

SJF NEWS



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Friday 13th January 2023

Citizen of the Week

There was no Celebration Assembly this week because of our annual New Year Mass. This week's awards will therefore be carried over to next week.

SJF Learning Value

I would like to thank our wonderful Sports Majors, Freddie, Katy, Oscar and Priscilla who, supported by Mrs Broadhead, led a special assembly to talk about **respect**, our new learning value for Term 3.







Their message was a very positive one, delivered so clearly. Having respect is very important because:

- ✓ it helps us to be more self-confident
- ✓ our own growing self-confidence can encourage others to also feel more confident
- ✓ it helps us to see ourselves (and others) through *kind* eyes
- ✓ it teaches us to be proud of our achievements without ever being arrogant
- ✓ it encourages us to truly celebrate others' qualities and achievements
- ✓ it enables us to build greater resilience to face and overcome challenges
- ✓ it is vital to demonstrate in teams and keeps communities strong and united
- ✓ it opens our minds to new ideas and possibilities
- ✓ it helps us to reflect on our own lives and to understand the lives of others
- ✓ it teaches us to be unafraid of difference
- ✓ it helps us to grow as children of God, and fulfil our potential over time
- ✓ it teaches us that we have a part to play in helping others to also grow (and achieve their potential too)

The Sports Majors also awarded children with Honesty Awards linked to the Term 2 Learning Value. Well done to these children the young people of Y6 who were awarded the class award!

Term 3 Smiley Scores

St Andrew's House	St David's House	St Patrick's House	St George's House
			
142	138	127	151
1866	1881	1863	1854

Congratulations to **Aalia, Alfie, Katie, Luca** and **Sebastian** in **Y5** who have earned 100 smilies!



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Attendance this Week (Term 3, week 1)

1 st	Y4	98.4%	Bobby Bear will visit next week
2 nd	Y3	98.2%	Brenda Bear will visit next week
3 rd	FS2	97.8%	Elvis Owl will visit next week
4 th	Y1	97.2%	Billy Bear will visit next week
5 th	Y5	96.7%	
6 th	Y2	95.6%	
7 th	Y6	90.6%	


Target = 98.0% Average Attendance = 96.3%

Attendance Term 2 (Final week)

1 st	Y5	92.1%	Bobby visited this week
2 nd	Y6	89.8%	Brenda visited this week
2 nd	Y2	89.2%	Elvis visited this week
4 th	Y3	87.9%	
4 th	Y1	84.5%	
6 th	FS2	81.7%	
7 th	Y4	78.5%	

Target = 98.0% Average Attendance = 86.2%

Attendance: Year to Date (Terms 1 and 2)

1 st	Y3	97.1%	
2 nd	Y6	96.2%	
3 rd	Y5	96.7%	
4 th	Y2	96.3%	
5 th	Y4	94.1%	
6 th	FS2	94.0%	
7 th	Y1	92.0%	

Target = 98.0% Average Attendance = 95.3%




Get Set, GO!

1 st	Y2	86%
2 nd	FS2	82%
3 rd	Y4	75%
4 th	Y1	74%
5 th	Y5	74%
6 th	Y6	73%
7 th	Y3	60%

Average = 75%

Attendance: Term 2 (Overall)

1 st	Y5	96.8%	
2 nd	Y6	96.4%	
3 rd	Y2	95.8%	
4 th	Y3	95.6%	
5 th	Y1	93.3%	
5 th	Y4	93.3%	
7 th	FS2	92.7%	

Target = 98.0% Average Attendance = 94.8%

The government is extremely concerned about school attendance figures, nationally, since the pandemic, and has issued guidance to challenge and support both local authorities and schools to do more to ensure that they improve.

Sheffield has been identified as an area where attendance figures are particularly poor. In response, the local authority is working closely with all schools to drive up attendance across the city.

Though our figures were consistently strong prior to the pandemic, they, along with other schools, have dropped significantly since. At 86.2%, the overall figures in final week of Term 2 raised concerns, for example.

There are a number of justifiable and unavoidable reasons for this. Firstly, COVID is still about, and children must stay away from school if they test positive. There have also been a number of horrible viruses circulating, including winter flu, and illnesses like chicken pox and vomiting viruses that particularly affected our pupils over the autumn terms. We very much appreciate the efforts of parents/carers to get their children in to school, and are fully aware that on many occasions we were the ones who called and requested for them to be taken home and kept off, in line with public health advice, to limit the risk of spreading germs in school.

What has been picked up, by the local authority, is the high number of *avoidable* term-time holidays still being requested/taken by our families. In line with guidance, these can rarely be approved. To be authorised, the circumstances have to be truly exceptional and consideration will also be given to how often children from the same families are withdrawn from school to go on term-time breaks. The government expectation is clear. Children must be in school every day during term time, unless they are unwell; have appointments that cannot be made outside of the school day/term time; or the reason for leave is absolutely compelling or exceptional.

Consideration of requests, is made on a case-by-case basis, and will take account of all the information that is shared as part of the request. This is important if parents/carers want to demonstrate that the timing of their request is genuinely unavoidable. Though a huge consideration, at this time of rising costs, the fact that holidays/flights are cheaper in term-time will never meet the threshold for being an 'exceptional' reason.

There are 190 school days out of a total of 365 days in a non-leap year, including training days. This leaves 175 days to be used for breaks of one kind or another. Please support us to reduce term-time holidays. Thank you.





FS2 Vision Screening

A reminder that the children of **FS2** will undergo NHS vision-screening on **Wednesday 18th January 2023**. Please ensure that all children are present, as the screening will pick up issues that can then be addressed to support the children. Thank you.



Term 3 Curriculum Overviews

Please click [here](#) to access our Term 3 SJF curriculum overviews. They include information about what your children will be learning this term, along with those key words they need to practise and know. There are tips for supporting them at home too. The latest RE curriculum overview can also be accessed [here](#).



The first two weeks of Term 3 is STEM Fortnight, and much of the children's learning will be around Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Appropriate links will be made so that children can continue to gain a real appreciation of this special and exciting family of STEM subjects. Our aim is to inspire them and so encourage them to engage more fully and enthusiastically with them.



Please contact your child's teacher(s) if you have any questions or require any help and support. Thank you.



PTFA News

A reminder that after a very busy and hugely successful autumn, our fantastic PTFA committee is already planning a programme of events for the remainder of the academic year. The first event of 2023 will be a **neon disco** on **Friday 27th January 2023**. **Bag2School** return on **Friday 3rd February 2023**. As always, your support of our PTFA is appreciated greatly, as are all and any offers of help. Please contact the committee (ptfa@st-johnfisher.org) if you would like to find out more; would like to help with an event; or have ideas to share. Thank you.



The BYB Weekly Challenge

Well done to everyone who took part in our last BYB challenge! In spite of the weather it was great to see so many of you having a go in the first week back!

This week, Freddie, one of our Sports Majors, came up with a fantastic hockey dribbling challenge! How many times can you use the hockey stick to move the efficiently between the cones in 30 seconds, using the 'Indian dribble' technique?

Freddie has filmed a short demonstration ([here](#)) to demonstrate the challenge so that you can have a go at school as well as at home. Why not involve your family at home? If you want to have a go, just find Miss Barrett or Freddie at playtime. Make sure you tell them your scores! Good luck everyone!

The National Holocaust Centre

A reminder that the children of **Y6** will have their annual visit to Beth Shalom, near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire, on **Friday 27th January 2023**.



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1

This year, their visit coincides with International Holocaust Memorial Day. Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27th January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur (in Sudan).

The aims of the day are laid out in the [statement of commitment](#). Its commemoration here in school aligns with both our British values and Catholic ethos, and serves as a real demonstration of how the lessons of the past can inform our lives today and ensure that everyone continues to work together in order to create a safer and better future.

The theme this year is 'Ordinary People' and you can click [here](#) for more information.



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"...and as a five year old, I could stand at the edge of the clearing where the trains were being loaded. People like sardines in those wooden trucks. And the people loading them in – they were railway men, they didn't look terribly different from the railway men who check my tickets these days – they looked like ordinary people."

Dr Martin Stern MBE, Holocaust survivor



It is important that lessons are learned **in age-appropriate ways** because it is not inevitable that these terrible events of the past will not happen again and again and again. Educating our young to be accepting and respectful of others - of difference - is absolutely key, and wholly in line with our Catholic ethos and values.

"People may think that they have nothing to do with my story. But what happened to me, could happen to them – to people like yourself. It may sound too hard to believe but this doesn't happen to strangers who live far away. I'm just an ordinary person. These terrible things can happen to people like us."

Kemal Pervanić, survivor, Bosnia



Yorkshire Farming Museum

A reminder that the children of **Y3** and **Y4** will travel up to the Yorkshire Farming Museum at Murton Park, near York, on **Friday 27th January 2023** for a special immersive and interactive day that will enable them to explore and engage more closely with the lives of ordinary Roman and Viking settlers. This will support their learning as part of these exciting history topics.

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)

KS2 Annual Carol Service

I would like to thank everyone responsible for organising and preparing the children for our Community Advent Service before the holiday. It was led by the wonderful young people of Years 3-6 (KS2). It was so nice to be able to gather for this very special event, for the first time since 2019. I would like to thank Fr Bede for allowing us to use the church as well as our other friends from the parish for enabling us to access the building in order to practise etc. I would like to thank the family and friends who were able to join us as well as the PTFA who laid on refreshments for everyone in the school hall afterwards. I would like to thank the older SJF Chaplains for supporting with the service and with the selling of raffle tickets afterwards. Finally, I would like to thank all the children who took part. They fulfilled their various roles brilliantly! It was a very special and moving occasion as a result, and we were so proud of them all. Please click this [link](#) to view a recording of the service.

Parish News

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

Our Term 2 Virtues to Live By

Our SJF virtues are **faith** and **simplicity**.



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Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Our first Liturgy of the Word of 2023, will be led by the children of **Y1** on **Thursday 19th January 2023** and we invite our **Y1** family/friends to join us in the school hall from 9.00am. Please click [here](#) to view all liturgies.

Our January Prayer

A reminder that our January prayer is called the Agnus Dei or 'The Lamb of God'. The prayer is said during Mass, and recalls The Last Supper of Jesus and His apostles during which the bread and wine were transformed in to the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the first time. It is therefore a very special prayer.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.



January Gathering Song

Children of God, in one family
Loved by God, in one family –
And no matter what you do...
God loves me, and God loves you



New Year Mass

I would like to thank all the children of **Y6** who led today's special new year Mass. They all read and fulfilled their various roles magnificently! I would like to thank Fr Henry for celebrating Mass for us, as Fr Bede was away. I would like to thank Mr MacInness and Mrs Barrett for preparing the liturgy and music as well as Mr Broadhead who sorted the recording of the Mass which is available to watch by clicking this [here](#). Thank you also to the family, friends and parishioners who could join us.

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.

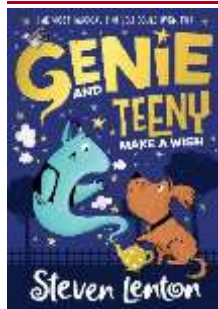
SJF School Council Update



This week the **Y6** school councillors met to make final preparations ahead of an important meeting next week. Here's a word from Owen, our Treasurer:

"This week all of the Y6 councillors met so that we could plan for the visit of Mrs Vickers from Sheffield City Council. We're really looking forward to talking to her about road safety around our school and getting her advice."

Our Feature Books of the Week!



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

Our latest feature books are:

Genie and Teeny Make a Wish by Steven Lenton

Sam Wu is NOT Afraid of the Dark! by Katie and Kevin Tsang

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

Statement of Belief

Our 'statement to live by' is '**I try to follow school and classroom rules**'

Time to talk: What are rules? Why do we have them? What rules do we have in school and class? What would happen if we had no rules? How rules help us to feel happy, safe and loved? What rules do you like? What rules do you dislike? Can you explain your choices?



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