

SJF NEWS

www.st-johnfisher.org | www.ourladyoflourdessheffield.org.uk

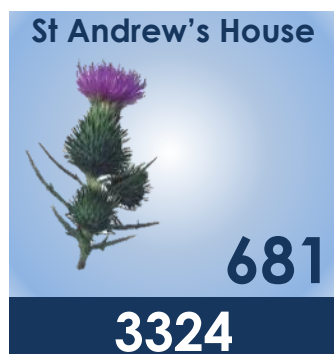
Friday 18th March 2022 (Issue 25 2021/22)



Citizen of the Week

This week our special award goes to **William** in **Y4** who understands that making mistakes is just part of the learning process. He therefore knows that they are nothing to worry about. In fact, mistakes help us to learn, if we respond positively to them. Very quietly, and without ever making a fuss, William just gets on with it. He will always have a go, and try something new first. If it does not work for him straight away, he will try to learn from his mistakes and if he is still unsure, then he will not worry because he knows that all the grownups are there to help him, and it is always ok to ask for help. What a great role-model you are, William, congratulations!

Term 4 Smiley Scores



The Feast of St Patrick & Green Day

Yesterday was the feast of St Patrick. To prepare, there was a special whole-school assembly on Wednesday about the life of St Patrick. Today the children of St Patrick's House dressed in green. Here is the Irish blessing:

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

100 Smileys

Congratulations to the following children who have earned 100+ smileys! In **FS2** we have Briola, Jaxon, Leon and Nikolas; in **Y2** we have Archie, Hector and Matilda; and in **Y5** we have Cavani, Katy and Priscilla!

| Weekly Attendance | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 st | Y3 | 99.7% | Bobby Bear will visit next week |
| 2 nd | Y1 | 97.0% | Brenda Bear will visit next week |
| 2 nd | Y4 | 97.0% | Brenda Bear will visit next week |
| 4 th | FS2 | 96.2% | Elvis Owl will visit next week |
| 5 th | Y2 | 95.2% | Billy Bear will visit next week |
| 6 th | Y5 | 95.0% | |
| 7 th | Y6 | 95.9% | |
| Target = 98.0% | | Average Attendance = 96.1% | |



| Get Set, GO! | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| 1 st | Y2 | 90% |
| 2 nd | Y4 | 83% |
| 3 rd | FS2 | 75% |
| 3 rd | Y5 | 75% |
| 5 th | Y3 | 73% |
| 6 th | Y6 | 69% |
| 7 th | Y1 | 68% |
| | | Average = 76% |

WAKE UP! SHAKE UP! Get Set GO! WAKE UP! SHAKE UP! Get Set GO! WAKE UP! SHAKE UP! Get Set GO! WAKE UP! SHAKE UP!

A reminder that 'Wake Up! Shake Up!' takes place at 8.40am, every day, on the playground or in the hall if the weather is bad. Every child who joins in receives a sticker and a smiley. Afterwards there are 'Get Set, GO!' sessions in each class which are designed to stimulate the children's thinking and help them to settle and prepare for the day. A count is made of the children present and ready in each class at the start of this session, at 8.50am, and this is the figure that is reported by us in the newsletter (above). Obviously, those arriving after 'Get Set, GO!' starts are also welcomed and encouraged to join in, but they are not counted in these figures, because the aim is to encourage everyone to be in promptly so they are ready to learn.





Achievements outside of School

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

- **Charlie** in **Y3** received his orange belt, following a two hour grading on Sunday, in which he managed to score 46 out of a maximum possible score of 50! Congratulations Charlie, a brilliant achievement!
- **Max** in **Y3** gained his red belt in Karate on Monday. He has worked very hard for this special achievement and everyone very proud! Well done Max! We are all very proud of you for this amazing achievement!

SJF Calendar of Events

Please click [here](#) in order to see the weekly update on our home page or hit this [LINK](#) for the 2021-22 calendar.

Sheffield Healthy Holidays

This is a scheme offering a range of fantastic free activities and services to the families of children who receive income-based free school meals. There is a wide range of different things that children can do, covering things like crafts, sports, drama, science and so much more! Activities are delivered by quality providers and include a free meal for children taking part. Please follow this [LINK](#) for more information.



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, including Mass times and arrangements for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation generally, and throughout Lent, Holy Week and Easter is available via this [link](#).

Lenten Class Liturgies

Thank you to everyone who has managed to join our classes for the Lenten liturgies. A reminder that there are three of these simple liturgies in each class over the week. They take place at the end of the school day. Places are limited and can be reserved through the school office beforehand. If you do not reserve a place beforehand, there is always a chance that you will not be able to take part. Once you have booked in, please report to the School Office by **3.05pm**. A reminder of the schedule is below, thank you.

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

Our Lenten Prayer: 'The Confiteor'

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.





Weekly Liturgy of the Word

I would like to thank the wonderful children of Y1 for leading this week's Liturgy of the Word so beautifully. We also thank everyone who helped to prepare and support them. Thank you also, to the family and friends of the children who joined us. We are now well past the midpoint of the Y1 children's second year and Thursday's liturgy was the very first time their families and friends have been able to join us, which made it very special. This, and all liturgies, are still being recorded and are available to watch online via this [link](#). Thank you.

Our next liturgy will be led by the young people of **Y3** on **Thursday 24th March 2022** and we are pleased to be able to invite their family and friends to join us in the School Hall on the day. Entry is via the Y5/Y6 entrance. Please sanitise your hands upon entry do not attend if you feel unwell or have COVID symptoms.

Our Term 4 'Virtues to Live By'

We are focusing currently on the virtues of **forgiveness** and **mercy**. Please click [here](#) for more information about them, thank you.



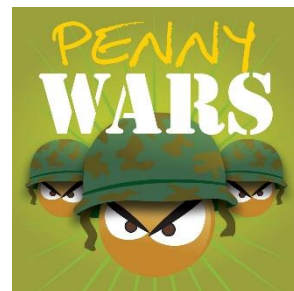
SJF Chaplaincy Team Update: The SJF Penny War in Aid of The Good Shepherd Lenten Appeal 2022



During the last week of Term 4, just before we break up for the forthcoming Easter holiday, we will be busy in school raising money for the Bishop Ralph's annual 'Good Shepherd Appeal'; one of our House charities.

The famous SJF 'Penny War' returns! The pupils will again collect pennies and two-pence pieces in their special class collecting jars at the beginning of each day.

A reminder that 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 we the victorious class will be announced and rewarded with 'Golden Time'. All money raised will be passed on to support the vital work of our key Diocesan charities.

The Comic Relief 2022 Appeal

We are sometimes asked why we do not do more to support the Comic Relief appeals here at St John Fisher, so I thought I would take this opportunity to remind you.

Everyone acknowledges and applauds the fantastic work of all the important initiatives, projects and charities that are supported by Comic Relief, helping change the lives of so many for the better in the UK and abroad.

In the past there have been issues around some of the work funded by the appeals conflicting with aspects of our Catholic doctrine. In recent years this issue has been recognised and the Comic Relief appeal team now offer assurances that any money raised by Catholic schools will be ring-fenced and used only to support projects that do not conflict in any way with our Catholic teaching and beliefs.

We all welcome this assurance but are also mindful of the bishop's sincere hope that schools will do all they can to support the ongoing and vital work of the smaller and less well-known Catholic charities, services and projects, that come under the umbrella of the 'Diocese of Hallam Caring Services'. So much good work is done locally in Sheffield and across the Diocese to support families and people of all ages, quietly, every day. We are therefore proud and eager to do all we can to respond positively to our Bishop's appeal for help.





Our Charities

A reminder that at St John Fisher we have three fixed charities and one annual charity. Our chosen charities have a local/national as well international reach. We have also, historically, always supported the BBC 'Children in Need' appeal and we think that this is an appropriate balance.

Pray for Ukraine

Children and staff continue to come together daily in order to recite the Rosary as we pray for Ukraine and everyone in Russia who is opposing the war and working for peace. Children continue to add intentions to the special 'Peace Tree' created by the SJF Chaplaincy Team in our Sacred Space.



Golden Children

- | | |
|------------|--|
| FS2 | Jaxson- James for working really hard in his reading and phonics sessions. Jaxson has also tried really hard to share well this week and we are all very proud of him. |
| Y1 | Adriana for doing some super reasoning work in maths this week! She was even able to spot a deliberate mistake made by Mrs Sambrook and explain what was wrong and how it should be! |
| Y2 | Freya for having a super week; for trying hard in all subjects; and for doing it all with a smile on her face! What a star! |
| Y3 | Musa for having an improved attitude towards learning. He has really shone this week because he has grabbed every opportunity possible to excel in his learning. Keep it up! |
| Y4 | Aalia for being one of our <i>always</i> children. She is such a determined child and always wants to do her best at everything. She always has a smile on her face too - which is infectious! Well done! |
| Y5 | Aleksander for really improving his attitude to learning. He is making such fantastic progress in his writing too. Well done, Aleksander, keep up this fantastic effort! |
| Y6 | Phoenix for having an excellent attitude to his learning this term, and for making some really great progress with his reading and maths. Keep it up! |

Writing Champions

- | | |
|------------|---|
| FS2 | Jasper for trying really hard with his writing linked to Dora's eggs |
| Y1 | Ivy for producing a fantastic recount of Paddington Bear's visit to the children of Y1. She used accurate punctuation, brilliant adjectives and beautifully neat handwriting! Well done Ivy! |
| Y2 | Esma for producing a lovely descriptive piece of writing describing the fire of London! Well done! |
| Y3 | Luke for really stretching himself in our reading comprehension lesson. He then went on to produce some great answers that were comprehensive and very carefully thought out. Keep it up Luke! |
| Y4 | Dominique for working hard to produce a blog about the 'Hairy Hooligan Tribe'. She thought carefully about her vocabulary choices and use of persuasive techniques to encourage people to join it! |
| Y5 | Finn for producing a well-edited recount linked to Kensuke's Kingdom. He really thought carefully about word choices; remembering to check capitalisation and punctuation as well - brilliant! |
| Y6 | Mateah for producing an excellent piece of descriptive writing in which she thought carefully about her word choices and personal writing targets. A fantastic effort, keep it up! |



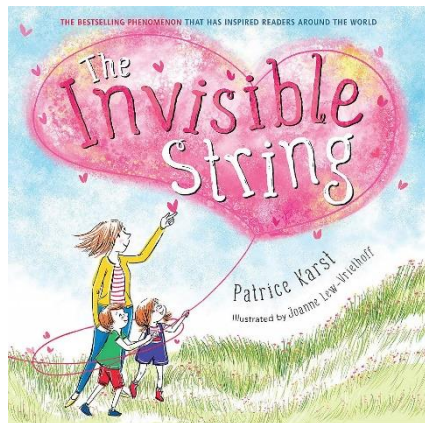
Our Feature Books of the Week!

Our full 2021-22 SJF book list can be accessed via this [link](#).

Our latest recommendation for younger children is

'The Invisible String'

by Patrice Karst.



The Waterstones Review

Parents, educators, therapists, and social workers alike have declared *The Invisible String* the perfect tool for coping with all kinds of separation anxiety, loss, and grief. In this relatable and reassuring contemporary classic, a mother tells her two children that they're all connected by an invisible string.

"That's impossible!" the children insist, but still they want to know more: "What kind of string?" The answer is the simple truth that binds us all: *An Invisible String made of love. Even though you can't see it with your eyes, you can feel it deep in your heart, and know that you are always connected to the ones you love. Does everybody have an Invisible String? How far does it reach? Does it ever go away?*

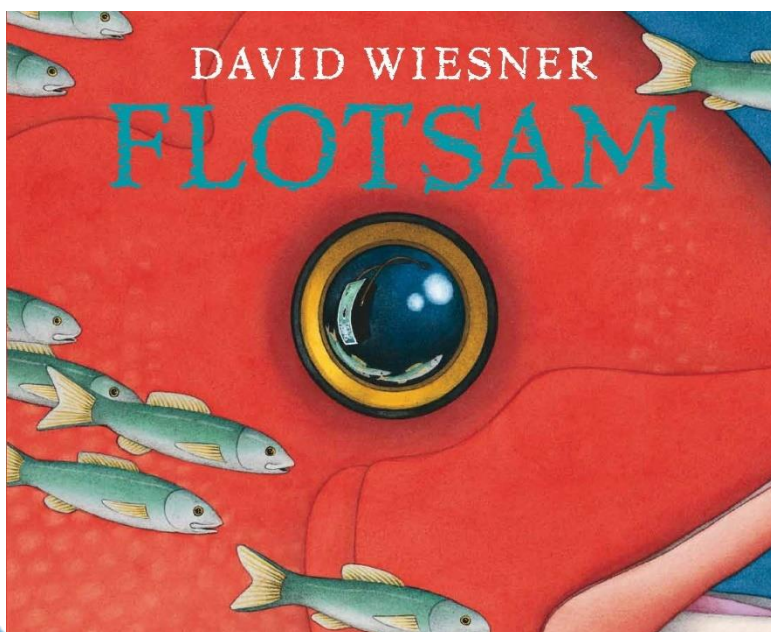
This heartwarming picture book for all ages explores questions about the intangible yet unbreakable connections between us, and opens up deeper conversations about love.

Recommended and adopted by parenting blogs, bereavement support groups, hospice centres, foster care and social service agencies, military library services, church groups, and educators, *The Invisible String* offers a very simple approach to overcoming loneliness, separation, or loss with an imaginative twist that children easily understand and embrace, and delivers a particularly compelling message in today's uncertain times.

"This book is a beautiful way to begin to try, as parents, to instill in children the impenetrable power of the heart, the energy of love, and the flow that can be felt from the grace in every moment."

Tony Robbins

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



Our recommendation for older children is

'Flotsam'

by David Wiesner.

The Best Children's Books Review

Flotsam by David Wiesner is another visual extravaganza from one of our favorite illustrators, David Wiesner. In the story, a young boy at the beach stumbles upon a barnacle-encrusted box camera floating in the water. Intrigued, he runs to a local store to get the film processed, but he's totally unprepared for the mysterious photographs that he gets back—images of an advanced underwater world. The use of varying perspectives and layouts makes it even more exciting. Read it for fun, or as a fun intro to the mysterious, largely unexplored ocean depths!

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



Please follow this [link](#) for a demonstration of our latest 'Beat Your Best' challenge demonstrated by Tyler, one of our Sports Majors.

This week's challenge is to see how many times you can throw a bean bag into a bucket, then retrieve it and then repeat the activity in 30 just seconds.

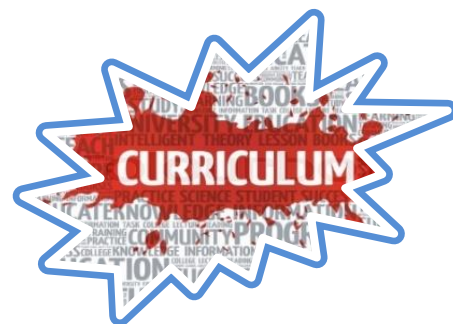
The challenge will tests throwing skills, agility, coordination and accuracy.

Please watch Tyler's video demonstration and have a go. What is your best score? Can beat your best?

Well done to everyone who took part in last week's challenge organised by Gio, you were all fantastic!

SJF Curriculum Showcase

Our next curriculum showcase is on **Wednesday 23rd March 2022**, in the school hall from 8.45am until 9.45am and again at the end of the school day from 3.30pm until 4.15pm. Children from each class will be chosen by staff to act as curators during the morning session to talk to visitors about their learning, work and curriculum. They will also answer any questions our visitors might have. Please contact the PTFA (ptfa@st-johnfisher.org) if you can help. Thank you.



SJF Reading Volunteers

If you would like to be one of our special Reading Volunteers, please email us (enquiries@st-johnfisher.org) or speak to one of my colleagues in the school office. You will be subject to the usual safeguarding checks. Thank you.

Our Passion Liturgy 2022

As in previous years, our Passion liturgy will be led by the young people of Years 3-5 and will take place at 2.30pm on Wednesday 30th March, in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. As space will limited, we are only able to invite the family and friends of the children who will be involved in the liturgy.

Term 4 Finals: Spelling Bee & Times Tables Rock Stars

The Term 4 Spelling Bee final will be on **Wednesday 30th March**. This will be followed on **Thursday 31st March** by the Term 4 Times Tables Rock Stars final. Class-based competitions to determine which children will be in the whole-school finals, will be held beforehand, so we encourage all our children to get practising and to ask for help if they need it.



Y6 Pre-Test

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 actually the *first* day back after the Easter holiday and the start of Term 5. The test will be administered by representatives of NFER who have been contracted to carry out the work for the DfE.



Department
for Education

All children entered for this year's Y6 statutory assessments will be expected to do the test, which will be an opportunity for them to practise. Obviously, good attendance will support the children with their preparations for this and the real one in May.

COVID-19 Update

There has been a spike in COVID infections across Diocesan and Sheffield schools, that have affected a number of staff and children recently. We want to do all we can to avoid the reintroduction of COVID restrictions, so please help us by not coming to school if you have COVID symptoms. Thank you.



Statement of Belief

Next week our 'Statement of Belief' is '**I can learn from my mistakes and failures**'

Time to talk: We know that mistakes can help us to learn, and to be better, if we focus on the positives and take the learning points on board.

We also need to have the self-belief, drive and determination to keep trying, again and again, until we achieve what we want to achieve.

It is so important to trust ourselves and others too. We know that everyone at SJF wants us to succeed and will do all they can to help us.

What is the big target that you are working on?

Who is supporting you?

How is it going?

What lessons are you learning along the way?

