



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. We should now all be back from our newest cohort – Welcome Reception 2023-24 – to our oldest children in Year 6.

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

All newsletters, school and class information can be found on our school website www.stjohnfisher-wigston.leics.sch.uk.

Our diverse school

Next week, we will be focusing on new beginnings as a school theme. We will also be looking at the diversity of our school and celebrating our differences, and what makes us unique and special. We hope that children will learn or continue to learn that understanding, love and acceptance make the world a better place. We will keep you updated on what we have learned throughout the week. It would be good to discuss this with your child throughout.

Some FAQ at the start of the year

On PE days, do children come dressed in PE kit?

Yes. This was a measure that had a lot of support within 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 being brought into school.

When is my child's PE day?

This term

Please find below information regarding PE days from September 4th until Friday 13th October (Advent 1).

Reception – Monday (11th) and Thursday

Year 1 – Wednesday and Friday

Year 2 - Tuesday and Thursday

Year 3 - Tuesday and Thursday

Year 4 - Monday and Swimming (Friday 9th)

Year 5 – Thursday and Swimming (Friday 9th)

Year 6 – Wednesday and Thursday



Swimming will commence for Years 4 and 5 Friday 9th September for the first half term.

Where do my children line up in the morning?

Preferably we would like our oldest children (year 3, 4,5,6) to line by the fence in the front of school where the trees are located and our youngest children to line up on the longer side of the front fence in front of the Key Stage 1 playground.

How do I collect my child in the afternoon?

Reception: Go onto the playground and line up going into the Reception outdoor area.

Year 1 & 2: Queue outside both classroom doors staying as near to the walls as possible.

Gate leading into KS1 playground will open just before 3 p.m.

Year 3,4,5 and 6: If you could stay outside the school fence, and we will usher children to you once we get the signal from child or collector. If you are on the playground already collecting a younger sibling, we will direct your child over to you.

Afterschool club: Ring the office doorbell and an afterschool supervisor will bring your child to you. On sunny days, the children may be playing outside in the front playground.

When will I bring my child to school?

DROP OFF TIMES:

YEAR 1 – 6:

8.30 A.M – 8.35 A.M.

RECEPTION:

8.35 A.M. Siblings can accompany their reception siblings to class from 8.30 a.m. on. Parents can bring their children into class from 8.35 a.m.

Collection Times

5th September – All Reception class 3 p.m.

All days - Year 1 to Year 6 to finish at 3.05 p.m.

New staff at SJF

There have been some changes to the staffing team.

We are delighted to welcome the following members of staff to our amazing team at St John Fisher this year:

Teachers: Mr Hill, Mr McVea

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Sneath, Mr Mapletoft

Teacher: Miss Baraclough is now Mrs Barrow (Y6).



Miss Pedge has moved onto pastures new outside of education during the summer. We thank her for her dedication and hard work to her various roles over the past ten years, and wish her well in the future.

Admissions applications for Autumn Term 2024

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 2024 (d.o.b. 01.09.2019 – 31.08.2020) 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 2024. This form can be found at www.leics.gov.uk/admissions.

Breakfast club and Afterschool clubs

Thank you to everyone for booking into Breakfast and Afterschool club. 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.

Uniform

[M&S St John Fisher page.](#)

I am aware that there have been some supply issues this summer regarding uniform availability and delivery times and we will be making contact with M&S uniform concerning this.

Whole class reading books

This term, KS2 will be reading the following books as part of whole class reading.

Year 3: The Fox and the Ghost King

Year 4: The Iron Man

Year 5: Holes

Year 6: Boy in the Tower

If you have any copies of these or would like to buy a copy for your child, that would be useful to have in addition to the half-sets we have in school.

Summer reading challenge

The Ready, Set, Read challenge runs until September 9th so there is still time for your child to loan 6 books from the library to achieve their certificate. Thank you to those who have already brought theirs in.

Children can join in the fun by reading or listening to six library books, eBooks or eAudiobooks throughout the summer to collect six special stickers - including some smelly ones - for their colourful collector's poster. Participants will also be rewarded with special incentives as they read their books including a certificate and medal when they complete the challenge. Any child who receives a certificate should bring this into school and this will be counted on their merit certificate chart.

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 £2.55 per day and must be paid in advance. Also find included the school menu till the end of the half term, 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.

Please select your child's meal choice in advance by logging in to your Arbor account, select the 'Quick Actions' tab, then meals and you will see the choices available.

Children with Asthma

If your child requires an inhaler at school please ensure that it is labelled with his/her name. An asthma record will be sent out shortly. We have noticed some inhalers are out of date so it is important to make sure they are in date and working.

Children with Epi-pens

Likewise, if your child requires an inhaler at school, please ensure that it is labelled with his/her name. All inhalers and epi-pens MUST be in school on the first day of term. Can I remind parents that although we do our best to look out for expiry dates, it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that these items are in date.

We are a nut free school i.e. no Nutella spreads, snickers treats, cherry bakewells etc.

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).

Interested in being a parent governor?

The governing body are seeking 2 parent governors to join the team. If you are interested in this important role, please [click here](#).

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 very closely. Please do not walk through the Staff car park before or after school. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you to the PTFA for organising our wonderful banners across the front of the school with your children's great advice and warnings.



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, and 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) is available from Marks and Spencer. Click here for more details. Some book bags and elasticated/clip ties are 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.

I wish you every blessing for the new academic year.

God bless,

Mr Gallagher