

SJF NEWS

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Friday 1st April 2022 (Issue 27 2021/22)



Citizen of the Week

This week our special award goes to **Freya** in **Y2** who is beginning to really understand why it is important to ask for help when she needs it. She knows who to ask, and feels happier to do so. This is because Freya understands that everyone in school cares for her and wants to help her. She is trying so hard and is producing some wonderful work. Freya is also very kind, polite and well behaved. Everyone is delighted with her!

Term 4 Smiley Scores



Term 4 Champions

Congratulations to the members of St David's House, our Term 4 champions! They have worked very hard to earn the most smiles, not just in Term 4, but cumulatively over the school year so far too! Well done!

100 Smileys

Congratulations to everyone who has earned 100 smiles! In **FS2** we have Racquel; in **Y1** we have Freddie D; in **Y2** we have Charlotte, Gabriella, James, Kristian, Natalia, Renae and Tilly; and in **Y5** we have Cavani and Freddie!



Reminder: The Feast of St George & Red Day

The Feast of St George is on Saturday 23rd April. As our annual Resurrection Mass is on Friday 22nd April, 'Red Day' will move to **Monday 25th April 2022**. Members of St George's House only will be invited to dress down and come to school wearing something red if they have it. Thank you.

Attendance: Final Week			
1 st	Y1	91.0%	Bobby Bear visits next term
2 nd	Y5	88.4%	Brenda Bear visits next term
3 rd	Y6	87.8%	Elvis Owl visits next term
4 th	Y2	87.6%	Billy Bear will visits next term
5 th	FS2	83.5%	
6 th	Y3	82.8%	
7 th	Y4	82.3%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 86.3%	



Get Set, GO!		
1 st	FS2	78%
2 nd	Y4	63%
3 rd	Y6	63%
3 rd	Y1	62%
5 th	Y5	60%
6 th	Y3	53%
7 th	Y2	45%
Average = 61%		

Attendance: Term 4		
1 st	Y5	95.8%
2 nd	Y1	95.2%
2 nd	Y2	95.1%
4 th	Y4	94.0%
5 th	FS2	93.6%
6 th	Y3	93.5%
6 th	Y6	93.5%
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 94.4%



Attendance: Year to Date		
1 st	Y2	97.4%
2 nd	Y5	96.6%
3 rd	Y4	94.7%
4 th	Y1	94.5%
5 th	Y3	94.4%
6 th	Y6	94.0%
7 th	FS2	91.9%
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 94.8%



Attendance

In the last week of Term 4 we posted very low weekly attendance figures. There are several reasons for this. Many members of our families and wider community have been affected by the recent spike in COVID cases. A number of our children were also affected by this and a nasty vomiting virus. We do understand the pressures and the importance of following the guidance. The reality is that COVID continues to be ever present in our city and local community, resulting in high numbers of new infections and reinfections. We continue to monitor the situation closely and if advised, we will adjust routines and reintroduce measures. In the meantime, it is *vital* important that children who are fit and well do attend school as often as possible. Please avoid unnecessary absences, including term-time holidays, except when circumstances are truly exceptional. Unauthorised term-time holidays have contributed to our low overall attendance figures.



Achievements outside of School

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

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 life, the times of Masses, Easter Services and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available via this [link](#).

Passion Liturgy

I would like to thank the children of Years 3-5 for leading the beautiful Passion liturgy on Wednesday. Everyone did brilliantly! Our Liturgy had been written by the children, based on their learning and growing understanding of the Passion of Our Lord. Their retelling was incredible, as was their singing. I would like to thank my wonderful colleagues for their hard work in bringing together the children's ideas and for helping them to prepare so well. Thank you also to Fr Bede for allowing us to use the church and to all the family and friends who were able to join us. Our Passion Liturgy is available to watch via this [link](#).



Holy Week Explained

The last week of the holiday is Holy Week and here is an explanation from the Catholic Family Website ([here](#))

Holy Week is a wonderful season of services and Masses that help us to reflect on the mystery of God's love. Easter can make us uncomfortable because it challenges us to acknowledge our own sinfulness, when we would rather believe that our weaknesses are acceptable, but this is the point of Easter. Easter is a time for a new spiritual discipline; a chance to meditate on our own imperfections and stand in awe of the radical love of a God who died to set us free.



Palm Sunday (10-04-22)

The Service is slightly longer than a usual Sunday Mass which marks the beginning of Holy Week. We begin by reading a recount of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. Palms are blessed with holy water. This part of the service can take place outside, but if not practical, can take place inside before Mass begins.

The Gospel reading recounts the whole passion story, which is why this day is also known as "Passion Sunday". Palm Sunday has a bitter-sweet tone. On the one hand the story is upbeat with the crowd joyfully proclaiming Christ as the long-promised Messiah, yet by the end of the week, he is executed brutally.

Holy Thursday (14-04-22)

In the morning is the **Chrism Mass** where the holy oils are blessed by the Bishop at the Cathedral, along with as many Diocesan priests as available, for use during the coming year.

In the evening is the **Mass of the Lord's Supper**. This includes the washing of the feet. It is the night of Our Lord's last meal with his Disciples; His torment in the Garden of Gethsemane; His betrayal by Judas, arrest and trial.

Mass is concluded with the stripping of the sanctuary of all decoration (flowers, altar cloth, banners etc) and by the transfer of the Eucharist from the tabernacle to the Altar of Repose (usually a side altar). Everyone is then invited to stay in church for a while afterwards to 'keep watch' with Christ, as Jesus asked His disciples to keep watch while he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane (known as the Agony in the Garden).

Good Friday (15-04-22)

"It was now about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the land until the ninth hour. The veil of the temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' With these words he breathed his last." (Luke 22)

Stations: There are two approved versions. Most churches observe the tradition of having 14 stations displayed on the walls of the church, a tradition dating back to St Francis of Assisi. Pope John Paul II instigated the Scriptural Way of the Cross which includes the Agony in the Garden and an optional 15th for the Resurrection.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion: This is not a Mass but is a communion service with the veneration of the Cross where people are invited to kiss the feet of Jesus on a crucifix. The readings recount the passion of Jesus and the mood is sombre. The service takes place at 3pm as we understood this to be the time when Jesus died.

Holy Saturday (16-04-22)

The Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday is the peak service of the Church calendar and has four parts:

1. **Service of Light:** the church is in darkness; the people gather around a large fire from which the new Paschal candle is lit. The light is then spread from person to person until all have a lit candle.
2. **Liturgy of the Word:** There are nine readings. They begin with creation and retell the story of redemption.
3. **Liturgy of Baptism and Confirmation:** This is when new members to the Church are baptised/confirmed.
4. **Liturgy of the Eucharist:** The newly baptised present the bread and wine and make their first communion.

Easter Sunday (17-04-22)

This Mass is all about the Resurrection of Jesus! It is because Jesus rose from the dead on a Sunday that Christians call Sunday, 'The Day of the Lord'. This differentiates Christian tradition from the Jewish Sabbath which is on a Saturday. The word 'Alleluia', which has not been said at all during Lent returns as a victory cry!

Lenten Class Liturgies

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our class liturgies during Lent. These have been special and important moments in our school life, when the children (and staff) have been able to pause and reflect on their day, their hopes and challenges; and their personal Lenten journeys. We are glad that so many could join us.



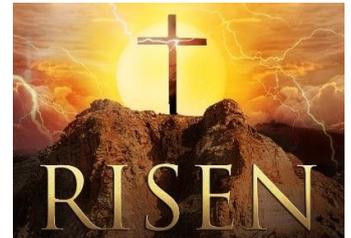


I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done,
and in what I have failed to do;

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.

Resurrection Mass 2022

Our annual Resurrection Mass, takes place on **Friday 22nd April 2022**, at **10.00am** in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Please note the time, as it is a slightly later start than our usual time. The liturgy will be led by the young people of **Y4** and we again thank Fr Bede for leading our celebration and for giving us permission to record the Mass so that those in our community who are unable to attend will be able watch it via this [link](#). Thank you.



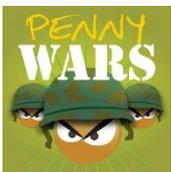
Weekly Liturgy of the Word

A reminder that there will be no Liturgy of the Word in the first week back after the Easter holiday, because we have our Resurrection Mass. This means that the next Liturgy of the Word, led by the young people of **Y2**, will take place on **Thursday 28th April 2022**. We would like to invite their families and friends to join us in the school hall on the day. Entry will be via the Y5/Y6 entrance. Please do not attend if you feel unwell or have COVID symptoms. This, and all liturgies, are being recorded and are available to watch online via this [link](#). Thank you.



Our Term 5 'Virtues to Live By'

When we return for the start of Term 5, we will focus on the virtues: **forgiveness** and **honesty**. Please click [here](#) for more information about them, thank you.



SJF Chaplaincy Team Update: Extension of the SJF Penny War

We have decided to extend our 2022 Penny War in support of the bishop's 'Good Shepherd Appeal' into the first two weeks of the new term. The pupils are invited to collect pennies and two-pence pieces in their individual class collecting jars

A **penny** is worth **one point** and a **two-pence piece** is worth **two points**. However, silver coins can be used to sabotage another class's total because silver coins deposited into the jar of another class jar will reduce the total number of points in that jar. A **5p** piece will reduce the total number of points accumulated by **5** points, **10p** will reduce the total by **10** points, **20p** by **20** points and **50p** by **50** points.



At the end of the week the coins will be counted and once all deductions have been made, the victorious class will be announced and rewarded with some 'Golden Time'. All money raised will be passed on to support the vital work of our Diocesan caring services.



CAFOD Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine -
For all those suffering or afraid -
That you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders -
That they will have the compassion, strength and
wisdom to guide their choices.



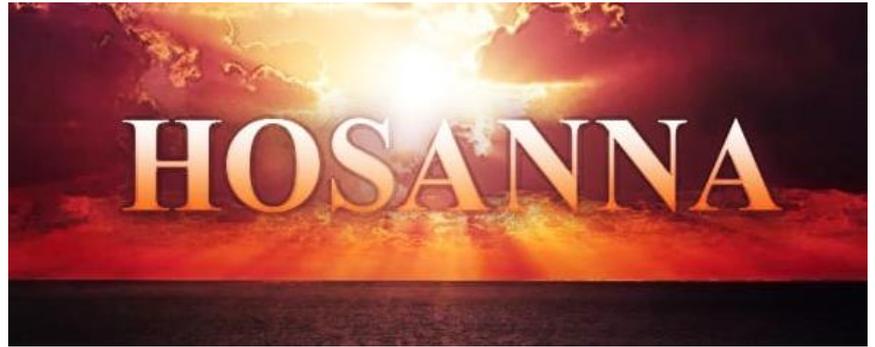
We pray for the world -
That in this moment of crisis we may reach out in
solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for
all the world.



Our April Prayer: 'The Sanctus'

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He -
Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.



Golden Children

- FS2** **Igor** for trying really hard to improve his listening and for showing his developing attention skills during our TT Rock Stars final!
- Y1** **Libbi** for having a fantastic attitude to learning. She produced a super set of instructions on how to make a delicious jam sandwich, remembering to include all the key features! What a good listener!
- Y2** **Tilly** for being an absolute superstar all term, showing amazing self-belief and resilience in times of challenge! What a star!
- Y3** **Aureilia** for always making sure that everyone around her has the support they need, especially if they are upset. Thank you for looking out for classmates; making sure that they feel happy, safe and loved!
- Y4** **Isaac** for having a fantastic term and for displaying an increasingly mature attitude in every aspect of school life. Everyone is immensely proud!
- Y5** **Logan** for trying so hard to concentrate so that he is able produce his best work. He was very proud of his history writing this week, and showed Mr Barratt and told him all about it. He was very impressed!
- Y6** **Alfie** for making such a brilliant effort to improve his accuracy and speed in arithmetic. Well done superstar, we are all very proud of you!

Writing Champions

- FS2** **Violet** for working hard to make her letters smaller when she is writing. She is trying really hard!
- Y1** **Lilah** for being a brilliant role-model to her classmates, because she is reliable and someone who sets such a good example when she focuses on her learning, tidying, lining up and walking around school!
- Y2** **Jack S** for his wonderful writing and retelling of the events of Palm Sunday! Absolutely brilliant! What a star!
- Y3** **Kyle** for really making a great effort within our independent writing this week! Kyle really pushed himself to write the best story that he could that used lots of rich vocabulary.
- Y4** **Erin** for working so hard on her writing this term. Her efforts have resulted in fantastic improvements to both the quality and quantity of her work and writing. Keep it up!
- Y5** **Oscar** for trying really hard with his history writing this week and for working so hard to improve his presentation!
- Y6** **Annabell** for remembering to include a fantastic range of different sentence structures in her writing. Well done!

SJF School Council Update



Here is an update from **Emily**, one of our Y5 Councillors:

This week, we have been talking about trying to collaborate with the St John Fisher Healthy Minds team, so that we can both raise money for the same cause. We're really excited about our idea and we think it will be great for the other children in our school.



“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](#)

THE NO.1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING PICTURE BOOK



Alexandra Penfold

BLOOMSBURY

Suzanne Kaufman

Our latest recommendation for younger children is:

'All Are Welcome'

by Alexandra Penfold

The Waterstones Review

No matter how you start your day, what you wear when you play, or if you come from far away, all are welcome here.

Follow a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcome. A school where children in patkas, hijabs, baseball caps and yarmulkes play side by side. A school where students grow and learn from each other's traditions. A school where diversity is a strength.

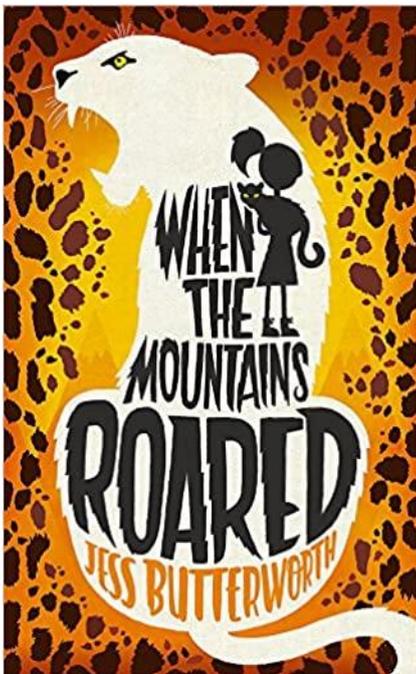
Warm and inspiring, *All Are Welcome* lets young children know that no matter what, they have a place, they have a space, and they are welcome in their school. Engaging lyrical text and bright, accessible illustrations make this book a must for every child's bookshelf, classroom and library.

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

Our recommendation for older children is

'When the mountains Roared'

by J Butterworth & R Biddulph



The Waterstones Review

A vivid, warm and atmospheric adventure set in the mountains of India, about a girl who is determined to protect the wild leopards of the mountain from poachers, perfect for fans of K Rundell.

I thought we'd live here forever, but then, I thought Mum would be here forever too.

When Ruby's dad uproots her from Australia to set up a hotel in the mountains of India, Ruby is devastated. Not only are they living in a run-down building in the middle of the wilderness surrounded by scorpions, bears and leopards, but Ruby is sure that India will never truly feel like home - not without her mum there.

Ever since her mum died, Ruby has been afraid. Of cars. Of the dark. Of going to sleep and never waking up. But then the last remaining leopards of the mountain are threatened and everything changes. Ruby vows to do all she can to protect them - if she can only overcome her fears...

Click [here](#) for more information about this special book.





Department
for Education

Y6 Pre-Test Reminder

Our Y6 children have been chosen to do a special pre-SATs test in grammar, spelling and punctuation for the Department for Education (DfE) on **Tuesday 19th April 2022**. This is the *first* day back after the Easter holiday. The test will be administered by representatives of NFER who have been contracted to carry out the work for the DfE.

Our BYB Challenge (Week 28)

Please click [here](#) for a demonstration of our latest 'Beat Your Best' challenge demonstrated by Gio, another of our Sports Majors.

During half term we thought we would bring back a fun challenge that can be done at home. All you need is a ball or anything similar, for example, a ball of socks. The challenge is to throw a ball in the air, clap whilst the ball is in the air and then catch the ball. Every time you catch the ball you would then have to perform an extra clap, for example the first throw would be 1 clap, 2nd throw 2 claps and so on. Have a go and see if you can beat your best!



Term 4 Finals: Spelling Bee & Times Tables Rock Stars

Well done to all the children who qualified for the Term 4 **Spelling Bee** and **TT Rock Stars** finals! They were all wonderful! Congratulations to **Jack** in **Y2** who is our new Spelling Bee champion and **Luca**, in **Y4**, who is our TT Rock Stars champion for the second time in a row! Well done to both children!



Summer 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. We are grateful to parents and carers for supporting us.

A reminder that in Terms 5 and 6 summer dresses can be worn with white socks. The dresses should be in a light blue gingham check. They can be purchased either from our official uniform suppliers or major retailers.



This image shows the only style that is part of our SJF uniform range. No other colours and styles of summer dress are allowed.

The wearing of summer dresses is not obligatory, and pupils can opt to continue wearing full school uniform if they prefer or it is easier for parents/carers.

Pre-loved summer dresses will be available to purchase from the PTFA, and here are links to the SJF pages on the websites of our two official suppliers:

- **Logo Leisurewear** SJF uniform please click [HERE](#)
- **School Trends** please click [HERE](#)



Term 5

A reminder that school reopens for the start of Term 5 on **Tuesday 19th April 2022**, straight after the Easter Bank Holiday weekend and we look forward to welcoming you all back.

Our Term 5 Learning Value: Teamwork

This term we focus on the value, 'Teamwork'.

Teamwork is key in both in learning and sport. When we pull together we are greater and can achieve more than when we separate and isolated and focused on doing our own thing.

Teamwork enables us to share what we know and do well with others. It also enables us to listen and learn from others' knowledge and experiences.

Being part of an effective team provides its members with opportunities to learn about leadership and supporting those who lead.



Statement of Belief

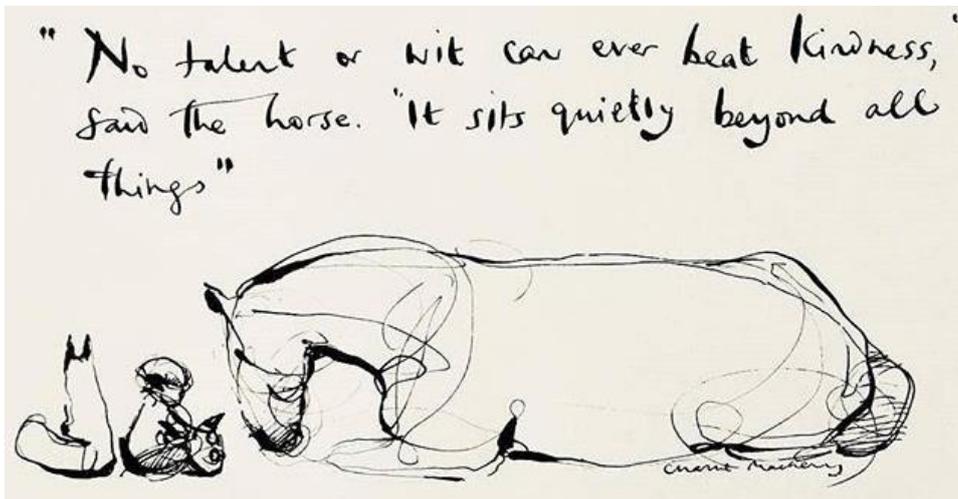
Our next 'Statement of Belief' is **"I know what humility means."**

Time to talk: Humility is a quality that people demonstrate when they have a modest or low sense of their own importance. It is a quality demonstrated by the life and example of Jesus Christ.

It is a trait of all the saints who came to know and love God and whose lives are examples to us.

To show humility is not to diminish yourself in any way, but rather to lift others up by your words and actions.

Why is it important to show humility? What difference can it make? What would the world be like if more people showed humility, especially those in powerful positions?



Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.
C.S. LEWIS.

Finally

I would like to thank my wonderful colleagues for their hard work and dedication over Term 4. I would like to thank Fr Bede and our dear friends from parish of Our lady of Lourdes for all their support with our building work and Catholic life. I would like to thank our Governors and friends from our Multi-Academy Trust for the important and often unseen work that they do and finally I would like to thank our wonderful children and families for all they bring to our special community.

I wish you all a peaceful, healthy and happy holiday and pray that you have a joyful Easter!

