

Dear Parents,

This is our final newsletter of the Advent Term and what a busy and successful term it has been! As the Christmas break approaches, I would like to thank the children, parents, staff and governors for all of their hard work and commitment to the school. Working with such caring and enthusiastic families is a great privilege.

We are also very proud of the excellent work and the superb behaviour shown by the children at SJF. The children never cease to amaze me with their talent, knowledge, and kindness towards one another. We will continue to nurture them, academically and spiritually, in 2025 to enable them to aim high, work hard and be kind!

Catholic Life

Catholic Schools Carol Concert

On Friday, December 6th, a group of 17 of our Year 6 pupils performed at De Montfort Hall! They joined in with other local Catholic Schools to sing carols with all the proceeds supporting the Menphys charity. St John Fisher formed a song jointly with pupils from Sacred Heart in Leicester. We are incredibly proud of how well they all performed and send our thanks to Mrs Barrow and Mrs Astill for preparing the children so well and for supporting them on the night. Well done, everyone!

Nativity!

Christmas cheer and festivities are in full flow following the incredible Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 performances of 'Whoops-a-daisy Angel' and 'Lights Camel Action 2 – The Sequin'. It was a joy to watch the children perform so confidently and to welcome our families into school. Thank you to all the parents and their families for assisting the children in learning their lines and for coming to join us for the performances. We hope you enjoyed it.

The dress rehearsal videos have now been uploaded to the school YouTube channel. See your child's class story page on Class Dojo for more details.



Carol service

We had a beautiful carol service this morning. Well done to all the children on their wonderful singing and to all the chaplaincy team and helpers for their reading and acting.

A quote from a parent/carer

" It was a lovely carol service. All the children did amazingly. I really loved the warm atmosphere. SJF is the absolute best!"

Thank you to the Menphys choir, soloists – Lola, Megan, Darcie, Florence, Cora, Thea, Celia and Nimi, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Kinally, Mrs Birchall Mrs Barrow and Mrs Astill for all the preparation.



Reading Books

A request for all families to have a look at home for any SJF reading books and return these to school. Thank you to those families that have returned outstanding books.

Thank you to some of our parents who donated new or nearly new books to our school library and classrooms. They have been very well received.

PTFA

The PTFA are pulling out all the stops to ensure all our children have a memorable Christmas. Thank you to them and everyone behind the scenes for their hard work and ingenuity. We are blessed to have such a wonderful association.

Every pound donated goes directly to enriching the lives of our children. By joining the PTFA's fundraising efforts, you are not only investing in your child's experience but also contributing to a strong and vibrant school community. For example, on Thursday, where it not for the PTFA, the cost of going to the Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime for your child by private bus transport would be at least £35. With the PTFA support, you pay £0.



Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children

Tomorrow is a non-school uniform day and we are raising funds for Save the Children Charity. So if everyone donates generously be it online via Arbor (go to 'School Shop Products') or by cash on the day, that would be wonderful support.

Sports news

Football

The girls will be promoted to the top division in the new year.
The boys have been promoted to the top division too.
This is due to their excellent results in the Autumn league series.
Fixtures will be sent to school in due course.

Cross country

Congratulations to Ava who won the individual gold in the Year 3 County Cross Country League which was held in Mallory Park over the Autumn/Winter and the boys team who won silver in the same event. This is a fantastic achievement.
Well done to all on the cross country team. Training resumes on Thursday 9th January 12.30 p.m.

Pantomime Dinner Menu

We are very grateful to have a fantastic PTFA team who this year are funding the Christmas Pantomime - Jack and the Bean Stalk 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. KS2 children will require a packed lunch.

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 Monday 15 January 2025. You can view our admission policy on the website [here](#).

Winter Water Safety Advice

Please click the [link](#) which provides advice and information for parents/carers about children staying safe around water this Christmas. We hope you find this advice useful.

Online Safety Advice

Please click the [link](#) which provides advice and information for parents/carers for setting up new devices for children this Christmas. We hope you find this advice useful.



Term time homework

Children will be given basic homework activities (reading, phonics, maths fluency, limited online activities) over the term times e.g. half terms, Christmas/Easter/summer holidays. This is so that children can keep up or keep 'topped up' with learning and practice.

Longer pieces of homework will not be obligatory and are optional to complete.

This will be made clear by the class teacher.

Optional homework over the term times may include:

- diary writing
- competitions
- online homework or revision guides
- research assignments
- science experiments

Year 6 may have obligatory homework in order for them to prepare and revise for their SATs examinations.

Parents have the option of taking the Christmas assessments home over the holidays too. All children took term assessments (Y2-5) recently. If you would like your child to bring these home over the holiday period, please contact the class teacher on dojo and the papers will be given to your children. Return all papers when finished with when we return to school. If we do not hear from you, we will not give the papers out.

Season's greetings

On behalf of the Staff and Governors at St John Fisher I would like to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and all good wishes for 2025!

See you all on January 6th.

God bless

Mr Gallagher



Dates For the Diary

December

- 18th Christmas Dinner
Christmas Jumper/Christmas theme Day
- 19th Pantomime – Snow White – whole school
- 20th School Closes for the Christmas Holiday 2 p.m. finish (after school club available until 4p.m.)

23rd to 5th Jan – END OF TERM

January

- 6th Back to school
- 7th Year 4 Instrument Lessons Start
- 10th Year 3/4 Swimming resumes
- 16th CENSUS- Change in Menu
- 29th Year 6 St Paul's Musical
- 30th Heights & Weights (Reception and Year 6)

February

- 11th & 13th Parents Evening
- 17th to 23rd – HALF TERM