

SJF NEWS



www.st-johnfisher.org | www.ourladyoflourdessheffield.org.uk | Friday 10th February 2023

Citizen of the Week

This week's citizenship award was presented to Sofia in **Y5** for understanding the importance of listening. Sofia knows that listening actively is important for lots of reasons. Firstly, it means that we do not miss information shared to help us learn or be safe. Secondly, the simple act of listening actively shows the person speaking respect, which is *always* important. What a great example you are, Sofia, we are all extremely proud of you!

Term 3 Smiley Scores



Term 3 Champions

Congratulations to the members of St George's House, our Term 4 Champions, you have all done brilliantly!

100 Smilies

Congratulations to the following children who have earned 100 smilies.

- **Y1** Jasper
- **Y3** Charlotte, Gabriella, Hector, Julia, Matilda, Niamh and Tilly
- **Y5** Dominique, Eliana, Emily and Willow

Attendance Final Week of Term 3

1 st	FS2	99.7%	Bobby Bear will visit in Term 4
2 nd	Y4	99.4%	Brenda Bear will visit in Term 4
3 rd	Y5	99.0%	Elvis Owl will visit in Term 4
4 th	Y3	98.6%	Billy Bear will visit in Term 4
5 th	Y2	97.3%	
6 th	Y6	95.0%	
7 th	Y1	94.3%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 97.6%	



Get Set, GO!

1 st	FS2	88%
2 nd	Y2	83%
3 rd	Y5	81%
4 th	Y4	78%
5 th	Y6	73%
6 th	Y1	67%
7 th	Y3	60%
Average = 76%		

Attendance Term 3

1 st	Y4	98.6%	
2 nd	Y3	98.0%	
3 rd	Y5	97.7%	
4 th	Y2	97.6%	
5 th	FS2	97.2%	
6 th	Y1	93.5%	
7 th	Y6	93.4%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 96.6%	

Attendance: Year to Date

1 st	Y3	97.3%	
2 nd	Y5	97.0%	
3 rd	Y2	96.6%	
4 th	Y4	95.2%	
5 th	FS2	94.8%	
6 th	Y6	93.7%	
7 th	Y1	92.3%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 95.3%	

Attendance in most classes improved significantly in Term 3, exemplified by the figures for the final week, which were much stronger, because four of our classes exceeded our 98% target and a fifth came close. Attendance of pupils in **Y1** and **Y6** is being monitored closely now because Term 4 is a crucially important time of preparation for national tests in May (**Y6** SATs and **Y1** national phonics screening).



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Term 4 Learning Value

When return after the holiday, our Term 4 Learning Value will be 'Self-Belief'.

Self-belief is all about:

- ✓ trusting in our own abilities
- ✓ setting ourselves challenging but realistic goals
- ✓ gaining confidence and thinking of ourselves positively

If we have self-belief, we understand that:

- ✓ we can achieve our potential if we believe in ourselves and are resilient
- ✓ we should continually set more challenging goals to help us stay motivated to move forward
- ✓ gaining confidence gives us the strength to carry on – even when it feels easier to give up

We can show our self-belief by:

- ✓ having a positive and determined mind set
- ✓ encouraging others supportively to try (and keep trying) to achieve their goals
- ✓ really believing that we can call reach our potential and achieve our goals

The following words come to mind when we think of self-belief:

- courage
- determination
- positivity
- tenacity and focus
- faith
- confidence
- assuredness
- inner strength
- resilience



The King's Coronation

The government has announced that there will be a special bank holiday, following the coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III on Saturday 6th May 2023. The additional holiday will fall on **Monday 8th May 2023**, so school will close on that day. Please click [here](#) for more information.



Department for Education

Implications for Statutory National Tests

As Monday 8th May 2023 had previously been announced as the first day of the 2023 Key Stage 2 (KS2) assessments (Y6 SATs) the government has changed the KS2 test schedule. Ministers decided that the tests should still take place that week, and follow the usual order. However, each test will now be completed one day later than originally planned. So, instead of running from Monday to Thursday that week, they will run from Tuesday to Friday, instead. The details are:

Tuesday 9 th May	Wednesday 10 th May	Thursday 11 th May	Friday 12 th May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ grammar, punctuation & spelling (paper 1) ○ spelling (paper 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reading paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ arithmetic (paper 1) ○ reasoning (paper 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reasoning (paper 3)

The Department for Education (DfE) also announced that there will be no changes to arrangements for other assessments, including KS2 (Y6) writing teacher assessments, Key Stage 1 (Y2) tests/teacher assessments, the Y1 phonics screening check and the Y4 multiplication tables check. For more information, please click [here](#).

Healthy Minds Coffee Afternoon



Thank you to everyone who attended our special coffee afternoon, which was aimed especially at the parents and carers of children in Y5 and Y6 currently. Lynette and Jacqui from the Sheffield Healthy Minds Team shared tips, ideas and useful information about supporting children through their statutory tests and the sometimes tricky transition to secondary school. I would like to thank Lynette, Jacqui, Mrs Hadfield and Mr Smith or all their hard work, as well as everyone who was able to join us. Please look out for more opportunities to join us for similar events.



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Reminder: Strike Action

Unless called off by the NEU, official strikes will take place in most Sheffield schools on the following dates:

Tuesday 28th February 2023

Wednesday 15th March 2023

Thursday 16th March 2023

Though the strong indications continue to be that our school will be able to remain open to all pupils on all three days, it is important to note that NEU members are allowed to change their minds at any time, and without giving notice. Our advice therefore continues to be that all parents/carers should have backup childcare plans, just in case anything changes. If the situation does change then be assured that school will follow the published government guidance and share details of our revised plans as soon as we can.



PTFA News

PTFA committee members met with me and an expert from the local Wildlife Trust to discuss ambitious plans to create a sustainable wildlife pond, a copse of new saplings and wildflower area on our school grounds.

If you would like to support this exciting project directly, or if you have useful contacts who could us with resources, ideas and time, please contact school or our PTFA (ptfa@st-johnfisher.org).



We are especially interested in hearing from anyone interested in helping us build the new spaces and/or supporting our Eco Team maintain the areas once they are built. Thank you.



The BYB Weekly Challenge

Here is a message from Miss Barrett:

Hello everyone! Well done for all your hard work in our latest 'Beat you Best' challenge this week, and special thanks to Katy, one of our Y6 SJF Sports Majors, for coming up with the challenge.

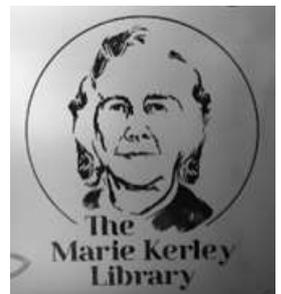
Some of you were so excited to try the challenge and then to return and beat your best scores, which was absolutely fantastic to see! I would like to give a special mention to Pedro in **Y1** and Renee in **Y3** who came and had a go every day - never giving up!

Our next challenge, for the first week back, after what I hope will be a very relaxing holiday for you all, is a basketball bouncing challenge brought to you by another of our Y6 Sports Majors, Freddie. He wants to see how many times you can bounce a basketball between your legs in 30 seconds! Just remember to let me or Freddie know your scores and good luck! Please click [here](#) to view Freddie's demonstration!

The Marie Kerley Library

Please note that from the start of Term 4 The Marie Kerley Library will be fully open for lending. I would like to thank Mrs Golland and Miss D'Roza for all their hard work in sorting the new stock of books as well as the checking in/out technology.

Please ensure that your children have their library books with them on their designated book-swap days. We really do encourage the use of book bags rather rucksacks because not only are they easier for the children to carry, they also protect books and are easier for us to store in school, particularly in **FS2**, **Y1** and **Y2**. Thank you.



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



Marie Kerley Legacy

As part of our legacy project a shelter has been designed and installed in 'The Oasis' providing our Y1 pupils, primarily, with an outdoor learning area accessible throughout the year. It will support the learning of all children and especially those who join Y1 and are not quite ready because they need an extended period of transition in a familiar set up with the sort of indoor/outdoor continuous provision they know from their time in FS2.



Our Catholic Life

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

Parish News

Information about parish and Diocesan life including the times of Masses and services, confession, details about sacramental preparation and information about parish-based Lenten and Easter events is available via this [link](#) to our parish website.



Our New Term 4 Virtues to Live By

Our new SJF virtues are **charity** and **forgiveness**.

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Our next Liturgy takes place on **Thursday 2nd March 2023**, and will be led by the children of **Y3**. We welcome their family/friends to join us in the school hall from 9.00am. Click [here](#) to watch recordings of previous liturgies.

Lent 2023



Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance, when Christians confess their sins and profess their devotion to God. On **Wednesday 22nd February 2023**, at 10.00am at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, our school community will come together for a special **Ash Wednesday** Mass, led by the young people of **Y6**, which will mark the beginning of our Lenten journeys.



Lent is a very special time in the Christian calendar, a time of preparation for Easter, the greatest of all Christian feasts. The ashes used to gently mark our foreheads during Mass originate from the burning of the dried palms from the previous year. The mark reminds us that we are loved equally by God and that our lives are special but short, and should therefore be lived selflessly and for the benefit of others.

Lent can also be a blessed time for those who make the most of the opportunity to reflect on their own lives, struggles and those things that keep them from God - and then resolve to do, and be, better.

Lent is a time of hope; a chance to repent and start again, by making the changes we need to make so that we can benefit from having a full relationship with God. It is a time to show love and respect for others and especially those who are poor and marginalised in our city and our world. It is a time when we are challenged to use our gifts, abilities and talents to do more to help others practically and by praying for them and making sacrifices, for example, by fasting or giving up certain things that we enjoy. Information about what we will be doing to support Bishop Ralph's 2023 Good Shepherd Appeal will be shared in our next newsletter. A reminder that the appeal supports the vital work of small charities that do so much good here in Sheffield.

As Christians, we believe that Easter recalls the incredible sacrifice that Jesus made for us when he was crucified and died for all our sins, before rising again, three days later, in order to destroy those sins and set us all free.



In short, Lent is a time when we are called to pray, fast and give.

Lent Class Liturgies

As part of our Lenten journey, our chaplains will help organise simple Lenten class liturgies at the end of the school day. These will last from **Monday 27th February 2023** until **Friday 31st March 2023**. As places are limited - and to ensure everyone has an opportunity to join us for at least one liturgy - we invite parents and carers to book one liturgy in each class where their child is a pupil. If parents/carers wish to attend more than one liturgy we ask that they call on the day to see if there are spaces.



As with the Advent class liturgies, our Lenten liturgies will, generally, take place on the following days but might, sometimes, be subject to change. Our school office team will notify everyone if this is the case.

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

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



Spelling Bee

Congratulations to all the marvellous pupils who qualified for our Grand-Final after first winning their finals in their individual classes.

Every single child tried incredibly hard as they were each challenged to spell some very tricky and difficult words!

After battling through the rounds, Eliana in **Y5** prevailed as our new champion. A fantastic achievement and we all congratulate her!



Golden Children!

- FS2** **Harlow** for being such a star all week! She is always kind and helpful and has tried her very best in all of our activities. What a star you are!
- Y1** **Ry** for making such a fantastic start to his St John Fisher journey! Ry always tries hard and is already emerging as such a wonderful role-model for other children! We are so proud of him! Well done, Ry!
- Y2** **Chloe** for working hard all term - showing great determination with all her learning! What a fantastic attitude, Chloe!
- Y3** **Elliott** for being a wonderful team-player this week and for demonstrating real Y3 maturity in all aspects of school life!
- Y4** **Aureilia** for having such a positive attitude and for always being so helpful to everyone in class. Great work, Aureilia, we are very proud of you!
- Y5** **Bruno** for working really hard in class and so productively with his class partner. Keep up the good work!
- Y6** **Daniel** for being such a great friend to everyone in Y6, and for making excellent progress in both reading and maths! We are all very proud of you!

Writing Champions!

- FS2** **Ignas** for working really hard to develop his writing skills both at school and at home. Good boy!
- Y1** **Nicholas** for his excellent writing about George Stephenson! He managed to remember so much from his history lesson and included all this fantastic information! Well done!
- Y2** **Heidi** for including some lovely information in her writing, which was all about Jesus' last supper. Fantastic work!
- Y3** **Caleb** for creating some fantastic sentences which include some great similes. Well done!
- Y4** **Jacob** for the fantastic editing of his Viking writing!
- Y5** **William** for thinking carefully about his language and vocabulary choices when drafting his brilliant transmission, so it was both realistic and believable!
- Y6** **Isabelle** for working very hard to develop her knowledge and skills around GPS which has resulted in her making such brilliant progress at Assessment Point 2! Congratulations!



Maths Champions!

- FS2** **Hugo** for his excellent number work this week, in which he has been focusing on *one more than...*
- Y1** **Abigail** for really trying hard to do her maths tasks independently, we are so pleased with how hard she is trying!
- Y2** **Eliel** for working really hard to consolidate and apply his learning in our maths lessons! Well done!
- Y3** **Natalia** for putting in lots of effort and demonstrating resilience with all the maths challenges set this week!
- Y4** **Hyrum** for his great independent work on fractions! It was brilliant! Well done Hyrum!
- Y5** **Sam** for being so super helpful when working with others and sharing his own mathematical expertise to help them. This has also enabled him to deepen his own understanding of fractions and decimals!
- Y6** **Eliana** for working incredibly hard to develop her arithmetical skills and knowledge this term which have *massively* boosted her maths scores! Brilliant work! Keep it up!

Uniform Reminder

A reminder that children are not permitted to wear earrings or other jewellery in school. We encourage the wearing of sensible analogue watches, as this can help children to tell the time. We have to be careful with smart watches, however, because of the access they can give children to the online world. Obviously, we take seriously our responsibility to protect all children from potential online risks, and watches that link directly to the internet can circumvent our internal security measures, including our firewall. We would prefer children to have traditional analogue (clock-face) watches as these will help them to tell the time. Digital watches that are not 'smart' are fine too. Smart watches that do have the ability to access the internet should have this feature switched off. Your support with this important issue is appreciated greatly, thank you.

Parent/Carer Meetings

We will be changing the arrangements for the forthcoming progress, achievement and target-setting meetings. The current system, whereby teachers from different year groups meet parents/carers for five-minute consultations on different days via phone or via a ParentMail video call, was introduced as part of our COVID reconnection plan. This approach actually has a huge impact on our capacity to provide important interventions for our most vulnerable pupils, because support staff have to be pulled to cover teachers who are talking to parents and carers. When planning the 2022-23 calendar we left the arrangements unchanged, because we were advised to be cautious.



Now that the strict public health rules for schools, around COVID, have been relaxed, we have taken the opportunity to revise the plan so that it has less of an impact on school life. The next round of meetings will therefore take place on just two dates, as we always did before the pandemic. This means that:

- ✓ all meetings will be via **ParentMail video call**, only, prebooked through the school office
- ✓ **afternoon** slots will take place on **Tuesday 28th February 2023**
- ✓ **early-evening** slots will take place on **Wednesday 1st March 2023**
- ✓ meetings already scheduled for children with additional needs will go ahead as planned and parents/carers are reminded that these meetings will also cover their child's progress, achievement and target-setting updates, meaning that they will not need to book additional slots

Mrs Grayson and Mrs Ramsden, who work in the school office, will share further details at the beginning of the new term. They will also be on hand to support anyone who is unsure how to access their video call(s). We appreciate that changing the plan at this stage is not ideal, but hopefully you will understand our reasons for doing so, and we certainly thank you for your patience and support.

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. Thank you.

- **Ignas** in **FS2** has been awarded two certificates for swimming, meaning that he is now ready to progress on to Stage 1! Congratulations, Ignas!
- **Ivy** in **Y2** has passed her swimming Stage 3 assessment and also achieved her 10 metre swimming distance award! Well done, Ivy, we are all very proud of you!

Our Feature Books of the Week!



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

Our latest feature books are:

Drawn Together by Minh Le & Dan Santat

Dragon Mountain by Katie & Kevin Tsang

Click [here](#) for information links about this week's feature books!

KS2 Penathlon

Here is a message from Miss Barrett

On Thursday eight of our KS2 children headed out to Concord Sports Centre to compete in a special 'penathlon' along with five other Sheffield schools.

The event was delivered by some individuals who have special educational needs, and our SJF pupils were so respectful of all the volunteers, displaying amazing understanding of this term's learning value.

The children gave their all in all seven events, led by Freya in Y3 who acted as the team captain. From curling to giant tennis ball dribbling, they really put in the work and we are so proud of every single one of them. The encouragement they gave each other while waiting for their turn to compete was outstanding and made the whole experience extremely positive.

We finished the event in fourth place and returned to school with shining medals and fantastic certificates which we are displayed proudly in the hall! Well done to Charlotte, Freya, Isobel, Florence, Jacob, Noah, Logan and Finn!

I would like to thank our children, Mrs Broadhead, Miss Barrett, Miss Birch and everyone who supported our children and organised and ran the event, including our friends from LINKS. Click [here](#) for more photos.

Our Statement of Belief

Our next 'Statement of Belief' is "**I cooperate with others in work and play**".

Time to talk: What does the word 'cooperate' mean? Can you find the meaning using a dictionary? Why is it important to cooperate in work and play? What sorts of things can we do and say to show that we are cooperating?

What might happen if we fail to cooperate?

