


# SJF NEWS

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Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (Issue 15 - 2021/22)



## Citizen of the Week

 Our Citizen of the Week is **Jacob** in **Y4** who understands that it is only the simple things that can make us truly happy - in line with our Statement of Belief. Jacob is so creative and has a fantastic imagination. His great ideas are always so evident in his work and play. He understands instinctively that the gifts of hope, joy, love and peace shared in families, friendships and at school are the things that make us truly happy. His behaviour, engagement and attitude to learning have also been wonderful and we are all very proud of him. Well done!

## Final Term 2 Smiley Scores

<b>St Andrew's House</b>  <b>901</b>	<b>St David's House</b>  <b>940</b>	<b>St Patrick's House</b>  <b>988</b>	<b>St George's House</b>  <b>931</b>
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## Term 2 Champions

Congratulations to the young people of St Patrick's House, our Term 2 Champions! The scores of all the Houses are so high, reflecting good effort, behaviour and children living by our values! Well done to all the children!

## COVID Update

You will have seen in the news that Omicron is fast becoming the dominant variant in the UK. The experts believe that it presents additional risks and challenges that have to be taken seriously. A few weeks ago we took decisive action to adjust our plan in response to the predicted risks - based on public health advice - steps which have since been vindicated by what is now unfolding. We continue to work hard in order to support both our children and their families as we manage the risks and impacts of COVID in our community.

Our priority is to keep school open for all pupils and ensure that everyone in our community is kept as safe as possible. It is also important that our responses are calm and proportionate and based on the best and most current advice available to us. We want school to keep feeling as normal as possible for everyone.

As part of this my colleagues and I are redoubling our efforts to minimise the risk of transmission by keeping school clean; maintaining good hygiene protocols for children and staff; maintaining separation; and generally by working hard to keep up-to-date with the guidance and instructions issued by the authorities.

We continue to focus sharply on our children's wellbeing and learning. Never has it been more important to keep our Mission and Vision front and centre so that we can help our children to feel happy, safe and loved. We want all of them to thrive and continue to enjoy and achieve within their learning, in spite of the challenges. Every decision we therefore make, and everything we do is, is with this in mind.

We share everyone's frustrations when limits are imposed. It is always disappointing. We all want the virus to just disappear so that everything can return to normal. Unfortunately things are not that simple so we try to stay positive and make the best of the situation. We of course remain hopeful that things will improve eventually and look forward to operating again, as we always used to.

In the meantime, your support continues to be key. Sticking to our plan and following Public Health requests will help protect everyone in our community. We thank you for your support and patience. Please contact us directly if you ever have any questions or concerns and we will always try to respond quickly.



The following is taken from a recent letter from Mr Nadhim Zahawi, the Secretary of State for Education which outline the current view of Government. This obviously shapes all our responses.



## Department for Education

Extracts from a letter to all education leaders from the Secretary of State for Education on 16 December 2021

### Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19

From 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 has been introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an LFD test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

### Ventilation

Throughout this term, the department has been rolling out CO2 monitors to state-funded education settings. I am pleased to say that over 99% of eligible schools, further education colleges, and the majority of early years settings have now received their monitors, with over 329,000 now delivered. The remaining deliveries will take place before the end of term. To support settings which have identified areas of poor ventilation that cannot be resolved through simple actions such as opening windows or doors, the department has now launched a marketplace which provides all state-funded education settings a route to purchasing air cleaning units directly from suppliers at a suitable specification and competitive price. Education settings can access guidance on ventilation [here](#).

### Contingency plans

We continue to learn more about the impacts of the Omicron variant. To prepare for any possible changes in public health advice, I ask that you review your existing contingency plans to ensure you are well prepared to implement them in case of any future changes.

### Testing and Self-Isolation

The rules around self-isolation for close contacts of those with the Omicron variant have changed. Previously, all close contacts of someone with the Omicron COVID variant had to self-isolate for ten days regardless of whether had been vaccinated or had received the vaccine booster. The guidance has now been changed so that close contacts of someone with the Omicron COVID variant now will not have to self-isolate if they take lateral flow tests daily for seven days and these are, of course, negative. The rule applies to all children aged 5 years and upwards. We have been advised that additional tests can be obtained via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Please note that the link takes you to a page on the government site that still states that it is for children older than 11 years of age. Some of the pages need to be updated to reflect changes to government guidance.

### Ventilation

All classrooms are kept well ventilated and have carbon dioxide monitors in line with the guidance.

### January 2022

You will have noted that schools are advised to prepare contingency plans in case the situation changes in January 2022. This does not mean that anything will change, but we need to prepare just in case. Though we have a flexible provisional plan, it is impossible to say with any certainty what the precise picture will be in January 2022, because things continue to move so quickly.



Sheffield Catholic schools return on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022** a few days after most other Sheffield schools and it is possible that new instructions could be issued by the government or local authority before we return. If our plans do need to change significantly at short notice, we will need time to finalise them, prepare staff and possibly the building and put everything in place.

Though we can draw upon previous experiences there could also be new things to do, we just do not know.

It is for this reason that our Trust has given us permission to delay the start of the new term by one day if, *and only if*, the public health guidance changes significantly and we need time to respond in order to put everything in to place. If this happens you will be notified immediately and given as much notice as possible.

Let me stress that this will be a last resort.

We hope to reopen as planned on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022. If things do have to change, then we hope that our provisional plan (and previous experience) mean that we can still open on the first day. However, if things do change so significantly that the plan needs reworking, it is right to put everyone's safety first and take this time so that we are as prepared as possible to welcome our children back to school the next day.

#### *What happens if school needs to remain closed on the first day?*

As stated we really hope to open as planned on the first day of Term 3, but in the event that we do need an extra day notifications will be sent out via all the usual channels and appropriate children's learning activities will be shared immediately via Microsoft Teams and our school portal available via this [LINK](#) (the password is 2020STJOHN). It will still be a school day and the expectation will be that all children engage.

Next week we will arrange access to the Microsoft Teams platform for every child who has joined our school since the last lockdown. We are also in the process of preparing school laptops so that they are ready to go home with those children who will need them in order to engage with online learning, should the need arise.

If we have to stay closed on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January, staff will be on hand throughout the day to support children in every class, remotely, via email and the messaging/video call functions of Microsoft Teams. Additional and targeted provision will also be made for all vulnerable pupils (and their families), including those with learning or wellbeing needs. Staff will also be on hand to support any anxious parents/carers who need to talk to us.

#### *What happens if there is lockdown?*

At the moment, there is no talk of a lockdown.

That said, you might have seen on the news that lockdowns are being considered or even reintroduced in some other European countries. Many of you will also remember that news of last January's lockdown came with minimal notice.

We sincerely hope that we avoid any sort of lockdown in the UK, or even the closure of specific classes that has occurred in some other schools, however it is sensible to prepare for the worse whilst hoping for the best.

Provisional plans, based on what we have done in previous lockdowns, are therefore being reviewed, just in case, and these will be shared if anything changes once we have been told what to do by the government.

#### *What happens happens now?*

We are staying positive and are planning for our children to return to school on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 .

I want to stress that we know nothing more for certain at this stage. In fact schools are never told anything before it is announced to the general public. We are taking these sensible and precautionary steps on the basis of Mr Zahawi's advice to prepare contingency plans, like other schools will be, and I want to be open and share everything with you now, so that you are clear about where we are.

If you have any concerns or questions please contact us directly via the telephone (0114 2485009), email ([enquiries@st-johnfisher.org](mailto:enquiries@st-johnfisher.org)), or speak to me on the school gate at the start/end of the school day. Thank you.



## SJF Autumn Curriculum Showcase

Please do not forget to check out our virtual Autumn Curriculum Showcase by clicking [here](#). Thank you.

Weekly Attendance			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Y2	98.6%	Bobby will visit next week
2 <sup>nd</sup>	FS2	96.9%	Brenda will visit next week
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Y5	96.9%	Elvis Owl will visit next week
4 <sup>th</sup>	Y1	96.7%	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Y4	96.7%	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Y6	95.0%	
7 <sup>th</sup>	Y3	86.3%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 95.2%	



Get Set, GO!		
1 <sup>st</sup>	FS2	88%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Y4	87%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Y2	80%
4 <sup>th</sup>	Y1	77%
5 <sup>th</sup>	Y3	72%
5 <sup>th</sup>	Y6	72%
7 <sup>th</sup>	Y5	71%
Average = 78%		

## Golden Children

FS2	<b>Marianna</b> for showing brilliant improvements in self confidence and for trying really hard to improve her phonic skills! What a star!
Y1	Chloe for being such a super star! She always listens and tries hard in all her work, she is an absolute pleasure to teach and a fantastic example for all of Year 1!
Y2	<b>Archie</b> for being a fantastic Joseph, sharing the news of Jesus' birth!
Y3	<b>Jake</b> for his great effort when practising for the KS2 carol concert. Jake has applied himself brilliantly is trying his best to remember all the different songs; encouraging others by setting a great example!
Y4	<b>Alana</b> for having a good week! She has shown a more resilient and determined attitude; is more ready to learn; and has been more proactive in the work she has produced!
Y5	<b>Jacob V</b> for producing some very well articulated explanations for answering long multiplication questions successfully. He managed to explain what happened at each stage of the process!
Y6	<b>Olivia</b> Whiteley = for working incredibly hard in maths this term, and achieving a brilliant result on her most recent maths assessment

## Writing Champions

FS2	<b>Lydia-May</b> for working really hard on focused writing activities and for using sounds well! What a star!
Y1	<b>Jenson</b> for producing some super writing about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. He is trying so hard to use capital letters and full stops too. Well done!
Y2	<b>Chenai</b> for creating a lovely piece of writing about the shepherds in the nativity story.
Y3	<b>Jack</b> for writing a lovely diary entry in RE. This week we pretended to be Joseph and wrote all about how he and Mary had to flee to Egypt. Jack really got into character in the lesson!
Y4	<b>Zayd</b> for really trying hard to think about his vocabulary choices in order to improve the quality of his work by using more expanded noun phrases to help the reader visualise the story of the annunciation.
Y5	<b>Charlie</b> for producing a fantastic piece of writing to represent the donkey's perspective in the nativity story.
Y6	<b>Maya</b> for writing a very descriptive and well punctuated account of the nativity scene! Well done Maya!

## 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.



### Achievements outside of School

Please do not forget to let us have details of your children's achievements out of school via our school email address ([enquiries@st-johnfisher.org](mailto:enquiries@st-johnfisher.org)) so that we can include them in our weekly newsletter. Please do not worry if they are big or small, if they are important for your child then we will always be very happy to include them and celebrate them!

### SJF School Council Update



As we approach the Christmas break, I would like to thank all our school councillors for their hard work, energy and creativity.

Since the beginning of the year, they have worked towards a number of different projects that we hope will be of benefit to all the children at St John Fisher. I look forward to seeing the progress and achievements of the council in 2022! Merry Christmas and a happy New Year,

*Mr MacInnes, St John Fisher School Council Coordinator*

### Our Catholic Life

#### *Collective Worship Overview*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Statement of Belief Citizen Assembly</b> (Headteacher)	<b>SJF Virtues Assembly</b> (Class-Based)	<b>Themed Assembly</b> (Staff-Led)	<b>Weekly Liturgy of the Word</b> (Class-Led)	<b>Celebration Assembly</b> (All Staff)

#### *Parish News*

Information about parish and Diocesan life including times for Christmas Masses, Confession and sacramental preparation is available via this [link](#).

#### *Our Term 2 Virtues to Live By*

A reminder that in Term 2 we are focusing on the virtues of **hope** and **patience**.



#### *Weekly Liturgy of the Word*

Our next Liturgy of the Word will be on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022** and will be led by the young people of **Y2**. A recording will be available to watch by clicking [here](#).

#### *Class Advent Liturgies*



Our class liturgies for Advent 2021 conclude next week with our chaplains continuing to support staff and classmates with the liturgies.



#### *KS2 Annual Carol Service*

This year's KS2 Carol Service will be recorded and the film shared via our website so that family and friends can watch.



## Our December/Advent Prayer

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.**

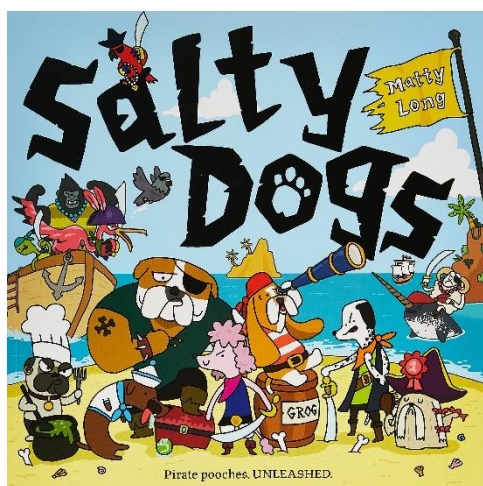
## Reading for Pleasure

### Our 21-22 SJF Booklist

To see our 2021-22 booklist please click [here](#).

### This Week's Feature Books

Our feature book for our younger children is: **Salty Dogs** by **Matty Long**



### The Waterstones Review

Set sail with the Salty Dogs on an adventure through the Pirate Islands in search of TREASURE. Their journey won't be easy. They must outwit rival pirates, navigate stormy sea, and keep the poop deck clean if they are to become pirate legends. Get ready for an amazing new adventure from the award-winning creator of SUPER HAPPY MAGIC FOREST!

A picture book that will appeal to the whole family, with incredibly detailed artwork packed with lots to see with each turn of the page.

Please click [here](#) to find out about this brilliant book!

Our feature book for our older children is '**A Poem for Every Night of the Year**' by **Allie Esiri**.

### The Waterstones Review

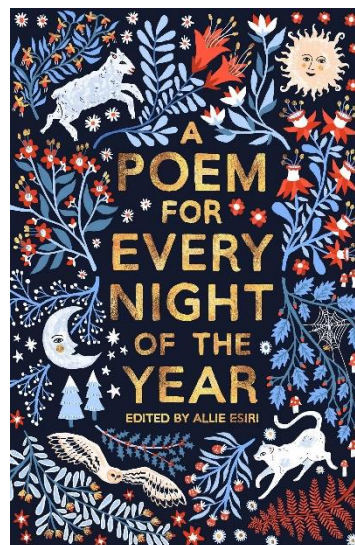
A Poem For Every Night of the Year is a magnificent collection of 366 poems compiled by Allie Esiri, one to share for every night of the year.

The poems - together with introductory paragraphs - have a link to the date on which they appear. Shakespeare celebrates midsummer night, Maya Angelou International Women's Day and Lewis Carroll April Fool's day.

Perfect for reading aloud and sharing with all the family, it contains a full spectrum of poetry from familiar favourites to exciting contemporary voices. Alfred, Lord Tennyson, W. B. Yeats, A. A. Milne and Christina Rossetti sit alongside Roger McGough, Carol Ann Duffy and Benjamin Zephaniah.

This soul-enhancing book is the perfect gift that will last the whole year, with a little bit of magic to read every evening.

Please click [here](#) to find out about this wonderful book!



Our FS2 Nativity Play



Our Y1 & Y2 Nativity Play



Congratulations to the children of FS2 and Years 1 and 2 for their wonderful performance in this year's nativity plays. They were absolutely fantastic! The film crew commented on how wonderful our children were and we all look forward to seeing the films they have been edited. Thank you to all my colleagues from FS2 and Years 1 and 2 who prepared the children so well, and ensure that the experience was enjoyable. Please click [here](#) and [here](#) to see more photographs. Thank you!

**In the end  
nothing we do  
or say in this  
lifetime will  
matter as much  
as the way we  
have loved one  
another.**

DAPHNE ROSE KINGMA

### Statement to Live By

Our 'statement to live by' is '[I try to love others as I love myself](#)'

**Time to talk:** Why do some people think they are better than others? What can happen when people put themselves above others? Are they right to do this? Will this attitude help others to feel happy, safe and loved? What would our world be like if everyone treated everyone else better? Would there be wars or famine if people reached out to one another and loved them as they loved themselves? Would our world feel safe? Would people be happier? Why?

