



Dear Parents,

## **Headteacher's welcome**

Being the start of the academic year, I'd like to welcome all our existing families back and extend a warm welcome to all the new parents and children who have joined our school this term.

I will thank you in advance for the support I know you will give all members of our school community in the year ahead. I know how vital working in partnership with parents is, in order for children to find school a positive and rewarding experience. I strongly believe that school is the opportunity for children to discover and unlock gifts and talents in a fun and nurturing environment. I look forward to watching your children grow in confidence, knowledge and spirituality during their time at St John Fisher.

It was so lovely seeing all of our wonderful children coming back to school. They were so happy to be back to see their friends, to learn, to play – to be back to some sort of normality.

Thank you to all parents as well for your positivity and understanding.

With the relaxation of government restrictions and DFE advice e.g. the removal of 'bubbles', the effects of such changes are yet unknown. With that in mind, we will tread with caution in this first half term. The SJF team (children, parents, guardians, staff) have played an incredible role since March 2020 mitigating the risks of covid-19, we do not want to undo or jeopardise this good work in the term ahead. We know that Covid-19 has affected members of our school community already this summer and into the new term.

All newsletters, school and class information can be found on our school website [www.stjohnfisher-wigston.leics.sch.uk](http://www.stjohnfisher-wigston.leics.sch.uk).

We have had a few phonecalls on certain issues. Please find below answers to the most frequently asked questions.

### **Does my child still have to bring in plimsolls?**

Yes. We wear plimsolls inside and our 'outside' shoes (trainers on PE days) outside.

### **On PE days, do we come dressed in PE kit?**

Yes. This was a measure that had a lot of support within in the school community. Your child should come in full PE kit. There is no need for a PE bag and it reduces the use of changing rooms and extra clothing been brought into school.

### **When I bring my child to school?**

#### **DROP OFF TIMES:**

YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6 AND THEIR SIBLINGS ONLY: 8.30 A.M.

YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 AND THEIR SIBLINGS ONLY: 8.35 A.M.

YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 AND THEIR SIBLINGS ONLY: 8.40 A.M.

RECEPTION: 8.45 A.M.



Please do not arrive earlier or later than these time slots as it increases traffic (human and vehicle) at a busy time of the day e.g. a year 1/2 pupil should arrive outside school before 8.40 a.m., not in the queue at 8.30 a.m.

## **Do I need to wear a facemask?**

Government advice: *From 19 July 2021, there is no longer a legal requirement to wear face coverings in indoor settings or on public transport.*

*Lifting restrictions does not mean the risks from COVID-19 have disappeared, but at this new phase of the pandemic response we are moving to an approach that enables personal risk-based judgments.*

*While no situation is risk free, there are actions we can take to protect ourselves and others around us.*

*We expect and recommend that members of the public continue to wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed spaces where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet.*

If you are entering the school building, we request that you do wear a face mask.

## **My child has a cough. Can I send them in?**

No. Parents, please keep in mind the symptoms to look out for and do not send your child to school if they display any of them, instead help them to isolate and contact your GP for advice and arrange a test if appropriate. Nobody with any symptoms of coronavirus should attend school under any circumstances.

## **Admissions applications for Autumn Term 2022**

Children are admitted to the school in September of the year in which they have their fifth birthday. If there is anyone who wishes to apply for a place for September 2022 (d.o.b. 01.09.2017 – 31.08.2018) please obtain an 'Expression of Interest' form from the School Office. There is also a requirement to fill in an LA form before January 15<sup>th</sup> 2022. This form can be found at [www.leics.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.leics.gov.uk/admissions).

## **Breakfast Club & Afterschool Club**

There is a Breakfast Club which starts at 7.45am. There is a booking form which can be found on our school website.

For Afterschool club, there is a booking form that can be found on the [school website](#) and was sent out last week on Parentmail.

## **Clubs and afterschool activities**

Breakfast club, afterschool club, football club (Yr5/6) and Holy Communion classes (Year 4) have recommenced this term. We are looking at the previous clubs we have done in the past and keep you updated how and when these will operate.

## **Visitors**

We continue with the suspension of 'Babies and Tots', 'KS1 parent readers', and Reception parents morning. There are also no parent occasions this month e.g. assemblies, liturgies etc.

We will review this during the half term and notify parents immediately if there are any changes.

We are beginning to have Key stage assemblies in the hall for the first time in over 18 months.



## **Counselling**

When children are worried or unhappy they are less able to function well in all areas of their lives. This can impact on their learning, their relationships and on how they feel about themselves. Counselling offers children a safe space to express and think about things which are troubling them. The counsellor facilitates this, through a range of creative play, talking and listening; thinking with the child about how they make sense of and manage their difficulties and how they might do it differently. We provide a counselling service and emotional literacy support service based in school. It offers one to one therapeutic counselling for pupils, consultation and support to parents and support in enhancing the pastoral systems across the school. Request a telephone appointment with Mrs Johnson, by contacting the school office if you think this is something your child may require.

## **School Dinners**

Please note that school dinners are priced at £2.35 per day and must be paid in advance. Also, the school menu was sent out earlier today, it may be worth looking at this with your child in advance so they have a clear idea of what is on offer and what they can look forward to eat the next day e.g. either the meat or vegetarian option.

## **Children with Asthma**

If your child requires an inhaler at school please ensure that it is labelled with his/her name. Please obtain an Asthma form from the school office. We are noticing some inhalers are out of date so it is important to make sure they are in date and working.

## **Water bottles and break time snacks**

Water bottles, filled with **water** only, may be brought to school to use during the day. A piece of fruit is provided for every child in Reception, Year 1 and 2. Two tea biscuits or digestives can be brought for a snack at break time (No crisps or sweets).

## **Parking**

Please park with due care and attention for all of our children and our neighbours. The Governors are concerned about parents parking across driveways and on the corner of Winslow Drive and will be monitoring this very closely. We requested and have received clear markings for outside the school. Please do not walk through the Staff car park before or after school. Thank you for your consideration.



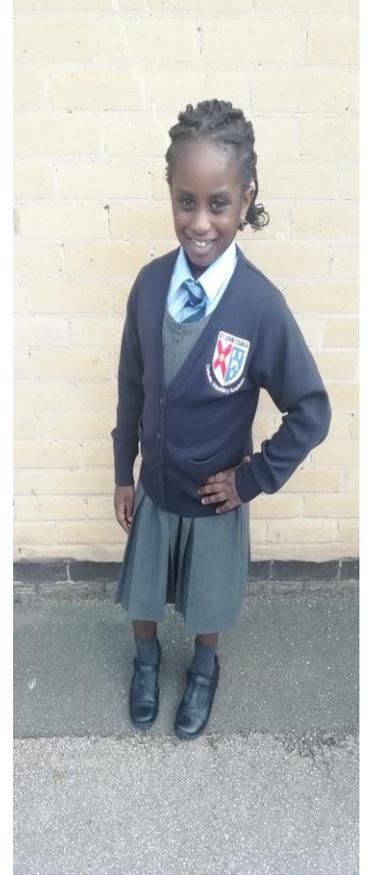
### **School Uniform**

Thank you to everyone for the excellent turn out of all of our children – they all look ready to learn and enjoy the new term. The school colours are blue and grey; shirts/blouses – light blue, jumpers/cardigans – navy blue, trousers – grey, skirts/tunics – grey, school tie, shoes – black.

For PE children require a white t-shirt and black/navy shorts. Children can wear tracksuit bottoms and a navy top over their t-shirt e.g. their school jumper. Hair- Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' should be plain and either blue or black.

School uniform (the crested cardigans and jumpers, book bags and school ties) are available from Marks and Spencer. Click here for [more details](#). There is a limited supply of ties available from our School Office. Children should be wearing black or dark coloured shoes (not boots or trainers).

***Please ensure your child's uniform is clearly labelled with his/her name. Check after washing too as we notice sometimes the name fades away. Many thanks.***



### **Reception donations**

Have you any unwanted LEGO in your home? Reception/Foundation Stage are always on the look-out for LEGO for children to play with so if you have any please give into the office where they will find a new lease of life. Toy cars and stickle bricks would be gratefully received too.

I wish you every blessing for the new academic year.

Stay safe.

God bless,



Mr Gallagher