

SJF NEWS



www.st-johnfisher.org | www.ourladyoflourdessheffield.org.uk | Friday 20th October 2023

Awards of the Week

There was no Celebration Assembly this week because we celebrated our annual Harvest Mass. This week's awards will be presented during the first Celebration Assembly of the new term and shared in the newsletter.



SJF Healthy Minds Champions

A reminder that our new Healthy Minds Champions will be presented with their badges, by Mr Murphy, during our first Celebration Assembly of Term 2 on **Friday 3rd November 2023** and we invite their family and friends to join us.

Our SJF Local Academy Committee

When we joined the St Clare Multi-Academy Trust, our Governing Body, along with the governing bodies of all the other member schools, was transformed in to a **Local Academy Committee** and our governors became 'members'. We would like to introduce the members of our SJF Local Academy Committee to you.



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Chair
Dan
Beever

Foundation Member



Vice-Chair
Greg
Pursehouse

Foundation Member



Jon
Ball

Foundation Member



Andrew
Drummond

Foundation Member



Finnuala
Nelis

Foundation Member



Clair
Prestidge

Foundation Member



Beki
Otieno

Parent/Carer Member



Faye
Draper

Co-Opted Member



Interested?
Please contact us.

Parent/Carer Member

The majority of LAC members are appointed by Bishop Ralph, as **Foundation Members**. Our Foundation Members are Dan Beever, Greg Pursehouse, Jon Ball, Andrew Drummond, Finnuala Nelis and Clair Prestidge. Beki Otieno is a **Parent/Carer Member**, elected by parents and carers in our community. In response to an appeal from the trust for volunteers to support our Catholic schools as LAC members, Faye Draper responded and so we are very pleased to welcome her as our new **Co-opted Member**. As a committee this special group of people, share both a passion for our school and a wealth of complimentary talents and experience to support us with our daily mission, ethos and overall strategic leadership. We have a vacancy, and information about the election of a second Parent/Carer Member will be shared soon. Please contact us if you are interested and/or want to find out more about joining our Local Academy Committee.



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Friday 20th October 2023



Final Term 1 Smiley Scores



We will share the final smiley scores and announce the Term 1 champions during the first Celebration Assembly of Term 2.



REMINDER: INSET Day

A reminder that school is closed on Monday 30th October 2023 because it is a staff training (INSET) day. School reopens for the start of **Term 2** on **Tuesday 31st October 2023** with 'Wake Up! Shake Up!' at 8.40am.

Our Catholic Life

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Our next liturgy will be led by the young people of **Y3** on **Thursday 2nd November 2023**. And we invite their family and friends to join us in the school hall at 9.00am.

Our Virtues to Live By

In our Tuesday assemblies currently, we are focusing on the virtue '**hope**'.



Collective Worship

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

SJF Chaplaincy Team Update

Our SJF Chaplaincy Team would like to thank everyone who supported this year's SJF Harvest Festival appeal, by donating food items. All donated food will be passed on to our dear friends from the St Wilfrid's Centre, Sheffield, who do so much to support some of the most vulnerable and needy people in our city.



Our Annual SJF Harvest Mass 2023

I would like to thank Fr Bede for celebrating our wonderful Harvest Mass of thanksgiving. I would like to thank the special young people of **Y4**, who led the liturgy so beautifully and Mrs Hambleton, Mrs Steenson and Mrs Barrett for organising Mass and for preparing the children so well. I would like to thank Mr McGurrin, Mrs Downes and Mr Matthews for leading weekly hymn practises and our musicians on the day; Mrs Barrett and Mrs Hambleton who led the music, beautifully. I thank the parishioners and all the parents, carers and friends who joined us too. Finally, I would like to thank our children for the way they behaved and engaged so joyfully.

November Prayer

During November we remember all those who have died and we pray for the repose of their souls.

**Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord
And let perpetual light shine upon them,
May they rest in peace. Amen.**



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Our November Gathering Song

Peace, perfect peace -
Is the gift of Christ our Lord
Peace, perfect peace -
Is the gift of Christ our Lord...

Thus says the Lord,
Will the world know my friend!
Peace, perfect peace -
Is the gift of Christ our Lord.

Remembrance 2023

As in previous years, our children will have special lessons focused on remembrance; the commemoration of Remembrance Sunday; and its place in UK life. They will explore its origins in order to understand its significance. They will learn about the sacrifices made by British and Commonwealth service personnel and their families in the First World War and in other conflicts since. They will honour those who died, and take time to also reflect on the suffering of civilians on all sides of all conflicts as they offer prayers for peace and for an end to all wars and conflicts. On **Friday 10th November 2023** our school community will come together for our annual Community Service of Remembrance at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. The service will be led by the young people of Y6 and we invite members of our school, parish and wider community families to join us.



Poppy Appeal 2023

We are proud to support the important work of the Royal British Legion by joining in with their annual poppy appeal, as we do every year. Paper poppies will be on sale to staff and pupils for a donation to the appeal. For metal badges we ask for minimum donation of £1 and even more if possible. Poppies will go on sale from the from Tuesday 31st October 2023 until Friday 10th November 2023. Please try to support this worthy cause.

Term 2 Learning Value

Our Term 2 Learning Value is 'Honesty'. To be honest is to speak and act truthfully and not, knowingly, say anything that is untrue. It is about being open and transparent. It is about being authentic and acting with integrity. People who are honest do not do things that are wrong, morally, but rather they take responsibility for themselves, their words and actions. They do not break rules or laws, nor do they hide their true intentions and actions from others. Honesty is as much about being truthful to others as it is about being truthful to ourselves. This includes knowing and understanding why we act in certain ways. It is about being true to our values and our beliefs.



Be Safe Be Happy Week 2022

At the heart of our SJF ethos and mission is the belief that everyone has the right to feel **happy, safe** and **loved** every day of their lives. We do lots to support and affirm our children so that they can understand this.

Linked to this, the children are encouraged to express their feelings and we try hard to support them so they know what to do if *someone* or *something* ever makes them feel unhappy, unsafe or unloved. The children are reminded constantly to 'Tell! Tell! Tell!' if they have a worry. They are reassured that they can share a worry with anyone they feel comfortable talking to, knowing they will be heard and helped.

A key strand of this ongoing focus is our annual '**Be Safe - Be Happy Week**', which always takes place at the start of Term 2. Across school our children will participate in a range of sessions that promote personal safety and reinforce key messages around wellbeing.

The week is all about affirming and reassuring our children. It is not about frightening them. The highlighting of potential risks and dangers is always done in age-appropriate ways with messages being balanced positively with advice to help them in different situations. 'Tell! Tell! Tell!' is always a key part of this messaging.



Be Safe Be Happy Week 2022: Keeping Children Safe Online

Social media sites and apps are created to connect people across the UK and the world. This can be both good and bad. It is positive when friends and family are reunited and are able to stay connected; it can be positive when suitable new friendships are formed; or when people are brought together because of appropriate and shared interests and hobbies.

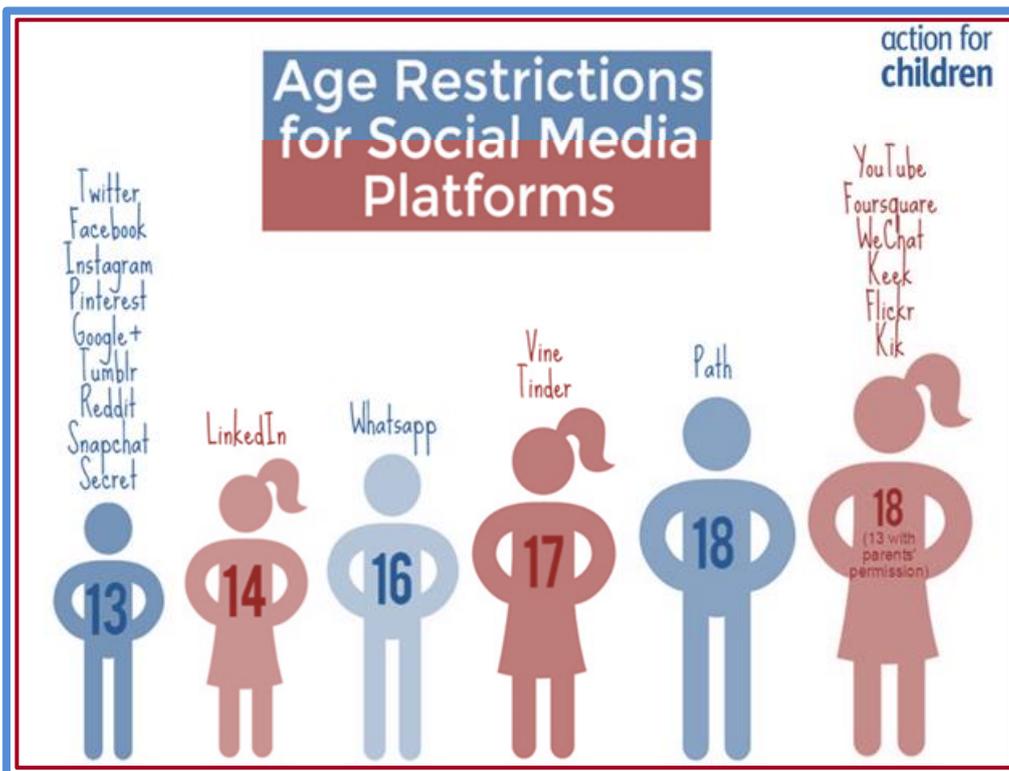
However, there is a flipside that can be negative because of the real risks posed to users, including vulnerable children, with or without the knowledge of their parents/carers. This includes the threat of connecting online with dangerous predators and those who seek to bully, control and harass them. It is for this reason that most social media sites, claiming to be responsible, impose age restrictions. Unfortunately, even these - as we have seen in the news - are not always enough to protect children.

We recall the tragic story, last year, of Molly Russell, the young lady who suffered in silence, and ultimately ended up taking her own life as a direct result of the influence of social media (please click [here](#)). Her parents have spoken bravely about the impact of social media on their daughter's wellbeing, and of how her loss affects them every day, in the hope that lessons will be learned so no other children will suffer as Molly did.

We have been advised by the local authority that parents/carers who allow, or enable, their children to bypass age-limits etc. in order to sign up to social media sites are, potentially, putting them at real risk of harm.

It is acknowledged that it can be really hard for some parents/carers to resist because their children feel pressure from friends to have their own social media presence - and they are not interested in the more secure and age-appropriate platforms, which are aimed at children. Unfortunately, more schools, including ours, are having to deal with complaints from children and/or parents/carers about inappropriate comments/images shared by children with one another on sites like WhatsApp, TikTok, Snapchat, Roblox etc. out of school.

We therefore advise, **strongly**, that parents/carers **resist** requests to allow or help their children bypass the rules restricting access to adult social media sites, even if their children apply lots of pressure. It is so important to remember that age limits exist to **protect** the children - not to ruin their social lives. There is pressure to grow up too fast. You will note that none of the sites mentioned, are aimed at primary-aged pupils.



Be aware. Getting online can be very easy, especially with no supervision. Children can use XBOX and PlayStation-type consuls; PCs, laptops and tablets; smart televisions, phones and watches; the free Wi-Fi accessible in restaurants, libraries, shops, places like Meadowhall, motorway services and other public spaces.

It has been reported that under-age children in our city have even managed to get online using their next-door neighbour's Wi-Fi.

This can make it very difficult for parents/carers to monitor what their child view or are exposed to, even when they are determined to be vigilant.



Attendance: Weekly			
1 st	Y4	97.2%	Bobby Bear will visit in Term 2
2 nd	Y5	96.6%	Brenda Bear will visit in Term 2
3 rd	Y1	95.7%	Elvis Owl will visit in Term 2
4 th	Y2	95.7%	Billy Bear will visit in Term 2
5 th	FS2	95.4%	
6 th	Y3	93.1%	
7 th	Y6	92.5%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 95.1%	



Get Set, GO!		
1 st	Y4	92%
2 nd	Y5	89%
3 rd	Y1	87%
3 rd	Y2	87%
5 th	FS2	84%
6 th	Y3	81%
7 th	Y6	80%
Average = 86%		

Attendance: Term 1			
1 st	Y4	98.0%	
2 nd	Y5	98.0%	
3 rd	Y6	97.6%	
4 th	FS2	97.1%	
5 th	Y3	96.8%	
6 th	Y2	96.5%	
7 th	Y1	95.7%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 97.1%	

Attendance: 2023-2024			
1 st	Y3	98.0%	
2 nd	Y5	98.0%	
3 rd	Y2	97.6%	
4 th	Y4	97.1%	
5 th	FS2	96.8%	
6 th	Y6	96.5%	
7 th	Y1	95.7%	
Target 98.0%		Overall Average Attendance = 95.6%	

Pupil Voice



SJF School Council Update

Here is a word from Amelie, Vice-Chair (2023-24).

The school council have agreed on some ideas for our objectives this year. They include ways that we would like to raise money, things we might like to buy and different ways that we think we could make life at St. John Fisher even better. This week at our meeting, we wrote a proposal letter that explains our different ideas, which we are going to present to school leaders.



SJF Eco Team Update

Here is a word from Mrs Steenson our Eco Team coordinator.

This week, the Eco Team have been busy preparing our new Wildlife Area for the coming seasons by planting lots of flower bulbs. They showed some amazing teamwork, and we can't wait to see their hard work come to fruition in the Spring. We are hoping that the flowers will attract more biodiversity to the area, and we are going to be working hard to maintain the area for a long time to come. The Eco Team would also like to give a huge thank you to the PTFA for supplying the bulbs, and for all of their hard work fundraising for the Wildlife Area that we will all enjoy.

We have been invited to take part in an interview with Susan Acland-Hood who is the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Education.



Ms Acland-Wood is the most senior civil servant in the department, working alongside the Secretary of State for Education and her ministers to ensure that government education policy is implemented and that the day-to-day workings of the department run smoothly.



Department for Education

She is keen to learn more about our new wildlife area and her team has arranged an online meeting with Mrs Steenson, our Eco Team members and the PTFA (which is working hard to support us with the development of the new wildlife area). The meeting will take place on first day of the new term.



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Beat Your Best: Our BYB Challenge

Here is a message from Miss Raynes:

Are you ready for the first Beat Your Best of November? The Sports Majors and I have been so impressed with the numbers of children joining us on the playground every breaktime to give our activities a go, so thank you!

The first BY challenge of Term 2 has a tennis theme. The challenge is to see how many times a tennis ball can be tapped into the air, using a racket, in one minute.

If you find that easy, why not have a go with your other hand, or even try turning the racket over whilst the ball is in the air? Think you can do it? Find us on the playground. Will you manage to beat your best?

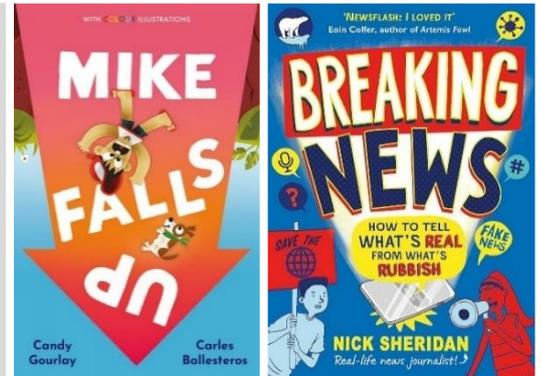
Reading for Pleasure: Our Latest Feature Books of the Week



Please click [here](#) to view our full 2023-24 SJF Book List. These are our latest feature books:

- **Mike Falls Up**
 - Candy Gourlay
 - Carlos Ballesteros
- **Breaking News – How to Tell What's Real...**
 - Nick Sheridan

Please click [here](#) to view a Waterstones synopsis of both.



Achievements outside of School

Please send us details of your children's achievements outside of school via our enquiries@st-johnfisher.org email address. Whether the achievements are big or small we will share and celebrate the good news!

- **Arya** in **Y1** won 'Star of the Week' at Razzamataz for amazing dancing, singing and acting. Congratulations!
- **Archie** in **Y4** recently won a trophy alongside his Eckington Boys FC teammates. He was also recently awarded his white-black belt in mixed martial arts. Well done, Archie, everyone is very proud of you!

Statement of Belief

Our new week Statement of Belief is: **"I know what to do if I see someone being hurt"**.

Time to talk: Why is it important to look out for each other? How many different ways can we look after each other? What are the different ways someone can be hurt? What should we do if we see someone being hurt? What can we do to help sensibly whilst remaining safe ourselves?

Why do we want our school to be a place where children look after each other and the grown-ups are all there to help?

The beauty of life does not depend on how happy you are, but how happy others can be because of you.

Strong people Stand up for themselves. But stronger people Stand up for others. - Unknown

