

SJF NEWS

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Friday 25th February 2022 (Issue 22 2021/22)



Citizen of the Week

This week our special award goes to **Freddie** in **Y5** who knows why it is so important to cooperate with us in work and play, in line with this week's Statement of Belief. Freddie has such a generous spirit, and will always put others first. He not only listens actively to others (and supports them with their ideas), but he is always willing to contribute his own thoughts as well. Freddie, you not only have a deep understanding of what teamwork is, but you are also a fantastic support and example to so many others! Thank you and congratulations!

Smiley Scores

Term 4 so far...



2021-2022 so far...



The Feast of St David & Yellow Day

As St David's Feast Day is on Tuesday 1st March, the members will celebrate 'Yellow Day' on **Monday 28th February** instead. A reminder that only members of St David's House are allowed to wear something yellow. For children in FS2, who are also members of St David's House, the invitation to wear something yellow still applies. However, as it is also their PE day we ask that they wear something comfortable and wear their usual PE footwear so that they can join in with their PE lesson. No need to send them in with PE kit. Thank you.

100 Smilies

Congratulations to the following children who have earned 100+ smilies so far this year! In FS2 we have Harley, Harry and Maya and in Y1 we have Eliel, Felicity, Libbi, Movean and Scarlett!

Weekly Attendance		
1 st	Y2	100% Bobby will visit next week
2 nd	Y4	99.6% Brenda will visit next week
3 rd	Y1	99.2% Elvis Owl will visit next week
4 th	Y3	95.7%
5 th	Y5	95.3%
6 th	Y6	93.0%
7 th	FS2	91.8%
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 96.4%



Get Set, GO!		
1 st	Y4	87%
2 nd	Y2	85%
3 rd	Y3	78%
4 th	FS2	77%
5 th	Y5	76%
6 th	Y1	71%
6 th	Y6	71%
		Average = 78%





Achievements outside of School

Please share details of your children's achievements out of school, via our school email address (enquiries@st-johnfisher.org) and we will celebrate them in our weekly newsletter. Thank you.

- **Imogen** in **FS2** passed her Level 3 swimming assessment and can now swim without any arm bands! Congratulations Rebecca!
- **Seren** in **Y1** recently donated her hair to 'The Little Princess Trust' who make wigs for children who have lost their hair through illness. She also raised over £500 to support the great work of the Trust. Her family is very proud of Seren, as are we. Thank you, and well done, superstar, what a special gift you have shared!
- **Rebecca** in **Y3** passed her 25m swimming assessment for breaststroke and received a special badge. Well done Rebecca!

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. A reminder that school will be closed on Monday 21st February 2022, because it is an INSET day. The first day of Term 4 will instead be Tuesday 22nd February 2022.

SJF School Council Update



The St John Fisher School Council met this week, with all members in attendance for the first time in quite a while. Here's a word from one of our Y5 councillors on what was discussed.

This week the whole council met for the first time in a while. It was really nice to be together again and see everyone! We discussed holding a non-uniform day to help raise funds for a special 'Buddy Bench' we want to buy. We're really excited to be able to meet together again and we're looking forward to our next meeting.

Edie, Y5 School Councillor

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 Mass times and arrangements for sacramental preparation is available via this [link](#).

February Prayer: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen





Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Thank you to the children of **Y5** who led our beautiful liturgy this week. Our next liturgy will be led by the young people of **Y4** on **Thursday 10th March 2022**. There will be no liturgy next week because of our Ash Wednesday Mass. A reminder that recordings of all liturgies and Masses are available to watch via this [link](#).

Our Term 4 'Virtues to Live By'

Next term we will be focusing on the key virtues of **love** and **charity**. Please click [here](#) to link to more information about our virtues. Thank you.

What is Lent?

The word "Lent" came from the Old English *lencten* meaning "spring" (the season).

Lent is a period of about six weeks leading up to Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and, in the Catholic Church, ends at the ninth hour of Maundy Thursday. It is supposed to be forty days like the forty days Jesus spent in the desert reflecting, praying and preparing for His own death and resurrection. It is a time when Christians try to be quieter and more thoughtful, as they also prepare themselves for Easter.



Lent is a time of repentance. Christians are expected to pray more as they reflect on their own lives and relationships with God. It is a time to address and sort those things in ourselves and our lives that take us away from God's love and care. Lent is also a time of hope; an opportunity to refocus and renew and strengthen our personal bonds with God – putting behind us all of those things that disrupt our relationships with God. During Lent, Christians give money to the needy, to charities and other good causes. They may choose to do something extra for someone else and give up some of the things they might otherwise do for pleasure.

The period of Lent ends at Easter, which is a time of great celebration as Christians recall the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made to save us from our sins; first by suffering and dying on a cross and then by his rising from the dead on the third day. Before He died Jesus forgave the sinner crucified alongside Him. Jesus showed us that He loves us all the same and died for us all, and, most importantly, that it is never too late to turn to God.

Our SJF Lenten Journey

We will embark on our Lenten journey together as a school community. Our assemblies and liturgies will support us through this journey, and we will build in additional time for prayer and reflection as each class will have three Lenten class liturgies each week, details of which will be shared in the next newsletter.

Ash Wednesday

You are all welcome to join us for this year's special Mass for Ash Wednesday, at **9.30am on Wednesday 2nd March 2022**. It will be led by the young people of Y6 and marks the start of the season of **Lent**, a very important forty-day journey to the greatest and most important Christian feast, **Easter**.



This is the first time, in two years, that we are able to invite parents/carers to join us. The whole school community is excited to welcome everyone back, where they belong, with us, supporting us and our Catholic life at this time of great uncertainty in the world. We again thank Fr Bede for making this possible and for celebrating Mass.

Our Lenten Prayer: 'The Confiteor'

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done,
and in what I have failed to do;

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.



Ukraine Crisis

Our SJF school community shares the shock of the world at the events unfolding in Ukraine, following the Russian invasion. A number of our children have voiced their concerns about what is happening, including some who have families living in eastern Europe. Their fears are real, and we take them seriously.

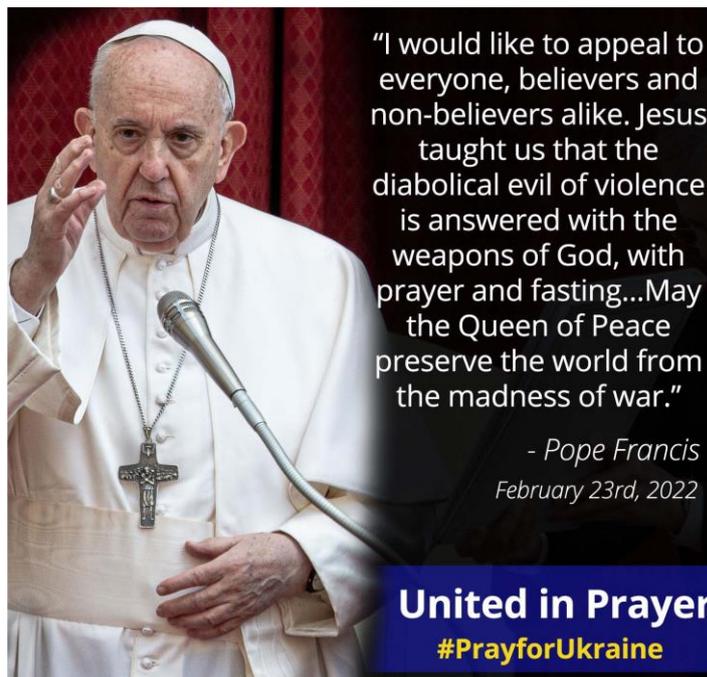
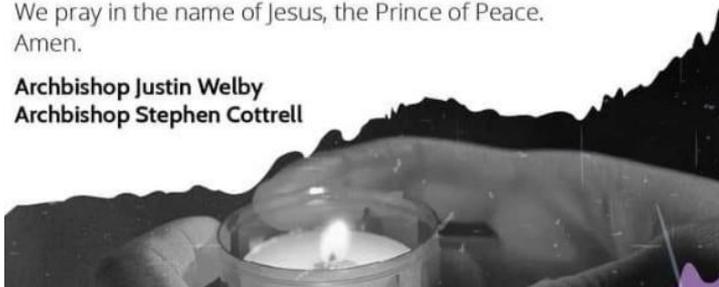
We shared prayers for peace as a community at Celebration Assembly today. We also reminded our children that they can (and should) talk to parents/carers at home and anyone in school whenever they feel anxious. We will obviously do all we can to help, reassure and support them.

As a staff, we are also joining together in order to reflect on these terrible events and to pray for peace; to pray for our children's families in eastern Europe; and to pray for all those caught up in this terrible and contrived conflict. Some of us are meeting each day at lunchtime in order to pray the Rosary as a direct response to Pope Francis' call to prayer - and we will continue to do so until there is peace.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
 we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
 We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
 We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
 that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
 We pray for those with power over war or peace,
 for wisdom, discernment and compassion
 to guide their decisions.
 Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
 that you would hold and protect them.
 We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
 Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
 Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



"I would like to appeal to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. Jesus taught us that the diabolical evil of violence is answered with the weapons of God, with prayer and fasting...May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war."

- Pope Francis
 February 23rd, 2022

United in Prayer
 #PrayforUkraine

Golden Children

- FS2** **Nadia** for always being helpful and kind. She always tries her very best in all her learning and has a very positive attitude!
- Y1** **Arya** for being a shining example to all our Y1 children! She is polite and well behaved, 100% of the time! Well done Arya!
- Y2** **Kyrel** for making a great start to Term 4. You are clearly thinking carefully about what you are learning which shows us how hard you are trying and how much you want to achieve! Well done!
- Y3** **Emily** for being such a kind and thoughtful friend to a classmate. Emily took really good care of them and it was lovely to see. What a great example you are, well done Emily!
- Y4** **Katie** for having such a brilliant week! She always sets a great example for others to follow and does the right things!
- Y5** **Elizabeth** for trying really hard to improve her attitude to her work. She is trying really hard, particularly in mathematics. Well done!
- Y6** **Charlie** for displaying such a brilliantly hardworking attitude this week and for making a real effort to progress. What a superstar you are!

Writing Champions

- FS2** **Pedro** for producing some excellent and independent writing about our planetarium experience! Well done, superstar!
- Y1** **Ewan** for creating a wonderful piece of writing in RE as he completed speech bubbles from our re-enactment of the Last Supper! He even remembered all the words Jesus spoke! Well done Ewan!
- Y2** **Jacob** for producing a fabulous information booklet detailing the different parts of the Mass! What a star you are!
- Y3** **Lincoln** for writing a gripping playscript based on the legend of Romulus and Remus! He made the story his own, by considering characters and thinking carefully about what they would say. A star!
- Y4** **Eva** for thinking carefully about the vocabulary choices in her story about a Viking boy and for trying to using great time conjunctions and expanded noun phrases to make her writing interesting!
- Y5** **Lily-Mae** for producing an absolutely fantastic STEM Week report, recalling all the things she did and learned! It was amazing! Well done!
- Y6** **Giovanni** for increasingly using complex sentence structures and including excellent descriptive language in his writing! What a star!

SJF Drama & Musical Theatre Clubs

A reminder that Mr Smith is setting up a new after-school drama club for children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6). The first session is on **Monday 28th February 2022**, and will last from 3.30pm until 4.30pm. The cost of each session will be £1.00.

Mr Ormesher's 'Musical Theatre Singing Club' started today, and proved very popular, with a big turn out. A reminder that the sessions will take place each Friday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and are open to all children in Key Stage 2. The cost is also £1.00 per session, payable on the day. Thank you.



SJF STEM Week 2022

STEM Week 2022

I would like to thank my colleagues for all their hard work in planning this week's highly successful SJF STEM Week 2022.

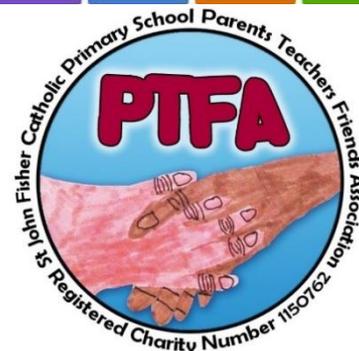
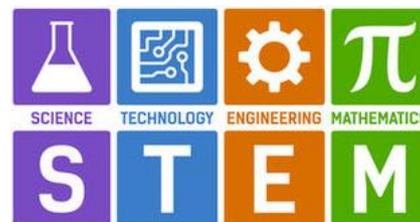
It was an exciting week of learning and a true celebration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

I would also like to thank Mr Broadhead for coordinating the week as well as our dear friends from the PTFA for funding the planetarium, which fascinated and enthralled the children, consolidating and extending the understanding of those who have already studied space as part the Science curriculum.

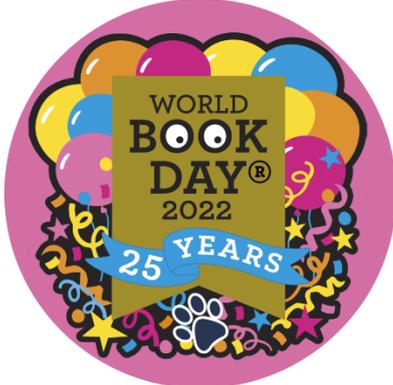
For all, it was just a fantastically immersive and interesting experience.

If you want to support our PTFA, especially now, as we begin to emerge from COVID restrictions, and are able to do more, please email the committee directly to offer your ideas and support on ptfa@st-johnfisher.org. New ideas and members are always welcome!

Please click [here](#) and go to the 'News' section, or this [link](#) to go to the class pages and find out more about the fantastic things the children got up to as they applied their knowledge and skills in order to answer some big questions.



World Book Day 2022



To celebrate World Book Day 2022 we are inviting the children to join in with our special 'bedtime reading' theme, because reading together, every day, especially to wind down and relax at bedtime, is so important.

Children can therefore come to school wearing pyjamas or a favourite onesie. Children can also dress up or dress down in something else if they prefer, as it is a special day. Children in Years 5 and 6 who wish to get involved are asked to bring their PE uniform with them to change in to later.

In return, members of our PTFA will be on the gates collecting a suggested donation of **£1+** from children opting not to wear school uniform

This year, the proceeds will go towards funding the library revamp that is being planned, so all donations will be very gratefully received! In addition, there will be book swap. Children are invited to bring in at least **one** book with them to school to donate.

In return for their donation(s) they will receive a token, which will allow them to visit a special bookshop and choose other pre-loved books to take home. We are especially keen to receive donations of books that would be suitable for our older (KS2) pupils. Any books that aren't taken home will either be donated to the school library, or will be sold by the PTFA at a later date.

WORLD BOOK DAY
3 MARCH 2022
25 YEARS

WORLD BOOK DAY BOOK SWAP

Thursday March 3rd

Bring a book, take a book!
Children are invited to bring in **AT LEAST 1 book**. In return they'll receive a token that they can use to buy a pre-loved book.

“The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go.”
-Dr. Seuss

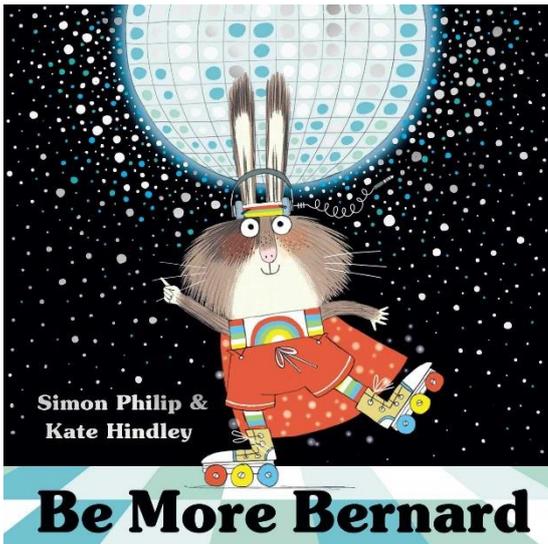
Our Feature Books of the Week!

Our full 2021-22 SJF book list can be accessed via this [link](#).

Our latest recommendation for our younger children is:

'**Be More Bernard**' by **Simon Phillip**.





The Waterstones Review

A heart-warming ode to being yourself and standing out from the crowd, *Be More Bernard* introduces a disco-dancing bunny with a big heart and even bigger dreams. Joyously silly yet with a serious message about individuality, this is a winner from start to finish.

Perfect for fans of Jim Field and Julia Donaldson, *Be More Bernard* is the brilliant story of a disco bunny who will encourage us all to chase our dreams and embrace our differences.

When the other bunnies bounced, I bounced. When they hopped, I hopped. When they slept, I did too. Like them, I dreamed. But MY dreams weren't the same. They were less... rabbit.

Bernard has decided that he's not going to be like all the other bunnies any more. He's not going to twitch his nose and prick his ears. And while others might dream of carrots, Bernard's dreams are altogether more... disco!

He starts small, but when he finally gets to groove with grace and jive with joy at Bertie and Brenda's Bunny Ball, Bernard shows the world that being yourself is the very best thing a bunny can be.

Please click [here](#) to find out more.

This week's recommendation for our older children is: **'Egypt Magnified'** by **David Long**.

The Waterstones Review

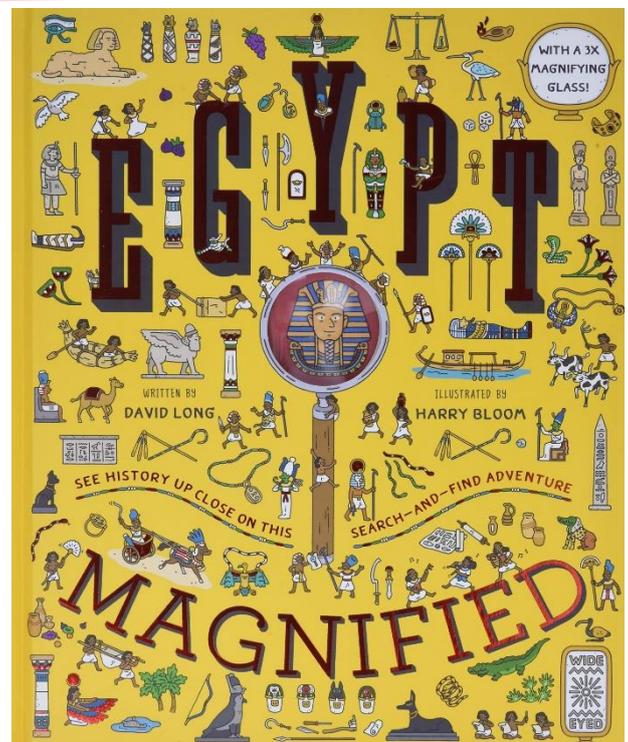
Explore ancient Egypt, from the Nile to the pyramids, and learn what life was like for pharaohs, slaves and scribes in this fascinating search-and-find adventure.

Use the specially provided magnifying glass to spot over 200 things in each eye-boggling and detail-packed illustration, each depicting a different scene from the fascinating world of ancient Egypt.

From the rich floodplains of the Nile delta to the towering magnificence of the pyramids and the sphinx, this book teaches kids about what life was like in one of the earliest civilisations, with factual text presented alongside the stunning illustrations.

Scenes include:

- the Nile and the desert,
- the Library of Alexandria
- the court of Akhenaten and Tutankhamun
- Cleopatra and her fierce navy
- a guide to Egyptian hieroglyphics!



From David Long, the author of *Pirates Magnified*, *Romans Magnified*, *Castles Magnified* and *Ancient World Magnified*, this book will inform and entertain even the youngest historian for hours on end.

Please click [here](#) to learn more.

**CHALLENGE
ACCEPTED**

Our BYB Challenge (Week 23)

Please follow this [LINK](#), for a demonstration of our latest 'Beat Your Best' challenge demonstrated, this time, by Kessy one of our Sports Majors.

This week we have another fun challenge, this time demonstrated by Kessy, one of our fantastic Sports Majors! The challenge is to see how fast you can successfully dribble a basketball around a set of cones. The aim of this fun challenge is to help you improve your dribbling skills.

Make sure you join us and come and have a go at break-time with Kessy and Mr Johnson!

See how fast you can complete the challenge! Why not see if you can beat your personal best?

Statement of Belief

Next week our 'statement of Belief' is "**I try to use words that make the world better.**"

Time to talk: Why is it important to use kind words when we talk to (and about) others?

Why is it wrong to say unkind words or share lies?

How does it feel when people say positive things?

How does it feel when they don't?

