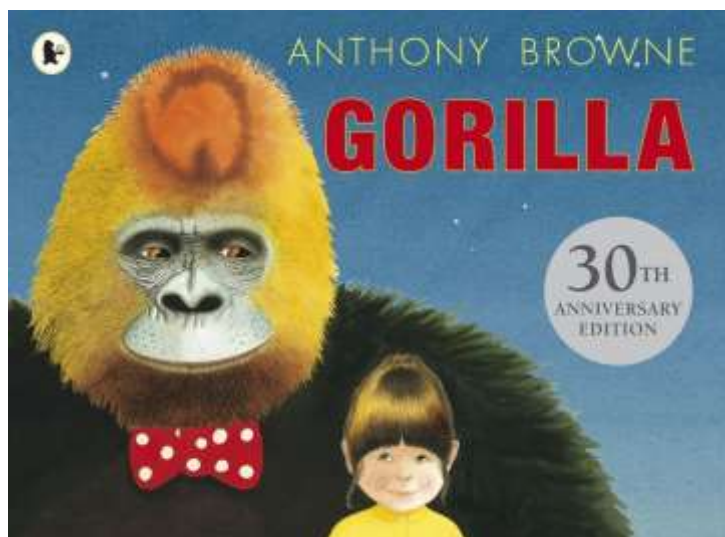
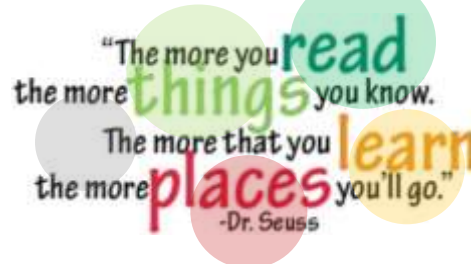
Reading for Pleasure

Our 21-22 SJF Booklist

To see our 2021-22 booklist please click [here](#).

This Week's Feature Books

Our feature book for younger children is: **Gorilla** by **Anthony Browne**



The Book Trust Review

Hannah's favourite animals in the whole world are gorillas; she reads about them, watches programmes about them, and draws pictures of them. But all she really wants to do is see a gorilla in real life. Hannah's dad is always too busy to take her to the zoo, so on her birthday, Hannah decides to ask for a gorilla of her own.

This fantastical picture book from 2009-2011 Children's Laureate and Hans Christian Andersen Award winner Anthony Browne is a warm and sensitive story. With its beautiful, slightly surreal illustrations, it is a magical story to treasure and share again and again. Please click [here](#) to find out about this book!

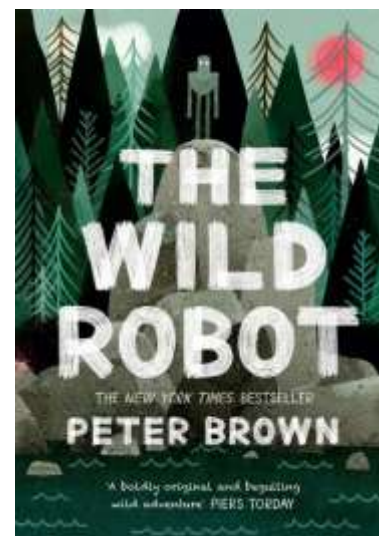
Our feature book for our older children is '**The Wild Robot**' by **Peter Brown**.

The Waterstones Review

An engaging tale that explores many important themes. We can only hope that Roz serves as the template for all future robots. When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is - but she knows she needs to survive.

After battling a fierce storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realises that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants.

As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home - until, one day, her mysterious past comes back to haunt her. This is a novel that is as thought-provoking as it is enchanting. Please click [here](#) to find out more about this wonderful book!



Term 3 Curriculum Overviews

Our latest curriculum Overviews were shared at the beginning of the week. They are available by clicking this [link](#).

Please get in touch if you have any questions or need any support. Thank you.



Our Term 3 Learning Value

This term we focus on our 'Respect' value. Having respect for ourselves and others is very important, not just in school, but in life as well. Having respect:

- ✓ helps us to be more self-confident and to encourage others so that they can also be more confident
- ✓ helps us to see ourselves and others through *kind* eyes
- ✓ teaches us to *like* ourselves and to be proud of our achievements without ever being arrogant
- ✓ means we can celebrate others' qualities and achievements
- ✓ enables us to build resilience so that we are able to face challenges positively, and overcome them eventually
- ✓ is vital in teams and keeps communities strong and united
- ✓ enables us and others to feel happy, safe and loved
- ✓ opens our minds to new ideas and possibilities
- ✓ helps us to learn more about our own lives and those of others respectfully
- ✓ teaches us to be unafraid of difference and to always remember that much is also shared in common
- ✓ helps us to grow as people, as children of God, and fulfil our potential gradually and over time
- ✓ shows us that we also have a part to play in helping others to grow and achieve their potential too



Statement to Live By

Our 'statement to live by' is '[I try to follow school and classroom rules](#)'

Time to talk: What are rules?

Why do we have rules?

What rules do we have in school and in the classroom?

What would happen if we did not have any rules?

Do rules help us and others to feel happy, safe and loved? How?

What rules do you like?

What rules don't you like?

Why? Can you explain your choices?

Always be honest
PROVERBS 12:22

Forgive and forget
MICAH 7:18

Be kind hearted
EPHESIANS 4:32

Keep your promises
ROMANS 4:21

Work hard
COLOSSIANS 3:23

Be thankful
1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

Never give up
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

but most important
Love One Another
1 PETER 1:22

