

Dear Parents,

We ended last week with the sad news of the death of our Queen who has led us through the Elizabethan Age with remarkable service, an incredible dedication to duty, a source of stability and reassurance. May she rest in peace. Over the past week, we have spent time teaching your children about her life and legacy with your children.



As you will no doubt be aware, the late Queen's funeral will be held on Monday 19 September 2022. This date has been confirmed as a Bank Holiday, and as a result, St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy will be closed. Please do not send your child to school on Monday 19 September 2022. We will re-open as normal on Tuesday 20 September 2022.

We recognise that for some, the news may also bring to mind other bereavements that our pupils and staff may have experienced over the recent past.

Our team is on hand to provide individual support where it is needed, but if there is anything you would like to discuss with us, please do get in touch in the usual way through the school office.

Catholic Life

Thank you to Fr Michael for celebrating the beginning of school year Mass with us today. The children were respectful and reverent throughout and it was a lovely occasion. We used the occasion to bless our new chaplains and give them badges as they begin their work this year. Congratulations to all chaplains!

Admissions applications for Autumn Term 2023

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 2023 (d.o.b. 01.09.2018 – 31.08.2019) please obtain a Supplementary information form from the School Office. There is also a requirement to complete an online Local Authority application before January 15th 2023. This can be found at www.leics.gov.uk/admissions.

There will be an Open afternoon on October 5th 1.30 – 4 p.m. for all prospective parents. Please inform any interested family and friends.

Attendance

Attendance will be a continued focus this year as we have a 97% target to achieve. This only allows up to 5 days of absence in the school year. A big thank you to the majority of parents/carers who make sure their children attend school regularly! You should be able to check your child's up-to-date attendance on Arbor from an email that was sent recently to log on to the system.

Breakfast club and Afterschool clubs

Thank you to everyone for their patience regarding the switchover from ParentPay to Arbor for booking into Breakfast and Afterschool club. I know there has been teething problems but this system allows us to allocate staff and buy food in advance and is a time efficient system once it gets going for parents and the office team. Booking for days in afterschool club will be closed 24 hours in advance.



Secondary school applications

Primary, Junior and Secondary headteachers are reminded to advise parents to apply for three schools and that for secondary admissions the national closing date is 31st October, and national offer date 1st March (or next working day). The majority of Year 6 children at St John Fisher would go to St. Paul's, or English Martyrs. Local secondary schools such as the ones in Wigston and Oadby have their own admission policies and it would be well worth consulting those.

Message from Leicestershire County Council on secondary school places

As the 2023 cohort will be larger still, the message to parents to express three options and include a catchment school is crucial. In some cases, those parents who have not done this may be allocated a school some distance away (with significant pressure on places, local schools may well be full with those who have applied within the deadline). Even if older siblings attend a secondary school or are in the feeder school, there is no guarantee of securing a place; parents need to have a Plan B in place. Please emphasise the importance of parents applying for three options and including a catchment school: leaving options blank will not increase their chance of gaining the preferred choice but does create a risk that no local place will be available.

Cross-country

Well done to all our runners from year 3, 4, 5, and 6 who competed in the first sporting competition of the academic year at Prestwold Hall. All performed magnificently – setting personal bests, showing determination, self-motivation and courage – in large and high quality fields. It was great to be back together again and the support of team SJF was equal to the running prowess – first class. For those who are interested in competing in races or getting fitter, there will be weekly cross country training for the next half term at least.

Parents evening

Thank you to everyone who responded to the parent questionnaire about parents' evening.

Findings

- Most would prefer a hybrid approach - a choice of in-person appointments or virtual appointments.
- More parents would prefer more in person booking slots than virtual booking slots.

As a result for this term, we will have a hybrid approach with the majority of bookings being in-person on Tuesday 11th October and on Thursday 13th October, all appointments will be virtual.

Joyce Deacon

We received correspondence during the week from previous pupils - George White and Samantha White – regarding the death of their grandmother, Joyce Deacon. Joyce worked at St. John Fisher as a dinner lady and cleaner. She worked with Mrs McGovern, Mrs McGrain, Mrs Bullock, Mrs Miller and numerous other staff. Unfortunately, she passed away very unexpectedly on 3rd September 2022 in hospital. She had just turned 80.

Condolences to all of Joyce's family and friends. May she rest in peace.

God bless,

Mr Gallagher



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sept 15 th	9.30 a.m. Beginning of the School Year Mass
Sept 19 th	BANK HOLIDAY – School closed
Sept 20 th	Children back at school Reception Parents' morning
Sept 21 st	St Paul's Open Evening 4.30pm – 7pm – no booking is required
Sept 22 nd	Yr 5/6 Boys league matches at Aylestone
Sept 27 th	Football tournament for Y2/3/4 teams at St.Paul's
Sept 29 th	Cross country meet at Victoria park Yr 5/6 Girls' league matches at Aylestone
Oct 4 th	Reception Parents' morning
Oct 5 th	Open afternoon 1.30 – 4 p.m.
Oct 11 th	3.30 – 7 p.m. Parents' evening (In person appointments only)
Oct 13 th	3.30 – 5.20 p.m. Parents' evening (Virtual only)
Oct 15 th	Harvest Mass
October 17th – 21st Half term	
Oct 24 th	Children back at school
Nov 8 th	Year 6 Warning Zone trip
Dec 2 nd	Menphys concert