



Dear Parents,

Happy St Andrew's day to all our Scottish families and those of Scottish heritage.

Once again, the countdown is about to begin – Christmas is coming. This Sunday, we celebrate the beginning of the season of Advent – a time to prepare and wait for something wonderful – the celebration of Christ's birth. Advent is a special time especially in our Catholic primary school. This is an incredibly busy time with staff and our youngest children preparing and rehearsing for nativities, autumn assessments taking place, Menphys and Christmas concert rehearsals, a pantomime trip and of course, what preoccupies a lot of the children's thoughts, the countdown to Father Christmas arriving!

During Advent, we are invited to pause and wait for the Lord by attending to the spiritual and preparing our hearts and minds for His coming. So Happy Advent and enjoy this time of expectant waiting.

Catholic Life

Advent 2023

On Tuesday December 5th, 9 a.m., there will be an Advent Mass with an opportunity for Confession for Years 5 and 6. Our Carol Service will be on Tuesday 19th December at 9.00am in the School Hall. Please come along and join us.

Our Chaplaincy Team will be leading an Advent liturgical prayers on the themes of Advent on Monday mornings and prayer sessions during Advent. Also during Advent children will be taking home a Travelling Crib. We hope you and your family enjoy this school tradition.

Children will also be gifted a little Advent prayer and activity book appropriate to their age group which they can use at school and can then bring home.

St. Mary And St. John Bosco Parish Christmas Fayre

The fair took place on Saturday 18th November at St John Fisher School. Father John is grateful for all the support. Over £3000 was raised.

Reception Parents morning (7th a.m., 14th p.m.)

Another Advent tradition is the Reception Nativity craft making activity. It will be lovely to see the reception parents/carers preparing nativity scenes with their children.

Menphys concert

Our School Choir will sing with Sacred Heart, Leicester at De Montfort Hall on Friday 1st December in aid of our local Menphys Charity. Good luck to everyone for the concert and a special thank you to Mrs Barrow and Mrs Astill for their work with our School Choir. Keep an eye out for Mrs Moloney, our previous deputy head, who is stage managing the event!

If you can't make the concert, you can hear them sing at our Christmas concert on Thursday 14th at 9 a.m.

Sports news

Football



Well done to Year and 5 and 6 boys team who played in the Pokemon Cup at Judgemeanow on November 25th. They had a mixed set of results but as ever performed to a high level and left nothing off the pitch. Now they can concentrate on the league.

It is looking likely that the boys will be promoted to the top division in the new year. Good luck to the boys' team who play next week and the girls' team who play the week after.

Cross country

Good luck to all runners at Mallory park and Victoria Park in the next week.

Advent II clubs

A reminder that it is the last week of clubs this week – this includes JigFit. Mr Gowan's football club and Mrs Thakor's craft club continues as normal.

PTFA Christmas 2023 – A message

The countdown to Christmas has begun and we have lots of exciting things in the pipeline including our ever successful class hamper raffle, in class activities, Christmas jumper day and more. Thank you everyone for the donations so far.

* Donations for the Class Christmas hampers continue

* Tickets for the Christmas Disco and Christmas Raffle are on Arbor.

Pantomime Dinner Menu

We are very grateful to have a fantastic PTFA team who this year are funding the Christmas Pantomime - Jack and the Beanstalk for the whole school.

The children will be leaving school at 9a.m in readiness for the 10.a.m show and will be returning to school at approximately 1p.m. The children will have some snacks whilst at De Montfort Hall and will have their lunch upon their return. Therefore, there is a change in the menu as per below.

We would be grateful if you can pre-book your child's dinner menu via Arbor in the 'clubs' section no later than Monday 4th December 2023.

Red Option:

Ham sandwich with crudites, fruit and biscuit.

Green Option:

Cheese sandwich with crudites, fruit and biscuits.

Price is the usual cost at £2.55 for KS2. For KS1 it is the free universal meal.

RSE

We are pleased to let you know that St John Fisher continues to adopt the programme, Life to the Full, produced by the Catholic educational organisation, Ten:Ten Resources. Life to the Full is a programme in Relationship and Health Education for Catholic primary schools throughout the UK.



The Life to the Full programme is based on the structure of 'A Model Catholic RSE Curriculum' by the Catholic Education Service. This model curriculum was highlighted as a work of good practice by the Department of Education so we therefore have confidence that the programme will be fit for purpose in supporting the growth and development of your child.

Life to the Full is much more than a series of lessons. It is an entire platform of creative resources that will engage, inform and inspire our children and, indeed, you as parents. This includes interactive video content, story-based activities, employing a wide range of teaching tools, original worship music and an accompanying programme of classroom prayers.

In addition there will be an online parent platform so that you, as parent and carers, can engage with the teaching and deepen the experience for your child. To access the online parent platform please visit: www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal

School Username: st-john-fisher-le18

School Password: loaves-fish

Life to the Full is intended to be partnership between home, school and church. We know that you already do a fantastic job and we see our continuing programme, Life to the Full, as a means to further develop, support and enrich the partnership between home, school and church so that your child is fully supported.

Primary School Applications

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2024, applications are now open. If you are applying to St John Fisher CVA, you have to apply directly to the school and complete your Local authority form online. The school form should be returned directly to the school by the closing date of Monday 15 January 2024. You can view our admission policy on the website [here](#).

Staffing

Congratulations to Mrs Maksimovic who has been appointed office manager and begins her new role on the 8th January.

As a result of this promotion, there are three vacancies that have arose. Click on the [St Thomas Aquinas CMAT vacancy page](#) for more details.

Term dates 2024/25 – Click on the link below

[Term Dates - St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy - Wigston \(stjohnfisher-wigston.leics.sch.uk\)](http://stjohnfisher-wigston.leics.sch.uk)

God bless

Mr Gallagher



Dates For the Diary

December

- 1st** Menphys Concert
- 2nd** Cross Country at Mallory Park
- 5th** 9am Advent Mass followed by Confessions
Reception Nativity 2 p.m./6 p.m.
(For the 6pm show please use the staff car park for parking. Refreshments available before both shows and PTFA raffle tickets for sale.)
- 7th** **Christmas Jumper Day (Donations For 'Save The Children')**
9 a.m. EYFS parents' morning
Girls' football at Aylestone
- Year 1/2 Nativity 2 p.m./6 p.m.**
(For the 6pm show please use the staff car park for parking. Refreshments available before both shows and PTFA raffle tickets for sale.)
- 8th** PTFA Christmas Disco
- 13th** 9 a.m. Year 6 Liturgy (Year 6 classroom)
- 14th** 9 a.m. Christmas Instrumental concert – All welcome
(Y3 recorders, Y4/5/6 orchestra, soloists, Menphys choir)
2 p.m. EYFS parents' afternoon – Nativity scene making
- 19th** 9 a.m. Carol Service – All welcome
- 20th** Christmas Non school uniform day (Donations to PTFA)
Christmas Dinner
Christmas parties day
- 21st** Pantomime at DeMontfort Hall
- 22nd** School Closes for the Christmas Holiday
School closes at 2 p.m

After school club finishes at 4.15 p.m.

January 2024

8th School re-opens after Christmas break

February 2024

16TH School Closed for Teacher Training Day