

SJF NEWS

www.st-johnfisher.org | www.ourladyoflourdessheffield.org.uk | Friday 2nd December 2022



Citizen of the Week

 There was no Celebration Assembly this week as the community came together to welcome Santa and all his wonderful helpers from the PTFA and All Saints Catholic High school. Awards will be shared next week.

Gifts

So much has been turned on its head since the pandemic first hit the world in 2019/20. So many things we considered to be *certainties* can no longer be taken for granted. After two Christmases with restrictions of one kind or another, we can now, at least, look forward to a Christmas season that will hopefully feel a little more normal. That said, it is inescapable that COVID and flu remain persistent and ever-present threats.

As Christmas 2022 approaches, life is still loaded with so many uncertainties for us all. Inflation is causing real worry and even where people are lucky enough to be getting a pay-rise, many are finding that its worth is reduced or even wiped out by inflation. Many in Sheffield have lost their jobs or fear that it might happen as their employers and businesses struggle to cover costs in the current economic situation. We all face steep rises in the cost of heating our homes or running our cars; and businesses - facing the same pressures - are being forced to pass on increased costs to us. The result is that so many families across our city and in our community are having to cut back significantly, and in some cases make stark choices about whether to heat or eat; pay increased bills, rent and mortgages; and scale back on their plans for Christmas.

With all this in mind – and knowing how generous you always try to be when showing your appreciation at Christmas time for the hard work and dedication of my colleagues – I just wanted to reassure you that gifts are not expected by any of us here in school. With so many of you facing such enormous pressures, let this be one small thing that you do not have to worry about. The gift of your prayers is always appreciated. Gifts of quality pre-loved uniform that we can pass on to the PTFA or families in need, is also appreciated as are gifts of books for our library and class book corners. Your presence at school events, services and liturgies is very much appreciated too - as are simple cards or emailed messages of thanks. In these most challenging of times, it is so important that we try to look after one another as much as we can. So, if anyone is feeling low or anxious about what will unfold for them and their family, in the coming weeks and months, or is already struggling in any way, please talk to us in confidence and we will listen, and do all we can to help. Thank you.

Support for Families

NeighbourGood

Local support if you're worried about finance, energy, meals and more.

Welcome places to go

Warm friendly places to go, trusted advice and people to talk to **when you need it**



Help and advice on money issues
<https://sgo.co.uk/moneyadvice>



Citizens Advice Sheffield
<https://sgo.co.uk/CANSH>



Community support helpline
<https://sgo.co.uk/CSH>



Cost of living guide
<https://sgo.co.uk/CostOfLivingGuide>



Family Centres
<https://sgo.co.uk/FamilyCentres>



Libraries
<https://sgo.co.uk/libraries>



Volunteer, community & faith venues
<https://sgo.co.uk/CommunitySupportCentres>



How you can help
<https://sgo.co.uk/HowToHelp>



For urgent support call the Community Support Helpline on 0114 273 4567



Reminder: Flu Vaccinations





A reminder that the children will receive flu vaccinations, on **Friday 9th December**, as part of a UK-wide NHS programme. Please click [here](#), for more information and contact us if you have any questions. Thank you.



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Term 2 Smiley Scores

St Andrew's House  689 1198	St David's House  726 1236	St Patrick's House  702 1183	St George's House  682 1183
--	---	--	--

Attendance this Week			
1 st	Y3	99.6%	Bobby Bear will visit next week
2 nd	Y6	98.4%	Brenda Bear will visit next week
3 rd	Y4	98.1%	Elvis Owl will visit next week
4 th	Y2	97.9%	Billy Bear will visit next week
5 th	Y5	96.7%	
6 th	Y1	90.7%	
7 th	FS2	84.0%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 95.1%	



Get Set, GO!		
1 st	Y2	82%
2 nd	Y4	74%
3 rd	FS2	73%
4 th	Y5	72%
5 th	Y3	70%
6 th	Y1	68%
7 th	Y6	64%
Average = 72%		

Lyceum Panto Visit Reminder

A reminder that on **Wednesday 7th December 2022**, the whole school community will be travelling to the Sheffield Lyceum Theatre in order to watch this year's panto, 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The performance will start at 1.00pm, meaning that we will need to leave school at 12.00pm in order to arrive and settle the children in good time. The pantomime will last for approximately 2.5 hours.



As we will need to leave at noon, the children will have an earlier lunch, from 11.00am, so that they are ready when it is time to depart. Though we expect to return to school by 4.30pm our actual arrival time will be dictated by the performance-length; the time taken to leave the theatre after it and board the coaches; and the amount of traffic on the journey back to school. We expect to return to school between 4.30pm and 5.00pm and ask that parents/carers please wait on the playground and not on the pavement outside school.

Mrs Ramsden will open the gates at 4.15pm so that parents/carers can make their way on to the playground to wait for the children. Staff will be stationed on all exit gates once the children are back, to ensure that no child leaves the site unaccompanied.

As it will be dark when we return from the theatre, and the children will be tired, staff will need to take great care ensuring that they keep track of every child. We therefore ask you to be patient and to wait on the playground for your children, rather than on the pavement. Waiting on the pavement outside school will cause congestion and make things more difficult for the adults supervising the children. Once in school the children will collect their things, before being released from their classrooms on to the playground in the usual way. The younger children will be brought down, and because it will be dark, we ask that their parents/carers make themselves known when their child's name is called.

Please note that the children will not be released to anyone on the pavement outside school.

If there are any significant delays we will notify you by text, so please ensure that your details are up-to-date, so that you receive the alerts. Again, we thank our fantastic PTFA for paying for the transport, providing interval snacks for the children and volunteers to support school staff. If you would like to get involved, please contact them via their email address: ptfa@st-johnfisher.org. All offers help and ideas are welcomed! Thank you.



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Santa in School Day 2022

Today we were visited by Santa! The day began with Santa and his elves greeting our children! Santa even waved at everyone from the roof shortly after landing! All the children, staff and their parents and carers, were so excited! All the children visited Santa in his grotto and were able to spend time with their buddies at the PTFA Christmas Fayre, that packed full of things to buy and do!

So many wonderful craft activities to entertain the children! It was such a special day because of the hard work and planning of our friends from the PTFA and the volunteers who supported them so brilliantly, including parents and carers and a number of former pupils who were given permission by All Saints Catholic High School to return and support this special event!

I would like to thank Santa and our fantastic PTFA committee and volunteers for all their hard work in organising and running this special event, which takes almost a year to plan and prepare for. Please click [here](#) to check out the 'News' section on the SJF website for more photographs from this special day.

Special events like this, which contribute so richly to our children's experience of school, do not happen by accident. They take planning and the teamwork and parents/carers, just like you.

If you would like to get involved and help our PTFA to continue making a positive difference in school for our amazing children, please click [here](#) to get in touch with Catherine Cooper, the current PTFA Chair, and the PTFA committee. Offers of help and support are always welcome and appreciated greatly. Thank you.

National Poetry Day: Our SJF Anthology

To celebrate National Poetry Day, our SJF Eco Team and Healthy Minds Champions joined forces earlier this term to coordinate a poetry competition to celebrate the beauty of the Earth and the awesome power of nature.



Our young poets impressed with the quality of their writing so much so that we decided to include them all in a special anthology which you can view via this [here](#). We hope you will enjoy them as much as we did.

Our Catholic Life

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Citizenship Statement of Belief Assembly (Headteacher)	'Virtues to Live By' Class Assembly (Teachers & Chaplains)	Themed Assembly (Teacher-Led)	Weekly Liturgy of the Word (Class-Led)	Celebration Assembly (Headteacher & Deputy Headteacher)
Chaplains' Liturgies (Years 1, 5 and 6)				Chaplains' Liturgies (Years 2, 3 and 4)
				Story Liturgy (FS2)

Parish News

Information about parish/Diocesan life including the times of Masses and services throughout the seasons of Advent and Christmas, confession and sacramental preparation is available via this [link](#) to the parish website.

Our Term 2 Virtues to Live By

Our SJF virtues are **hope** and **patience**.



Advent Class Liturgies



Our Advent class liturgies have started and we thank all those who have been able to either join us or who have booked for an upcoming liturgy. Our Advent journey to the great feast of Christmas is an important part of our Catholic life. Our Chaplains are helping teachers to organise the simple Advent class liturgies that will take place until Friday 16th December 2022. Parents/carers are invited to book one liturgy in each class where their child is a pupil. If they want to attend more then we ask that they call on the day to see if there are spaces. Liturgies are on the following days:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y1 Y5 Y6	FS2 Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6	FS2 Y1 Y2 Y5 Y6	FS2 Y1 Y2 Y3 Y4	FS2 Y2 Y3 Y4

The only days when there will be no liturgies at all in school are on the following days:

- Tuesday 6th December FS2 Nativity
- Wednesday 7th December panto day
- Tuesday 13th December Y1 Y2 Nativity
- Wednesday 14th December Y1 Y2 Nativity



Nativity Plays

A reminder that our FS2 nativity plan takes place on **Tuesday 6th December 2022** and we ask that children come to school wearing **PE uniform** instead of normal school uniform, as it is easier for the children to change in/out of. The nativity play will again be filmed, professionally, so that the picture and sound quality should be of good quality. This special keepsake will be available for family members to buy/collect before Christmas. The filming of the FS2 nativity play takes during the dress rehearsal on **Monday 5th December 2022**.

Our Y1 Y2 nativity performances takes place on **Tuesday 13th** and **Wednesday 14th December 2022**. Professional filming takes place on **Monday 12th December**, and the films will also be available before the end of term, in time for Christmas. Details of costs etc. will be shared separately.

Neither film will be uploaded to our website, and we ask that they are not uploaded to social media after they are distributed. Whilst a number of parents/carers are happy for their children to be filmed they do not want their children's images to appear on other people's social media. Photographs of children will be shared on our website. These will be of children whose parents/carers have given consent for us to do this. A reminder that parents/carers can give or withdraw consent at any time, and if you wish to change your preferences you should speak to Mrs Ramsden or Mrs Grayson in the School Office. Thank you for your support.

The Blessing of The Marie Kerley Library

On Wednesday 30th November 2022 we welcomed Bishop Ralph, Fr Bede, SJF Governors, our friends from the PTFA, the Parish of Our Lady Lourdes and Gripple came together as a school community for the blessing of our refurbished library, which was renamed in honour of Marie Kerley, a former teacher who left our school a generous legacy to be used to improve the building/grounds for the the children.



Mrs Kerley was apparently extremely passionate about reading and instilling in the children she taught an enthusiasm and love of books.

We therefore wanted to refurbish the library and rename it in her honour so that it will stand as a lasting legacy both of her dedicated service to our community in its early days and to recognize her generous gift to us, which is enabling us to improve our school environment and facilities.





Some of our Chaplains welcomed Bishop Ralph, Fr Bede and all our guests as part of the simple liturgy they led. Bishop Ralph and Fr Bede then made their way to our library, accompanied by our other guests and a few of our School Councillors, SJF Eco Team members, Sports Majors and Healthy Minds Champions to bless the space before re-joining everyone in the hall for the final blessing.

We thank Bishop Ralph, Fr Bede for joining us in order to meet everyone and to bless our library.



We would like to thank our fantastic PTFA for all their incredible work to transform library. We also thank the management and team from Gripple for all the time they gave up to design, decorate and make resources, including the incredible 'tree-shelf' unit in the middle of the library.

We thank the parishioners and other friends of the school who sewed seat covers. We thank the Governors who were able to join us; Mrs Barrett for organising the liturgy; our Chaplains and all the children who were magnificent and a real credit to our community.



Finally, we thank Mrs Drummond, one of our parents, and owner of 'Adele Drummond Photography' (click this [link](#)), for taking and donating the beautiful pictures, more of which are available to view [here](#).



KS2 Annual Carol Service

Our Key Stage 2 Carol Service, (Years 3 to 6) will take place on **Tuesday 20th December 2022** at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. The service will start promptly at 2.00pm. The service will be filmed and a recording will be made available to watch via our website, shortly after, by clicking this [link](#).

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Our next Liturgy of the Word, led by the children of **Y2**, is on **Thursday 8th November 2022** and we invite our Y2 family and friends to join us in the school hall from 9.00am. Recordings of liturgies are available via this [link](#).



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust





Our December/Advent Gathering Song

When is he coming,
When, oh when is he coming, the Redeemer?
When will we see him,
When, oh when will we see him,
The Redeemer?

Come, oh come,
from your kingdom up there,
from your kingdom up there above!
Come, oh come, to your people on earth,
to your people on earth bring love!
Emmanuel! Emmanuel! Emmanuel!

O God,
Forgive Us

The Act of Contrition

During Advent we prepare for Christmas by saying sorry for our mistakes and by trying hard to make those key changes in our lives that we need to make. Our prayer is called the Act of Contrition.

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.**



BYB Challenge

Congratulations to everyone who had a go at Priscilla's 'Hoola-Hoop' challenge last week. You all worked amazingly hard throughout the week and quite a few of you achieved fantastic scores and managed to beat their best!

This week our BYB challenge has been set by Oscar, another of our Sports Majors. His challenge requires the children to dribble a basketball and to see how quickly they can weave between a line of cones, whilst keeping control of the ball. Too easy? Why not see how many times it can be done in 60 seconds?

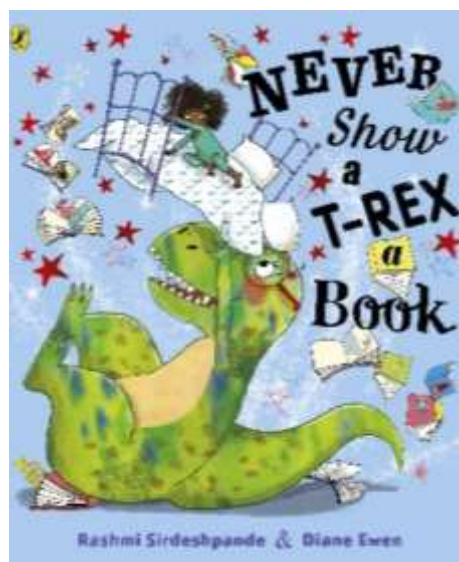
Click [here](#) to watch Oscar's video demonstration. You can have a go at school or home, just find Miss Barrett or Oscar on the playground at playtime and tell them your scores or show them your skills! Good luck!

SJF Christmas Dinner 2022

A reminder that our school Christmas dinner, is on **Thursday 15th December 2022**. It will be a special non-uniform day, so the children can come to school dressed up or down in whatever they like!



Our Feature Books of the Week!

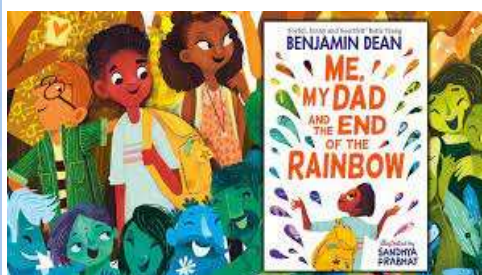


Our full 2022-2023 **SJF book list** and links can be accessed [here](#).

Our latest feature books are:

Never Show A T Rex A Book by Rashmi Sirdeshpande (click [here](#))

Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow by Benjamin Dean (click [here](#))



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



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Achievements outside of School

Please email us details of your children's achievements outside of school via our main email address (enquiries@st-johnfisher.org) so that they can be shared in the newsletter, and celebrated.

- **Ignas** in **FS2** has just received certificates because of the tremendous effort he is putting in to all his swimming lessons! Well done, Ignas!
- **Zach** in **FS2** has just been inducted in to the Squirrels (the youngest group in the scouts) and received his necktie and first three first three badges! Congratulations, Zach!
- **Vaani** in **Y1** has met all the requirements to receive her Octopus 2 certificate! Amazing news, Vaani!
- **Charlie** in **Y4** achieved his Blue Belt recently, scoring 46 marks out of a possible maximum of 50! Congratulations, Charlie!
- **Jai** in **Y4** has worked hard to achieve his 15 metre swimming award! A great achievement, Jai, well done!

Our Statement of Belief

Our statement next week will be '**I think before I make choices that affect my health.**'

Time to talk: Together you could think about what it means to be healthy.

What sorts of things help us to be healthy physically and mentally?

What sorts of things will make us unhealthy?

How can making healthy choices help us to be happy?

"It is health that is
real wealth and not
pieces of gold and
silver."

~ Mahatma Gandhi

TAKE CARE OF
YOUR BODY.
IT'S THE ONLY
PLACE YOU HAVE
TO LIVE IN.

"MAY
YOUR CHOICES
REFLECT YOUR
HOPES,
NOT YOUR
FEARS"

- Nelson Mandela



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

