

Dear Parents,

It was with relief that we welcomed back most of our pupils and families after a turbulent few weeks before half term when we were in a difficult moment with Covid-19. Thankfully, cases have plummeted and the vast majority of children are back at school well and happy. We pray that it will stay this way for as long as possible! We will review our procedures and see if we can resume restoring the changes we were implementing when the virus struck.

Our Catholic Mission

Harvest Mass

Thank you to Father John and year 6 for celebrating our first mass in school this year to celebrate harvest. Also, thank you all the families who donated food for our local food banks.

Vocations

Year 6 have been lucky enough to have a visit from Father John this week and have learnt all about the sacrament of Ordination. Thank you, Father, for answering all our questions!

November

November is the month dedicated to remembering the dead. On All Saints' Day, Nov. 1st, Catholics honour the saints, and on All Souls' Day, Nov. 2nd, those we have lost.

In this month, we remember loved ones with connections to St John Fisher; parents, grandparents, relatives, friends, who have passed away in the last year. May they rest in peace.

Remembrance

Poppies are on sale now, please send small change in with your child.

World Youth Funday

A brief reminder, we shall be marking World Youth Funday along with the NDCYS on Thursday 18 November. In order to continue to support the work of the NDCYS, our schools are asked to hold a £1 non-uniform day. Further details to follow!

Holy Communion

Congratulations to all our St John Fisher pupils who received their First Holy Communion in the past few weeks. Receiving the very Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the first time is a very special occasion and milestone in the lives of our children.

Cafod – Eyes of the World Campaign

The eyes of the world are on world leaders in November as they gather for the for COP26 - the United Nation's climate summit. They will make important decisions that will shape the future of our global family. At SJF, we are joining the CAFOD campaign calling on our government to keep the poorest people at the heart of their talks.



to



We will be taking part in activities this week and next to raise awareness of this important topic – the stewardship of God’s creation.

[Watch here for more details.](#)

Foundation Governors

We are looking for practising Catholics who want to support Catholic education by becoming Foundation Governors at St John Fisher. This does not have to be a parent at the school - someone who has links with the school, a grandparent, a retiree or someone you think may be interested. Let them know! There is a shortage of foundation governors across the trust and it is important for Catholic education in Leicester and Leicestershire that there are vibrant governing bodies.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Foundation Governor, please complete the ‘Self-Nomination’ form link (<http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/education/directors-governors/appointment-foundation-governors>) and email it to Julie Sweeney at NRCDES Governor Support julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk

Catholic Life

Synod 2021 /2023

Pope Francis launched a Synod of the whole Church, last month, in which he asks that everyone in the Church listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, dreaming and thinking of the type of Church we wish to be a part of. Along with all the bishops in the world, Bishop Patrick has asked each part of the diocese (parishes, chaplaincies, communities and schools) to be very involved in this listening and journeying process, so that as many voices as possible can be heard.

Our schools are central to the life and missionary activity of the Church. As many people are in our schools each day as are in our churches (pre-covid) on Sundays, and so there are a lot of voices to be heard! So that the voices of the young people can be heard loudly in our diocese, the bishop is asking for three actions over the coming three months:

That the Synod Prayer cards be distributed to each member of our school community, two each, so that one can be kept by the pupil and the other given to someone else who might be a bit distant from the Church. The Bishop asks that the prayer be prayed each day.

The Bishop has written a Pastoral Letter to be read in each school in our diocese. It is rare for the Bishop to write a pastoral letter specifically for the young people of our diocese, underlining the importance of the Synod and this journey.

See letter attached.

We will be asking the children 3 questions over the next few weeks.

1. What is my dream for the Church and my school? How can we make this happen?
2. Who are the people who feel left out and excluded in the Church? How can we reach out, listen to and love them? Think of two ideas, one for now and one for the future, to help include them.
3. What does the Holy Spirit inspire us to do in our Church and school? What do you think the Holy Spirit is calling us to do next?



Sport and PE

Cross-country

Well done to all our runners from year 3, 4, 5, and 6 who have been practicing cross country running over the past month through the Active Mile in balmy sunshine or brisk autumnal fare. There has been 5 cross country events already this year with another 2 coming up before the end of year. All performed magnificently – setting personal bests, showing determination, self-motivation and courage. They have been firsts, seconds, and top twenties galore in fields of 50 or more. Sometimes the weather has been lovely and other times awful, but the children's determination and grit never wavered.

Next event: Victoria Park 4th November – over 40 children selected

Football

Well done to our school football team who defeated Little Bowden in the Rice Bowl Preliminary Round 8-1. It was a brilliant performance – one of the best I have seen from St John Fisher for many years. Many thanks to all our parents and families who came to support. We play St Peter's CVA Hinckley in the next round – a Catholic derby!

Swimming

Unfortunately, we had to curtail the Year 5/6 programme of swimming due to the Covid outbreak at school but we started after half-term last Friday with Year 3/4 swimming. This was the first time either of these classes went school swimming and we are pleased at how they coped with the bus travel, swimming pool experience and changing. Please note there will be no swimming on November 19th due to a school INSET day but we have rescheduled this for December 17th.

Book fair

St John Fisher's annual book fair will be in school from Friday 5th November until Wednesday 10th November. Please be advised that it is NOT HALF PRICE. We will be running it "remotely" as we did last year in order to keep everyone safe. Please see the letter that was sent on Parentmail this week for details of how to order.

Dates for the diary - Nativities

We know how much our parents and families love attending and watching their children perform in the annual nativity plays. We are putting on three separate nativity plays – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. There will be a public performance for each one so families can come and watch. See calendar overleaf for more details. Our children will soon be busy rehearsing for this year's performances.

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 15th 2022. This form can be found at www.leics.gov.uk/admissions.

Please inform any interested family or friends!

Open morning for prospective parents: 12th November 9-11 a.m.



Stay safe.

God bless,

Mr Gallagher



DATES FOR THE DIARY

A reminder that SJF will be closed on Friday 19th November for staff training. Secondly, as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee falls during the June half-term break, the Department for Education have stated that the school year should be reduced from 190 days to 189, so we will break up for the holidays on Thursday 7th July 2022.

NOVEMBER

- 4TH LEICESTER SSPAN CROSS COUNTRY EVENT
- 4TH Year 1 KS1 Festival Aylestone Leisure Centre
- 5TH Seasonal Flu Vaccination for School Age Children (Reception to Year 6)
- 5th Book Fair begins
- 9TH Year 2 KS1 Festival Aylestone Leisure Centre
- 10th Book fair ends
- 12TH 9-11 AM OPEN MORNING FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS SEPTEMBER 2022
- 15TH Year 4 Football Goals 1-2.30pm
- 17th Sports Hall Athletics
- 18th World Youth Fun Day – Non-school uniform £1 donation
- 19TH School Closed for Teacher Training Day**
- 22ND Year 5 & 6 Football Goals 1 – 2.30pm
- 27TH Prestwold Cross Country Event
- 28TH First Week of Advent
- 30th Year 3 Liturgy – Parents welcome

DECEMBER

- 7TH 1.30 EYFS Nativity – Parents and family welcome
- 8th 1.30 Year 1 Nativity – Parents and family welcome
- 9TH Christmas Dinners
- 10TH Christmas Jumper Day!
- 10th 1.30 Year 2 Nativity – Parents and family welcome
- 16TH Beauty and the Beast production @ St John Fisher
- 21ST Tuesday: School Closes for the Christmas Holiday (1 hour earlier)
Reception - 1.55 p.m.
Year 1&2 - 2 p.m.
Year 3/4/5/6 - 2.05 p.m.

JUNE

27TH JUNE TO WEDNESDAY, 29TH JUNE 2022

Year 6 Crich Briars Residential