



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 2024-25 – to our oldest children in Year 6.

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

New learners

As you know, our school recently welcomed a new cohort of eager young learners. Among them was my youngest child, who is now joining his siblings at St. John Fisher for the first time.

To help prepare our children (and ourselves!) for this exciting transition, we've been reading the book "I am starting school." It offers wonderful advice for both children and adults, and I've included a summary at the end of this newsletter.

I hope you find these tips helpful as you support your child on their educational journey.

Newsletters

We aim to have two newsletters a month and regular updates on class dojo. All newsletters, school and class information can be found on our school website www.stjohnfisher-wigston.leics.sch.uk

Some FAQ at the start of the year

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

Yes except in Reception where they should bring their PE kit in a kit bag every Monday. In Year 1 – 6, 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 2nd until Friday 18th October (Advent 1).

Swimming will commence for Years 4 and 5 Friday 13th 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

3rd 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: Mrs Fletcher, Mrs Alcock and welcome back Mrs Chevin after maternity leave

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Foxon, Mrs Bryant, Mrs Amerlia

Afterschool club: Mrs Parmar

Admissions applications for Autumn Term 2025

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 2025 (d.o.b. 01.09.2020 – 31.08.2021) 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 2025. 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.

Items for sale and for free

Our school have recently undergone a refurbishment. One of the highlights is the St John Fisher Library area, and the our new St John Fisher learning hub which provides a modern and inviting space for learning. We're also excited to share plans for a new prayer area, which we hope to complete this year.

As a result of the refurbishment, we have some extra items that we'd like to donate to parents – swivel chairs and books. The books will be put out over the next week and are free of charge whilst the for the priced items, please contact the office.

Summer reading challenge

The Ready, Set, Read challenge runs until September 6th 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. It is brilliant to see SJF leading the way for this challenge at Wigston Library.

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,



Swivel chair – height adjustable – on castors. £5. 12 available.



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 £2.65 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 Epipens

Likewise, if your child requires an Epipen 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.

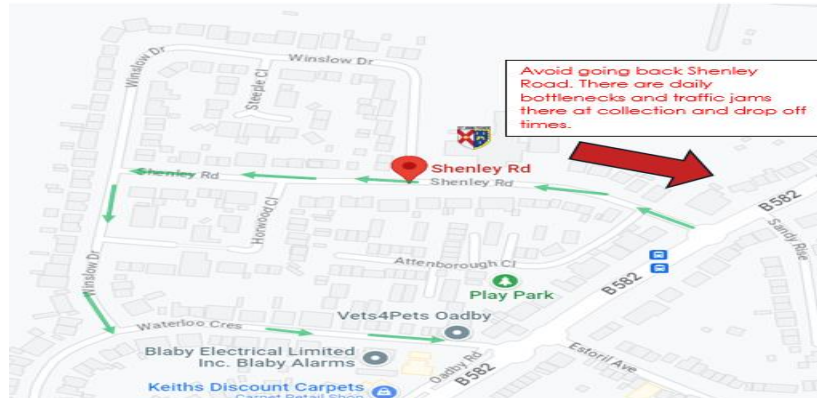
We are a nut free school i.e. no Nutella spreads, snickers treats, cherry bakewells etc.

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).

Parking & driving

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.



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 polo 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 Earth Uniform. 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).

There is also a second hand rail outside the office which will be there for the next couple of weeks.

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



Top tips for grown-ups

Here are a few ideas to help you prepare for what happens when you have a little one in school.

1. Prepare for the imminent administrative bombardment! School emails. PTFA emails. Newsletters, permission forms, phonics sheets: days you can go in, days they must go in dressed up, payments to be made. It is pretty overwhelming so my advice is to have a notebook ready- either paper or digital that you use purely for school stuff, and in which you can note down anything like passwords or dates that come your way.

2. Find a place at home to keep school bags and shoes. Show your little one where this is so they can take responsibility for putting their things away.

School stuff

3. Make sure you have an easily accessible calendar, and that school emails are shared with any other person with guardianship responsibility for your child. When you get information about a school event, add it to the calendar there and then. Take it from me, who has learned the hard way if you read it and say, "I'll come back to that." You rarely will!

4. Name tag absolutely everything. There is definitely a school vortex. Write in permanent marker, use stampastic stamps or stickers, or sew labels. Whatever your method. It's worth the effort.

Don't worry about occasionally forgetting stuff. We all do it. We will all get a call from school because our child was meant to be picked up fifteen minutes ago. We will all feel that dread as we get to the school gates and see everyone with wacky hair popping coins into charity buckets, while our child has their usual ponytail and we don't have a penny on us. Just say sorry to whoever you need to (including the kids) and crack on with your day.

7. If you want to get to know other parents or the school better, volunteer in some way. Go to a ptfa meeting, help with reading at school, or go on the school trip when they need support. It's the quickest way to get chatting to fellow parents and make friends.

8. If there is something that's bothering you, talk to the school. Teachers are always keen to support wherever they can, and the more communication they have with you, the better. You're on the same team you both want the best for the children.

9. It'll be a learning curve for you, too it's all changed since we went to school. So let your child lead the way and tell you all about it.

8. Your kids will find making friends a lot easier than you do! It is a lot harder as an adult. An opening line of "do you want to see this massive bogey?" just doesn't have the same 'life-long-buddies appeal.

10. Good luck... And not just to the kids. To you, too. It's the next phase and, yes, all the cliches are true. Goes fast. Doesn't it?



DATES FOR THE DIARY

September

2 nd –5 th	Year 6 Bikeability
4 th	Football with Chris Starts for Year 5 & 6 (last session 16 th October)
10 th	Arts & Crafts with Creations by Pip & Co starts – KS2 only (last session 15 th October)
13 th	Swimming starts for Year 4 & 5 and some children from Year 6
16 th	Clubs Start
17 th	Strings start for Year 5 (up until Christmas)
24 th	St Paul's visit to Year 6 re Year 7 Admissions

October

4 th	Census Day – Change in Menu- to be advised closer to the date
9 th	OPEN DAY for 2025 Reception – 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 .pm.
15 th	Parents Evening
17 th	Parents Evening
21 st to 27 th	HALF TERM
30 th	Individual Photos

November

7 th	OPEN DAY for 2025 Reception – 5pm to 7p.m.
Book Fair	
22 nd	OPEN DAY for 2025 Reception – 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
25 th	Flu Vaccinations
29 th	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

December

18 th	Christmas Dinner
19 th	Pantomime – Snow White – whole school
23 rd to 5 th Jan	– END OF TERM