

# SJF NEWS

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## Farewell Class of 2017

Today we say goodbye to the young people of Y6! They are a very special group of young people who have contributed so positively to school life. We thank them for all they have contributed to our community this year and through all the years.

We pray for them and their intentions as they are about to embark on the next exciting phase of their journeys. They leave with all our love and best wishes for the happy, successful and healthy futures they all deserve.

We also say goodbye to families who have been part of our community for a number of years. They also leave with our sincere thanks and our prayers.

So farewell to:

- |                   |                    |                       |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| • Arianne Alfonso | • Mo Aloba         | • Abdullah Al-Rammahi |
| • Vinny Ambrose   | • Ben Cartwright   | • Ellie Cheetham      |
| • Melissa Clayton | • Kayleigh Collins | • Imogen Cranston     |
| • Lucas Diaz      | • Hanna Downes     | • Jensen Gough        |
| • Jack Green      | • Eden Hague       | • Kimi Hardy          |
| • Joe Hurst       | • Bitanga Kalyata  | • Julia Kepinska      |
| • Olivia King     | • Zarnetta Moomba  | • Abigail Morgan      |
| • Fran Needham    | • William Oadley   | • Lucy Owens          |
| • Jenson Pugh     | • Isabella Ramsden | • Asia Robinson       |
| • Evie Stamford   | • Isaac Thompson   | • Jack Waldron        |
| • Emma Watters    | • Isaac Woolhouse  |                       |

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves; who am I to be brilliant, talented, gorgeous and fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that others won't feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us!

It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone!

And as we let our own lights shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

**Marianne Williamson**





## **Staff News**

### **Mrs Drake**

Mrs Drake re-joined us for a second stint back in January and we were all delighted to welcome her back. We thank her for her hard work and dedication in Y3 over the past seven months or so and wish lots of happiness and success in her new job. We also congratulate her on becoming a grandmother for the first time at the end of last week to baby Elizabeth May!

### **Mrs Asquith**

Mrs Asquith leaves us after six years' service ultimately to pursue new opportunities in healthcare and in the shorter-term to care for and support her mother, who is very ill and her elderly father.

During her time with us Mrs Asquith has supported so many children and families with short, medium and longer-term issues. She has organised various parent/carer workshops and support programmes and has developed strong links with our multi-agency partners including the School Health Service, Social Care and MAST.

As Learning Mentor, Teaching Assistant and Staff Governor Mrs Asquith has been very active. She has also been a keen advocate for our Catholic life; responsible for the wonderful displays in our Sacred Space and around school created to mark the different seasons of the liturgical year and Sacramental events involving our children e.g. Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. As a staff, we take time to pray and reflect together regularly each week, and Mrs Asquith always contributed so positively during these important times.

A review of our inclusion and special educational needs provision was a priority for me when I joined our community in September 2012. Together with Mrs Asquith and Miss Kiernan an ambitious vision was set to make both inclusion and the provision for special educational needs and disabilities both strengths of the school. This included the establishment of a new and high quality dedicated learning area, which we now have ('The Ark'). The quality and impact of our provision has been recognised as a strength by OFSTED; the Diocese in the RE inspection; the local authority and our multi-agency partners; and - most importantly - by the children and families who have benefited most from our support.

Though a huge team effort, Mrs Asquith's contribution was significant, and this is part of the gift she leaves SJF. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her belief, focus, determination and resilience. Her rich legacy includes all the lives transformed *for the better* because of her, and the patience, love and care she has shown.

### **Miss Kiernan**

Miss Kiernan has been instrumental in developing our strategies for safeguarding, inclusion and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). She has worked tirelessly to ensure that our provision is effective. As a class teacher too she has worked hard across Key stages 1 and 2 to ensure that the children in her care have the best opportunities. As part of my leadership team she has been brave, loyal and so key to our journey.

Miss Kiernan has always been keen to focus more on the inclusion/SEND aspects of her role, and an opportunity arose for her to do this. Unfortunately it is elsewhere. Opportunities like this are very rare in primary schools and it was simply too good an opportunity for her miss. The Governors and I understand this and have been working on a solution that will enable Miss Kiernan to pursue her ambitions without disadvantaging our school. Miss Kiernan will therefore continue to lead inclusion/SEND as part of the leadership team until Christmas. This will give us time to implement a full transition to her eventual successor. A key priority is, of course, to maintain the level of care and support in place for all vulnerable children (and their families).

### **Mrs Barrett**

Mrs Barrett is so excited to be joining the community in September as our new Deputy Headteacher and Y3 teacher (working alongside Mr Hawley). She is a highly experienced teacher who has worked extensively in the Catholic sector; and for the last 16 years or so, at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in Hillsborough. She brings with her a wealth of experience and ideas and very much looks forward to being part of the team.

### **Mrs Morris**

Mrs Morris joins our Y1 Teaching and Learning Team, working as job-share with Mrs Sambrook on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Morris is a highly experienced teacher who has worked in all phases of primary education and has held a range of coordinator roles in school. Her greatest experience has been gained FS2 and Y1. She has already met the children and staff several times and she also looks forward to meeting everyone.

### **Mrs Pickering**

Mrs Pickering has taken over as Learning Mentor from Mrs Asquith and is available to support children and families on a wide-range of issues, including attendance, safeguarding, pupil wellbeing, learning and behaviour.



Last Week Attendance			
FS2	80.0%	-17.0%	
Year 1	91.42%	-5.58%	
Year 2	96.2%	-0.8%	Bobby Bear will visit next week
Year 3	86.7%	-10.3%	
Year 4	87.5%	-9.5%	Brenda Bear will visit next week
Year 5	90.6%	-6.4%	
Year 6	96.9%	-0.1%	Elvis the Owl will visit next week
Target	97%	This week's average attendance: 89.8%	

The final week's attendance was disappointing.

Term 6 Attendance			
FS2	92.0%	-4.0%	
Year 1	95.1%	-1.9%	
Year 2	96.1%	-0.9%	
Year 3	95.4%	-1.6%	
Year 4	97.3%	+0.3%	
Year 5	96.2%	-0.8%	
Year 6	94.8%	-2.2%	
Target	97%	This week's average attendance: 95.3%	

There has been a terrible vomiting bug which hit our attendance figures hard during Term 6.

Inevitably the Local Authority will now be monitoring the situation closely next term.

2016/17 Attendance			
FS2	95.7%	-1.3%	
Year 1	95.6%	-1.4%	
Year 2	97.9%	+0.9%	
Year 3	97.3%	+0.3%	
Year 4	97.6%	+0.6%	
Year 5	97.3%	+0.3%	
Year 6	97.3%	+0.3%	
Target	97%	This year's average attendance: 97.0%	

Overall we came in on target in spite of lower attendance records in the last few weeks.

Next year the school target rises to 97.5%, reflecting the higher expectations of attendance and to underline the importance of children in every year group attending school regularly.

### Attendance Golden Time

Congratulations to the children of **Y4** who had the best attendance in Term 6! They earned 'Golden Time' on the last day, and enjoyed an extended playtime.

Congratulations to the children of **Y2** had the best attendance over the year and therefore earned double 'Golden Time' on the last day, with two extended playtimes.

### Attendance Rules

The Local Authority and MAST team who monitor attendance have asked us to inform families that in order for your child to receive an attendance mark s/he must be in school for at least one hour after the register has been taken. If s/he leaves school within the hour we have to remove the 'present' mark and replace it with an appropriate absence code.

Therefore, if a child leaves for an appointment within an hour of getting marked in the register as present MAST expect us to amend your child's mark to 'absent' for session(s) missed.

### Good Attendance means...

Being in school at least 97% of the time or 184 to 190 days

#### Remember

Your education is important - don't miss out!

#### Did you know?

A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance a child can achieve is 94.7%



There are 365 days in a calendar year

175 days are not spent at school

"So there's plenty of time for shopping, holidays and appointments!"

#### Did you know?

When pupils attend school they:

- ✓ Can achieve their full potential
- ✓ Have better career prospects
- ✓ Learn how to look after themselves and be healthy
- ✓ Grow in confidence
- ✓ Keep up with work and homework
- ✓ Make new friends

## Curriculum Exhibition

Our final exhibition took place last Friday and was a real celebration of our children's work and learning. Thank you to all those who came along to support the event.





## New Email Address

Please note that our new email address from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2017:

**[enquiries@st-johnfisher.org](mailto:enquiries@st-johnfisher.org)**

## Parent Advice and Support – Drop-in Sessions

We hope to continue working with our partners from the Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST) in order to provide help, advice and support to all our parents, carers and families. The weekly drop-in sessions have proved popular and beneficial, enabling parents/carers to access the support and advice they need on a wide range of different issues. Mrs Pickering will share further information about this link at the beginning of next term.

Thank you.

## Term 6 Smiley Scores

<b>St Andrew's House</b>  <b>332</b>	<b>St David's House</b>  <b>319</b>	<b>St Patrick's House</b>  <b>351</b>	<b>St George's House</b>  <b>324</b>
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## Term 6 Winners

Congratulations to the Term 6 winners; the pupils and staff of St Patrick's House! They all enjoyed Golden Time on the last day!

## SJF Calendar 2017/18

Our new calendar has been shared. Here are some key dates from the first couple of weeks for you to note:

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	✓ Staff INSET day – school closed
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	✓ Start of new school year (Y1 - Y6) ✓ First day of Home visits to the children joining FS2 ✓ Review & Target Setting Meetings (Y1 - Y6)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	✓ Review & Target Setting Meetings (Y1 - Y6)
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	✓ Start of Year Mass (9.30am) – Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	✓ Last day of home visits to the children joining FS2
Tuesday 12 September	✓ Start of school year for FS2 (9.00am – 1.00pm) ✓ Y1 & Y2 Welcome Meeting in Y2 Classroom (children supervised in Y1) ✓ PTFA AGM – School Hall (6.30pm) <b>ALL WELCOME</b>
Wednesday 13 September	✓ FS2 (9.00am – 1.00pm) ✓ Y3 & Y4 Welcome Meeting in Y3 Classroom (children supervised in Y4)
Thursday 14 September	✓ FS2 (9.00am – 1.00pm) ✓ Y4 Liturgy (9.00am) – Y4 family & friends invited ✓ Y5 & Y6 Welcome Meeting in Y5 Classroom (children supervised in Y6)
Friday 15 September	✓ FS2 ( <b>all day</b> ) ✓ Y3 & Y4 educational visit to the Yorkshire Farming Museum ✓ Celebration Assembly – Y6 family & friends invited

## Achievements outside of School

- **Charlie Morgan** in **FS2** recently achieved the standard for Stage 1 ASA 'Learn to Swim' Award! A fantastic achievement Charlie, well done!
- **Bronte Webb** in **FS2** recently gained the British Gymnastics Level 6 Proficiency Award! A fantastic achievement, congratulations!
- **Summer Marsden** in **Y2** gained the most votes in order to receive the 'Dance Achievement Award 2016/17' at the Razzmatazz School of Dance! She also received a special medal to commemorate her achievement! She worked very hard to get this award, even taking a lead role in the annual dance production at the 'Octagon' last month! Congratulations Summer! A fantastic achievement!



### End of Year Mass of Thanksgiving

Last Friday the community came together for a special Mass to give thanks for the year; to recognise the contributions of everyone in our community who make our school such a special place; and to bid farewell to those pupils, colleagues and families who are moving on. It was a beautiful service conducted by Fr Paul supported by a vibrant music liturgy led by Miss Pendlebury and Miss Kiernan, with contributions from children in different classes and adults in different roles from right across the school. I would like to thank everyone who was able to come along and support us.

### The Nick Zelly Award

This is a special award given to a Y6 pupil each year who has shown a great attitude, talent and ability in sport. The award is made in honour of a much loved and highly respected former pupil; Nick Zelly who died tragically once he had moved on to All Saints Catholic High School. Nick was a role-model, and we honour his memory every day by having a simple memorial to him in school and by presenting this treasured award on behalf of his parents, who were always great friends and supporters of our school.

This year's award was presented to Olivia King. Olivia is enthusiastic about sport and loves PE. She displays our sports values every day and is always so determined and positive. She has a wonderful attitude and lots of ability, and is a great leader and team member. She is also a world-class ballroom dancer for her age and has appeared in 'Baby Ballroom' on '5Star'. Congratulations Olivia, we are all very proud of you!

### The Liam McGurrin Award

This is a special award given to a Y6 pupil each year who has demonstrated the values of citizenship which are core to our ethos. The award is made in honour of a much loved and highly respected former Headteacher; Liam McGurrin, who led our school for 25 years! He retired in 2007, but remains a great friend and even supported the music liturgy at our Diamond Jubilee Mass in June!

It is always such a tough decision, as the children are amazing. However, this year's recipient was Jack Green who has proved himself to be such a positive role-model not just this year, but in previous years too. Congratulations Jack, on earning this treasured award!

### The Endeavour Award

This is a special award given to pupil who has demonstrated depth of character, courage, resilience, determination, faith and good humour as s/he has faced adversity, trials, barriers and/or difficulties in the short, the medium and the longer-term. The Y6 pupil who received the award this year was Vinny Ambrose, who has demonstrated all of these traits in abundance, to achieve so much. We are all **so** very proud of him!

### Smiley Awards

At the end of term the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award winners; the children who achieved the most smiles, received special rewards. Here is a message from Mrs Drake:

*"On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July our 'Gold Award' children enjoyed a special day out. They spent all morning at Virgin money lounge in Sheffield and what a great time they all had. They played 'Mario Karts' on the HUGE screen; bowling (and getting bowling balls stuck!); choosing songs on the music player; playing pool and air football; and generally chilling out with drinks and snacks. Their manners and behaviour was excellent and the Virgin staff said that they had never seen such well-behaved children! Some of the children thought it was so amazing they hope to be back next year."*

Mrs. Drake would like to say a massive 'thank you' to all the parents and PTFA members who accompanied her and the children – they could not have done it without them!





### **Enterprise 2017**

Congratulations to the winning team in this year's Enterprise Challenge, sponsored by the PTFA!

The competition is linked to the All Saints Enterprise Challenge.

Congratulations to the winning team (from left to right): Ruby Hayward, Saffron Kilbride, Poppy Walton, May Woodhouse, Isabelle Walton-Hall.

They are pictured wearing their medals and holding the trophy along with Mrs Watters and Mrs Ramsden from the PTFA.

If you would like to help the PTFA please get in touch.

### **Rother Valley Park**

On Wednesday in the final week the children in Y6 enjoyed a day of walking down at Rother Valley Country Park. The children spent the day walking and enjoying the countryside, apart from a brief heavy downpour the weather was fantastic as were the children.





### All Saints Catholic High School

Our links with All Saints Catholic High School are very important to us and over the year our children have benefited in so many ways from the opportunities that All Saints has provided. I would like to sincerely thank Mrs Scott, the Headteacher who is retiring after 31 years of fantastic service to the community; Mrs Shaw, the Primary Liaison who is also moving on and all their colleagues and pupils who have worked with us in any way this year. We send them all our best wishes for a great holiday!

## All Saints Catholic High School



### School Uniform

#### *Ordering uniform*

A reminder that you can order branded uniform from our partners, School Trends. The earlier you order the better. You can visit the shop or order via this link: [www.schooltrends.co.uk](http://www.schooltrends.co.uk). When we return the girls can continue to wear school summer dresses until the holiday if they choose. Children are asked to wear proper black school shoes please, no trainers (even black ones) or boots.

#### *PE Kit*

Please remember that pupils are required to have a burgundy sweatshirt/hoodie and light grey 'jogging' bottoms to wear on PE days. These items can be purchased from School Trends with a logo or from another supplier without. If you choose not to buy the items from School Trends please ensure that they are **totally plain** and are not branded/decorated in any way. Thank you.

#### *Earrings*

Please remember that as earrings/studs cannot be worn to school the summer holiday is a perfect time to get ears pierced so that they do not need to be worn during the day by the time we return in September. Thank you.

## School Trends

### Statement to Live By

When we return our first 'statement to live by' is: **"We are all special"**

**Time to talk:** We are all special. We all have gifts and talents – things that make us unique. What makes you special? What makes your mum, dad, brothers, sisters, grandparents and friends special? Remember that God is perfection and so creates only perfection. That means each one of us is amazing! Our goal is to seek the perfection in each other rather than focus on faults and encourage one another to be happy and the best we can be.





### **Finally**

I would like to share some wonderful news with you. Mrs Evans has been promoted to 'Head of School' at St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School. I am absolutely delighted for her. We send her our prayers and best wishes for a good rest and a very happy and successful year in 2017/18!

I would also like to thank you all for your support this year. I would like to thank all the children who make our school such a happy and vibrant place; I would like to thank my colleagues who work so tirelessly, generously and passionately for our children and families; I would like to thank the PTFA for their constant support; I would like to thank Father Paul for all he does to support the Catholic life of the school and for enabling us to use the parish centre during the week and I would like to thank all of you, especially those of you who are also leaving us as their children move on to their new schools.

I hope that you all manage to have a really peaceful and enjoyable summer holiday, and I will look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Best wishes,  
Mr Barratt