

Dear Parents,

It's nearly the end of the first half -term. Well done to all children and families on a successful start to the school year. We hope you enjoy a fantastic half term with your family and friends and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Catholic Mission Chaplaincy Retreat Day**

Last week, the Junior Chaplaincy team had a fantastic day with the Lead Lay Chaplain, Tom Shannon and Mrs Johnson at the Rosmini Centre, House of Prayer. They spent the day getting to know one another better and building their teamwork skills. They also had the chance to make new friends with some children from Holy Cross in Leicester and Holy Cross in Whitwick.

### **Harvest Mass**

The generosity of our families has been astonishing! Thank you to each and every one of you who donated what you could this year. It was a bumper year and the foodbanks will be delighted for what was donated.



### **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>)

### **Parking and Road safety – a few reminders**

Please park with due care and attention for all of our children and our neighbours. Do not park across driveways or on zig zag lines even momentarily. Please do not park very close to other cars.

If travelling by car, children should exit on the pavement side of the road and not out onto the open road. When crossing the road, it is paramount that children look both ways and only cross when it is safe to do with an adult. Children crossing the road, especially younger children or those less aware of road safety, should be accompanied across the road by their parent/guardian.

Do not do U-turns on the Winslow Drive and Shenley Road intersection nor park on the corner.

Slow down on the roads around the school.

Why? It is for the safety of our children.

## Voluntary one-way system – update

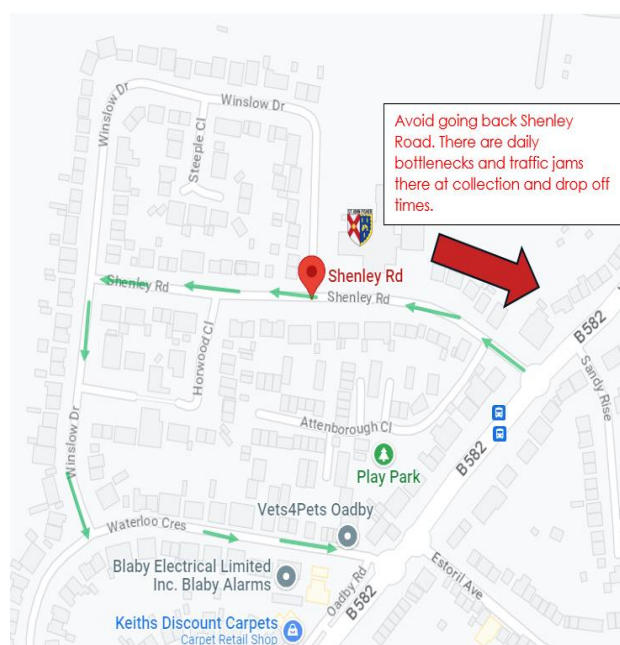
Thank you to everyone who is doing this. It is making a difference – we are noticing less traffic jams, less hold-ups and less stress! Keep up the good work! However, it just takes one car going down the wrong way to cause chaos. Do not be that car! Thank you!

To ensure the safety of our children during busy drop-off and collection times, we ask that our parents and carers follow a voluntary one-way system when entering and exiting Shenley Road.

This one-way system has been used in the past and present by many visitors and most families to the school, but I am aware that many new parents may not know about it and how successful it is in keeping traffic flowing at busy times.

We ask that cars do not drive against the suggested flow of traffic.

**Please make sure that you tell anyone else who drops/collects your child about the one-way system.**



## Sport Football

Football for the Boys and Girls team now continues with the Primary League matches on Thursday evenings. The boys began their campaign in strong form which puts them in a very good position at the top of the table. The girls have also begun well too, with two wins, one draw and one defeat. Both teams continue to grow in confidence in each match and we wish them well in their next round of matches.

The Boys team also had a match on Friday afternoon against St Thomas More and emerged victorious 2 – 0 in a keenly contested match.

## Cross-Country

The Cross-Country season has also begun this half term. The first race, held at Victoria Park, is always a nervous time, particularly for those who have not competed before. Year 3 were the first to race. The nerves were put aside as the children raced very competitively and good results were achieved by all. The Year 4

boys followed and showed much will-power to also gain some great results. The Year 5 boys and girls were next, also achieving some very good places. Last to race were the Year 6 boys and girls, our most experienced children, who showed a lot of perseverance to attain excellent results. All the children showed incredible determination to finish the race and to give their very best on the day. Overall, there were a number of top ten finishes, and many in the top twenty, however special mention must go to Ava (1<sup>st</sup>) in Year 3, Clara (1<sup>st</sup>) and Theo (3<sup>rd</sup>) in Year 4, William (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Eoin (3<sup>rd</sup>) in the Year 5 boys race, Jack (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Eireanna (1<sup>st</sup>) in Year 6, who all finished first in their races; and Theo in Year 3, who finished third in his race. Many congratulations to all the children who competed on the day.

### **Swimming**

Year 4 & 5 have their last session for this half term on Friday. Lessons will resume for the same year groups in January 2025.

### **Curriculum**

#### **Maths**

I sent out a Maths textbook and workbooks online link so you can access the books your child uses and our teachers teach from on Class Dojo. It is very good for accessing what your child is currently learning and also to increase your subject knowledge especially with the various methods and calculations.





## **Babies & Tots**

Babies & Tots takes place every Wednesday in the school hall. 8.50am to 10.30am. Check out the Babies & Tots Facebook page for more information.

## **Primary School Applications**

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2025, 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 Wednesday 15 January 2024. You can view our admission policy on the website [here](#).

## OPEN EVENING

## **Lost property**

To help reduce the amount of lost property, we ask that you please label all of your child's belongings with their full name. If you are unable to sew or iron on a label, you can use a permanent marker to write their name on the item. If your child loses an item, please encourage them to come and see a member of staff at the office. We will check the lost property box and see if we can find it. If your child's item is not in the lost property box, please check back regularly as we add new items to the box on a daily basis.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us to reduce the amount of lost property at school.

## **Additional tips for reducing lost property:**

Encourage your child to be responsible for their own belongings.

Help your child to develop a routine for packing and unpacking their school bag each day.

Talk to your child about the importance of keeping their belongings in a designated place at home and at school.

Label all of your child's belongings with their full name.

Encourage your child to come and see a member of staff if they lose an item.

## **Attendance**

We have had high attendance throughout the half term which we are very pleased with. It gives the children more opportunities to thrive in education when they are at school. Attendance has dipped in October, however, with unauthorised absences. It is important that holidays are not taken in term time – they will be unauthorised and **will** result in a fine from the County Council.

## **Advent II clubs**

We will send out a form after half term for clubs later this week.

## **Online Safety - Roblox**

Roblox is a very popular video game and we are aware that many children play it. Please click the [link](#) which provides advice and information for parents/carers. We hope you find this advice useful.

## **Parents Evening**

Parents Evening will take place on Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th October this week,

The monitoring reports will be discussed with you on the evening and then uploaded to Arbor. We really look forward to seeing you and having the opportunity to discuss your child's progress. You are welcome to bring your child with you to the meeting if you choose to.



## 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). Catholic secondary schools will have supplementary forms too which must also be completed. 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.

## Thought for the Week

'God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission.' **Cardinal St John Henry Newman**

Have a wonderful half term.

God bless,

Mr Gallagher



## Dates For the Diary

### October

15th Harvest Mass  
Parents Evening 3.15p.m to 7p.m.  
17th Parents Evening 3.15p.m. to 5.30p.m.  
21<sup>st</sup> to 27th HALF TERM  
31st Boys Football

### November

4th Individual Photos  
Leicester Tigers Tag Rugby Start – Year 3 & 4  
6th Sportshall Athletics – Year 5 & 6  
7th OPEN DAY for 2025 Reception – 5pm to 7p.m.  
Girls Football  
Book Fair  
18<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Trip to Warning Zone  
22<sup>nd</sup> OPEN DAY for 2025 Reception – 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
25th Flu Vaccinations  
28th Boys Football  
29th INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

### December

5th Girls Football  
18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner  
19th Pantomime – Snow White – whole school  
23<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Jan – END OF TERM