

SJF NEWS

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Friday 20th January 2023



Citizen of the Week

This week's Citizen award was presented to Natalia in **Y6** for understanding that she belongs to a community which includes our school. Since joining St John Fisher, Natalia has settled in brilliantly. She is kind and supportive of others, and is never afraid to ask for help if she needs it. She is a great team-player and shows leadership qualities too. She understands that trusting relationships exist at the root of strong communities, where support is shared freely with anyone who needs it. Congratulations, Natalia, we are very proud of you!

Term 3 Smiley Scores

St Andrew's House  443 2167	St David's House  424 2167	St Patrick's House  443 2179	St George's House  446 2149
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Congratulations to the following children who have earned 100 smiles: Emily, Keyla, Dominic, Lilyann, Louis, Lottie and Sanaya in **Y4** and Preston, Ava and Diion in **Y5**

Attendance this Week			
1 st	Y3	97.3%	Bobby Bear will visit next week
2 nd	Y5	96.8%	Brenda Bear will visit next week
3 rd	Y2	96.5%	Elvis Owl will visit next week
4 th	Y4	94.8%	Billy Bear will visit next week
5 th	FS2	94.4%	
6 th	Y6	93.8%	
7 th	Y1	92.4%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 95.1%	



Get Set, GO!		
1 st	FS2	79%
2 nd	Y5	78%
2 nd	Y4	72%
2 nd	Y1	68%
5 th	Y2	68%
6 th	Y6	68%
7 th	Y3	65%
Average = 71%		

Update: Strike Action

I emailed and wrote to parents and carers earlier in the week about the strike action being taken by members of the National Education Union (NEU) union across England on the following dates:

Wednesday 1 st February 2023	Tuesday 28 th February 2023	Wednesday 15 th March 2023	Thursday 16 th March 2023
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Though it is very difficult to determine exactly how the NEU strike action will affect our school, we have worked hard, since the results of the various different union strike ballots were announced, to assess the impact of action on staffing levels in our school. As explained in the letter, it is difficult to plan with any certainty because teachers do not have to disclose whether they are members of the NEU, nor do they have to say whether they intend striking. They can choose to strike on all/some/none of the designated days and can be absent without giving any prior warning. The purpose of strikes is to cause disruption as part of a day of action.

The rules do allow us to invite colleagues to let us know what their intentions are, if they want to, and we have done this. So far, the indications are that all staff will be in. At the moment, this means that school will open fully on the strike days, though NEU members can change their minds at any time, without giving notice. It therefore makes sense to prepare. Even though we believe that school will open as usual, it is a good idea to have childcare in place just in case anything changes. If the situation does have to change, we will, of course, follow published government guidance and share details of our plans with you as soon as we can.



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PTFA News

Thank you to our PTFA and everyone who supported this evening's special neon disco. A reminder that **Bag2School** returns on **Friday 3rd February 2023** so please sort out any old clothing that you no longer need. If you would like to support of our PTFA, please email the committee (ptfa@st-johnfisher.org). Thank you.



The BYB Weekly Challenge

Here is a message from Miss Barrett:

Thank you to everyone who took part in our BYB Challenge this week! So many of you took part and it was really great to see your enthusiasm!

Our challenge this week has been set by Oscar, another of our dedicated Sports Majors. It is a throwing and catching challenge that the children can do with their friends and family members! They will need to find a partner and grab a basketball. The challenge is to see how many chest passes can be done between the partners, without dropping the ball, in a minute. If that is too easy then take a step back after each pass and see how far apart you can and still make good chest passes. Have a go at home or in school, and do not forget to find either Oscar or me at playtime and share your scores! Good luck! Please click [here](#). Thank you

Y6 Diversity Workshop

Our **Y6** children recently took part in a special workshop focused on the key themes of tolerance and diversity. Having first studied the life of prominent civil rights campaigner, Rosa Parks, and her defiant, but peaceful, response to the racism of 1950's USA, they explored the life of British musician, Labi Siffre, who wrote the well-known 1987 protest song, 'Something Inside So Strong', in response to the Apartheid policies of then then South African regime.



Finally, the children prepared and performed a range of their own excellent dramatic performances depicting various scenes of resistance against intolerance.

It was a very thought-provoking session and we thank Mr Smith for coordinating it for the children with Mr MacInness.

We also thank our Y6 children who engaged so positively and took a lot from the experience.



Healthy Minds Coffee Afternoon



A reminder that a coffee afternoon has been arranged especially for parents/carers of children in **Y5** and **Y6** on **Thursday 9th February at 2.15pm**. Lynette and Jacqui from the Sheffield Healthy Minds Team will be on hand with lots of tips, ideas and useful information about how children can best be supported through their statutory tests and transition to secondary school. All are welcome, and especially parents/carers of children in **Y5** and **Y6**. It would be useful to have an idea of numbers, so if you can, please call and let us know beforehand if you would like to attend. Thank you.

The Y6 Visit to the National Holocaust Centre & Museum

The young people of **Y6** visited Beth Shalom, near Ollerton in Nottinghamshire, on Thursday to support their understanding of the reasons behind the persecution of the Jews and other groups under the tyrannical Nazis regime in power in Germany from 1933-1945.



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They also had an opportunity to reflect on the terrible impact on ordinary children like them, including Anne Frank and Robert Norton, a Holocaust survivor they had the honour of meeting on the day. It was fitting that their visit came in the same week as Holocaust Memorial Day, which always takes place on 27th January.

Mr Macinness Writes:

Ahead of National Holocaust Memorial Day this week, our Y6 class were fortunate enough to experience a fascinating tour of the National Holocaust Museum. This educational visit helped to build on numerous areas of our study, including the First and Second World Wars, the emergence of the Nazi party and the broader concepts of prejudice and discrimination.



Through exploring and investigating various replica settings of 1930s/40s Germany, the children learnt about key events which led to the persecution of the Jewish community, such as the effects of Nazi propaganda on German children's education, the Kindertransport initiative and 'Kristallnacht' (Night of Broken Glass).



Following this, they were hugely privileged to meet Robert Norton, a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust. Our Y6 children listened intently as Robert told us the story of how he and his parents escaped their Czechoslovakian hometown close to the German border and travelled across Europe, much of which was under Nazi control, towards France and, ultimately, to safety in London.

The children were then able to ask Robert their own questions, about his life and the persecution he and his family suffered. He was gentle and open. Our time with Robert was both fascinating and inspirational and afterwards he commented on how well-behaved, respectful, well-mannered and engaged our children had been. We would like to thank everyone at Beth Shalom, especially Robert, for making us feel so welcome and for helping us learn about tolerance, discrimination and the history of the Holocaust in such an engaging way.

Our Y3 Roman Adventure at The Yorkshire Museum of Farming (Mrs Broadhead)



What a wonderful day we have had! Our Y3 children were given the opportunity to experience a day as a Roman soldier! The children had to be auxiliaries, rather than 'full' Roman soldiers, because they were from Britannia and it meant that the Romans considered them to be Celts still.

To be an auxiliary meant learning to write in Latin and then making (and paying for) their own equipment, before learning how to fight in battles. Our Roman auxiliaries demonstrated great enthusiasm. Click [here](#) for more pictures of our day!



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Golden Children!

- FS2** **Daisy** for always being so cheerful, friendly and extremely polite. Daisy is a fantastic member of our class!
- Y1** **Jasper** for having such a wonderful 'can do' attitude. He always tries hard, even when he might find something tricky! He has is developing super resilience and a never-give-up attitude!
- Y2** **Izabela** for making a great effort to follow our classroom rules and to shine her brightest! What a star!
- Y3** **Niamh** for being such a supportive partner; for always striving to succeed and always with a wonderful smile on her face!
- Y4** **Jack** for trying really hard and not giving up when he finds something tricky. He is finding more and more ways to help himself deal with things independently. Well done!
- Y5** **Jomi** settling in to our class so well and following class routines. She has been trying hard, answering questions, asking for help and using great manners! We are all so proud of her!
- Y6** **Edie** for being a loyal, calm and positive friend to everyone in Y6! What a great role-model you are!

Writing Champions!

- FS2** **Toby** for working really hard with his phonics writing! What a star!
- Y1** **Igor** for doing really well using full stops, which he can now use without adult prompting! Well done, Igor!
- Y2** **Movean** for trying hard in our English lessons to use effective language to brighten up his sentences. Great work, Movean!
- Y3** **Freya** for coming up with some fantastic sentences, independently, to describe a Roman soldier. Well done, Freya!
- Y4** **Dominic** for trying hard with his writing, remembering to include lots great detail! Fantastic work!
- Y5** **Hugo** for always setting the standard for presentation of work. His handwriting in his English book is so neat and he is really thinking about vocabulary choices in his work too. Well done, Hugo!
- Y6** **James** for working so hard on developing his technique for answering those important but often tricky 3-mark reading questions. Brilliant work!

Maths Champions!

- FS2** **Rosa** for great number recognition and for doing some fantastic counting in our maths activities this week!
- Y1** **Macoley** for trying so hard to use known facts before applying these to his work. Fantastic Macoley!
- Y2** **Lilah** for working really hard within our lessons all about multiplication and division. Lilah is trying really hard to be an independent learner!
- Y3** **Archie** for growing in confidence and striving to succeed with all our maths challenges! Well done!
- Y4** **Jenson** for tying so hard throughout our current fractions topic!
- Y5** **Connie** for becoming more confident in Maths, this year. It has been fantastic to see her answering more questions and exploring possible solutions to problems more and more independently!
- Y6** **Bronte** for making excellent progress with both her arithmetic and reasoning knowledge and skills over the last week. Well done!



Our Catholic Life

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Citizenship Statement of Belief Assembly (Headteacher) Chaplains' Liturgies (Years 1, 5 and 6)	'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 2, 3 and 4) Story Liturgy (FS2)

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**.

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Thank you to the children and staff of **FS2** for leading this week's beautiful liturgy. Thank you also to the staff and young people of **Y4** for the fantastic support they offered too. Please click [here](#) to watch a recording. Our next Liturgy takes place on **Thursday 9th February 2023**, because it is Assessment Point 2 next week. It will be led by the children of **Y5** and their family/friends are most welcome to join us in the school hall from 9.00am.



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



SJF School Council Update

This week the St. John Fisher School Council met and here is a word from Jacob, one of our **Y5** councillors on what was discussed.

This week the council met and we talked about our meeting with Mrs Vickers from Sheffield City Council, and the ideas that she gave us. We've now got lots of brilliant plans that we hope are going to make the roads around school much safer and fairer for everyone.

Road Markings & Bollards

Following the meeting with our SJF School Councillors, Mrs Vickers was so impressed by our children and wanted to follow up some of the issues raised - and ideas discussed - which our Council will now take forward. We talked about some of the wider concerns that are raised, fairly regularly to me by neighbours, parents and carers. Within days the road markings had been repainted, and someone came to school to discuss the positioning of two new bollards between the two gates to the staff/visitor car park. These will prevent drivers parking cars illegally on the pavement. She has also arranged for wardens to visit us more frequently too.



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Assessment Point 2

The children will undergo a range of assessments over the next two weeks so that we can see where they have made progress and what their new targets need to be. Every effort will be made to support all the children through this process. Their attendance every day is therefore very important. Thank you.

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.

IT Rock Stars Grand Finalists

Some of the grand finalists received their certificates at today's Celebration Assembly. Those who were at the Yorkshire Museum of Farming, will receive their certificates next week instead.

To be in the Grand Final, the children had to win their class-based finals first, so they had already done incredibly well. In the end it came down to two children, Luca in **Y5** and Sanaya in **Y4**, with Luca edging it in order to claim overall victory.



Well done to all the participants and especially to Sanaya, a worthy runner-up to our champion. Congratulations, Luca!

Our Feature Books of the Week!



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

Our latest feature books are:

Big Green Crocodile: Rhymes to Say and Play by Jane Newbury

The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates by Jenny Pearson

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

Our Statement of Belief

Next week our 'statement of Belief' is "**We are happiest when we are united.**"

Time to talk: Together you could think about what the word 'united' means.

Can you find the word using a dictionary?

Why do some football teams have the word 'united' in their names?

How many can you think of?

What is the opposite of united?

Why do you think we are happier when we are united?

List some of the things that strong teams and communities do to stay united?

