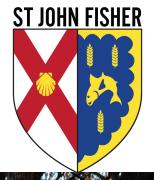
Newsletter



Dear Parents,

It's 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 27th October.

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

17th Year 4 & 5 Swimming - last session. Lessons will resume in January 2026.

20th to 26th HALF TERM

28th Advent II Clubs -go live at 6p.m and close on 29th 12p.m. Please see below.

Parents Evening Monitoring Reports will be uploaded on Arbor this week.

Poppy Appeal Items for Sale start - last day to purchase will be Friday 7th Nov.

29th Year 6 at Warning Zone

November

3rd School Individual Photos - younger siblings not in school and family photos will be available from 8.30a.m. Please contact school office to confirm attendance.

6th School Workforce Census
Sports Hall Athletics

7th OPEN MORNING for 2026 Reception – 9a.m to 11a.m.

8th Book Fair week starts

13th Parent Library Morning (Year 1 & 2) 9a.m to 10a.m. More Information below.

21st INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

26th Development Event (SPORTS) at Sir Jonathan North

<u>December</u>

Menphys Rehearsal at De Montfort Hall (Year 6)
Catholic Schools Carol Concert - tickets now available. Please see Dojo message.

10th Immunisation - NHS contacting parents directly for consent.

12th PTFA Christmas Disco - 6p.m. to 8p.m. Tickets will be available to purchase on School Shop- Arbor (info to follow).

16th Pantomime

17th Christmas Dinner, Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Class Parties (products available on school shop to purchase - more information to follow from PTA)

20th to 4th Jan - END OF TERM

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.

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/directorsgovernors/appointment-foundation-governors)

ADMISSIONS 2026-27



Admissions applications for Autumn Term 2026

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2026, 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 15 January 2026. You can view our admission policy on the website <a href="https://example.com/heree.



Apply Now!

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.

Virtue Awards

Love

Be positive!

Smile.

Reassure others if they are sad.

Give someone a hug!

Be a good role-model.

Be a good friend!

Encourage others - 'You can do it!'

Say nice words!

Say 'Good morning' or 'Hello' to people!



Love of learning

Working hard every day at school.

Ask and answer questions.

Be curious - do extra research.

Keep your books tidy - be proud of your work.

Pay attention.

Make links to previous learning.

Show SLANT. Give SHAPE answers.



Gratitude

Thank people who have helped you.

Say 'Thank you' when someone gives you something.

Be happy for others - don't be jealous!

Give to give, not to receive.

Thank God for the blessings in your life.

Domino effect - if someone helps you, you can help someone else and they can help someone.

Holiness

Being reverent during prayerful times.

Leading and taking part in prayer and liturgy in class.

Taking time to pray.

Attending Masses and participating fully - sing!

Saying our school prayer.

Knowing prayers off by heart.

Read the Bible.

Awards go to:

Love

Hema - Year 6

Love of Learning

Freya - Year 1

Gratitude

Daisy - Year 6

Holiness

Tatiyana - Year 4

Catholic Mission

Chaplaincy Retreat Day

Last week, the Junior Chaplaincy team had a fantastic day with

Mrs Johnson at the Rosmini Centre, House of Prayer. They spent the day getting to know one another better and building their teamwork skills and they also created the years action plan.

They also had the chance to make new friends with some children from other schools in the Trust.



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.

UKMT- PRIMARY TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE

MATHS LEGENDS IN THE MAKING!

Huge congratulations to our fantastic four from Year 6 who took on the UKMT Maths Challenge — and came back with SILVER!

Yes, they missed out on gold by just 1 point.
But medals aside, they absolutely smashed it with their problem-solving, teamwork, and brainpower that nearly melted our calculators.

We're beyond proud of these superstars for representing our school with such brilliance, confidence, and good humour — we're convinced the gold medals ran away in fear.

Well done!







TODAY SPORT NEWS

BOYS & GIRLS 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 third in the table in a high quality league.

They have now qualified to Group A.

The girls have also begun well too. They played well and scored their first goal last evening with Annie bagging for the team in a 1-0 win!

Both teams continue to grow in confidence in each match and we wish them well in their next round of matches.





When is my child's PE day?

PE days this half term:

Reception: Monday & Wednesday

Year 1: Thursday & Friday (Children no longer need to bring their PE Kit to school and should come dressed in their full PE Kit on the PE Days).

Year 2: Monday & Thursday

Year 3: Monday & Friday

Year 4: Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 5: Monday & Thursday

Year 6: Thursday & Friday



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.

In Year 1 – 6, Your child should come in full PE kit on PE days. There is no need for a PE bag and it reduces the use of changing rooms and extra clothing being brought into school.





Swimming will commence for Years 4 and 5 on 9th January

2026 - consent on Arbor to follow.



OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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.

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 advise and information for parent/carers. We hope you find this advice useful.

https://www.stjohnfisherwigston.leics.sch.uk/wpcontent/uploads/sites/18/202 3/10/Roblox-What-Parents-Need-to-Know.pdf

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. Similarly in the last newsletter, there was a link to accessing your child's RSHE curriculum.

School Clubs

Please see a list below of the Advent 2 clubs which may be of interest to your child.

Lunch Time Clubs - 7 weeks starting w/c 27.10.25

No sign up required for lunch time clubs.

M	T	V	۲	F
	Menphys - Year 6 Choir	TTRS - Year 3 & 4	Cross Country - Year 3 to 6	

After School Clubs - 4 weeks starting w/c 03.11.25

Clubs booking will open at 6p.m on 28th October and close at 12pm on 29th October.

Please only enrol your child to ONE club.

М	T	W	T	F
	Drama Club (continued)	Gardening Club (KS2)	CAFOD Club (KS2)	Tennis Club (continued)
		Musical Theatre (Year 1 & 2)	Netball Club (Year 5 & 6)	
		Football with Chris (as per Dojo)	Board Games (Year 1 & 2)	

We know that managing after school club schedules can be challenging, but we've found that everyone benefits when a child is attending a club because they want to be there. This passion creates a more positive and dynamic environment for everyone.



Event

Year 1& Year 2 Thursday 13th November 9a.m to 10a.m

9:00 - 9:30am: Library Talk (Mr Hill)

Join us in the library for a short introduction to the new space, including an overview of our resources, a demonstration of the LibreSoft system, and practical tips on how you can enjoy and support reading with your child at home.

We are delighted to invite you to our Library Morning on Thursday 13th November to celebrate the launch of our new library and share our love of reading across the school.

9:30 - 10:00am: Explore & Read Together

After the talk, you will have the chance to ask questions. We will then collect your children from their classes, and you are invited to spend time reading with your child and exploring our beautiful new library. This relaxed, informal session is open to all parents, carers, grandparents, and family members — a wonderful opportunity to share in your child's love of reading and enjoy the new space together.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

LOST ITEMS

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.



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.



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



OCTOBER HALF TERM 2025

October half term is nearly upon us and we wanted to send our usual information sheet out to you with some ideas to keep costs down.

Discounted meals

Children aged16 and under can enjoy meals for just £1 at Asda cafés, no minimum adult spend required. The deal includes hot or cold kids' meals, plus a free piece of fruit. Baby food pouches are also provided free for children under 18 months. It's a great way to keep costs down and still feed everyone well over half term. Lots of other cafes and restaurants offer free/discounted food for families, especially in school holidays. Click on the spaghetti to learn more



Things to do

Looking for budget-friendly fun this half term? Check out "9 Free Days Out in Leicestershire" featuring ideas like exploring Bradgate Park, Foxton Locks, Abbey Pumping Station, the Botanic Garden and more all family-friendly and mostly free. Click on the leaves to learn more



More things to do

Highcross Shopping Centre is hosting free Diwalithemed family activities this half term, celebrating the power of storytelling. Enjoy creative workshops, story sessions, and hands-on fun for all ages on 22–23 October, 10am–2pm. Click the flower below to find out more:



Rutland

For families attending English Martyrs (whose half term is 2 weeks) on 29th October 2025, kids (3+) can enjoy a free craft session making hedgehogs, pumpkins, owls, and more at Barnsdale Gardens. Adult supervision required. Pre-booking

Adult supervision required. recommended. Learn more by clicking on the Hedgehog.

Leicester Museums

Leicester Museums have lots of free family fun this half term — from the colourful Elmer & Friends exhibition to creative drop-in crafts and even a Meet the Police session! Explore stories, art, and local history across the city's museums. Click the pumpkin below to learn more



St. Mary's, St. John Bosco, and St. Edward's 29 OT Year C, Parish Website: cathparishmje.co.uk Theme: Saints and Holiness

Saturday 18th October St. Luke

5:30pm Confession St John Bosco

6pm Mass St John Bosco Angela Mooney

Sunday 19th October - 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

9am Mass St. Edward's James Healey (Health)

11am Mass St. Mary's Les & Mags' 56th Wedding

Anniversary, & Ann Price RIP

5:30pm Confession St. Mary's

6pm Mass (incense) St. Mary's Arthur & Grace Stanley RIP Retiring Collection after all Masses: Missio (World Mission Sunday)

Monday 20th

6:15pm Choir Practice St. Mary's

Tuesday 21st

3:20pm First Holy Communion Prep. Holy Cross School 7pm SVP Meeting St. Mary's Hall All Welcome

Wednesday 22nd

10am Requiem Mass St. Edward's Teresita Holt RIP

Thursday 23rd

10am Mass St. John Bosco Patrick Lee RIP Anniversary and Mary and John Lee RIP

6pm First Holy Communion Preparation St. John Bosco Hall 6pm Confession St. Mary's

6:30pm Latin Mass St. Mary's All Parishioners

7:15pm Journey of Faith (RCIA) St. Mary's Join Anytime

Friday 24th Feria

10am Mass St. Mary's Holy Souls

1-3pm Chat and Craft Group for all St. Edward's Hall

- · For adults seeking to deepen their relationship with God
- · For those thinking about joining the Church
- For anyone ready to go much deeper in understanding and prayer They're a wonderful way to bring the Church's teaching into your home and your daily life. Please take a look, use them, share them and if they spark a thought or question, Fr. John would love to hear from you at

frowens@pm.me.

Homilies

If you'd like to revisit the Sunday message or share it with someone who couldn't be at Mass, Fr. John's homilies are now available on our parish website at: https://cathparishmje.co.uk/homilies/ Homilies will be available for most days of the week to help you pray, reflect, and live the Gospel more deeply throughout the week. Whether you want to catch up, reflect again on something that struck you, or use it in your own prayer time, you can now read or download them anytime.

Friday Evening 7:45 Church Teaching at St. Mary's Hall

On Friday Evenings as a parish grouping we are going through the teaching document of our Bishops on the Mass. This document helps us to understand what goes on at Mass and why. This is also your opportunity to ask any questions that may have come up in your daily life or in your study of our just teach sheets and bible studies.

Bible Studies

Whilst I do not have the time or space to put an in-person bible study in the diary, I have created a set of bible studies for our website which can be used at your own speed or in groups that you form yourselves. https://cathparishmje.co.uk/bible-studies/ So far I have completed Genesis and some of the smaller books of the New Testament. These will be uploaded over time.

Thinking About Coming Back to Mass? You're Always Welcome.

If it's been a while since you've been to Mass, please know this: you are always welcome here. No matter how long it's been, or what has kept you away, the Lord is still calling you home.

Mass isn't just an obligation — it's an encounter with Christ Himself. In the Eucharist, He gives us His very Body and Blood, His mercy, His strength, and His peace. It's where heaven touches earth and where we truly belong.

6:40pm Confession

7:10pm St. Mary's Adoration and Benediction

7:45pm St. Mary's Hall Teaching of the Church Discussion

Saturday 25th October Feria Clocks back 1 hour 2am Sunday

5:30pm Confession St John Bosco

6pm Mass St John Bosco Constantine Fernandes RIP

Sunday 26th October - 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

9am Mass St. Edward's Holy Souls

11am Mass St. Mary's Christine Williams RIP

5:30pm Confession St. Mary's

6pm Mass (incense) St. Mary's Daniel Healy RIP

<u>During October the Rosary will be said before each Mass at St. Edward's and St. Marv's.</u> If anyone wishes to lead, please let Julie or Valantine know.

Blessings of Graves:

Sunday 2 November at 2pm - Saffron Hill Cemetery

Sunday 9 November at 2pm - Wigston Cemetery

Sunday 16 November at 2pm - Blaby Cemetery

Sunday 16 November at 3pm - Countesthorpe Cemetery

Sunday 23 November at 2pm - Gilroes Cemetery

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Sister Mary Teresa Sheridan, Rosaline Ann Copley Funeral Mass 5th Nov 10am St. Mary's, Fr. Frank McLaughlin, Fr. Jim Lynch

The Apostolic Exhortation DILEXI TE: On Love for the Poor by Pope Leo XIV is now on our website under The Teaching of the Church tab. Two copies of the Synthesis are in each church porch.

Just Teach Sheets: https://cathparishmje.co.uk/just-teach-sheets/

On our parish website, you'll find our Just Teach Sheets — short, easy-touse guides to help you grow in faith week by week. Each one follows the theme of the month and is designed for real life — simple, faithful, and ready to use:

- For parents and guardians to share the faith with younger children
- · For secondary school students exploring life and faith

Coming back doesn't have to be complicated. Just come as you are. Sit quietly if you need to. Pray in your own words. And if you're unsure about what to do, simply ask — we'll be glad to help. If you'd like to speak privately, ask questions, or simply talk things through, Fr. John is always happy to discuss — just email frowens@pm.me.

Come and see. The Lord has been waiting for you.

Remembrance 2025

As the 9th of November is the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, no proper Mass of remembrance can be celebrated according to diocesan instructions. We will still keep the 2 minutes silence at the 11am Mass but the Mass will be of the feast and not of remembrance.

Friendship Group is not meeting on the 28th of October 16, 2025

<u>International Food Day:</u> Saturday 1st November St. Edward's Hall at 2pm. Taste foods from around the world.

Christmas Fayre: Saturday 22nd November at St. John Fisher School. 10am-2pm. Please let Keith, Pat, Jo, Hilari, Lynn or Rita know if you can help in any way.

<u>Christmas Fayre:</u> Saturday 29th November at St. Edward's Hall. 12pm-3pm. See Julie or Ann if you can help in any way.

<u>LACY - Big Sing:</u> Sunday 16 November 4pm Franciscan Convent Chapel, 52 Dalby Road, Melton Mowbray, LE13 0BP. See Pauline, Jo or the Poster for more details.

Parish Website: cathparishmje.co.uk Parish Phone: 07354 832195

Parish Email mjeoffice@proton.me

Parish Priest: Fr. John Owens frowens@pm.me

Safeguarding Representative: Hilari Chetwood: 07734 690611

Newsletter: newslettermje@gmail.com

Easy Fundraising: Shop <u>online</u> and help the parish, with no cost to you. https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-marys-and-st-john-bosco-rcp/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-nl

Donations to your Parish via Bank Transfer

Acc: St Mary and St J B S Wigston RCP, SC: 30-15-97, AN: 00346385 Acc: St Edward Conf Leicester RCP, SC: 30-15-97, AN: 00554352

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enquiries@stgeorgesnursery.com www.stgeorgesnursery.com Locations: Leicester & Nottingham

LACY's BIG SING 2025

After the success of last 2 years' Big Sing events, we at Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth (LACY) are holding another Big Sing 2025 at Franciscan Convent Chapel, 52 Dalby Road, Melton Mowbray, LE13 0BP on Sunday 16th November 2025 at 4pm. This is a fantastic opportunity to share our faith and celebrate our talents through music and singing.

We are inviting all young people, families, friends and parishes with their own music groups and choirs, to come along and celebrate the sainthood of St. Cecilla, patron saint of music, with their voices and instruments. We would love it if you could encourage pupils and staff from your schools to support and attend this uplifting event as it would be great to have groups of pupils to represent each school in the Thomas Aquinas trust.

We welcome anyone who plays an instrument to join our folk group arriving from 3.15pm onwards to set up and anyone is welcome to bring along percussion instruments to use during the event. School choirs/orchestras are welcome to sing/play favourite hymns. If you have any questions about the event or would like to be involved in playing with the folk group or singing as a choir, please contact:

Pauline Payne email — paulinepayne@hotmail.com - tel number: 07885 187374 or Jo Shearer—
joshearer@hotmail.com.

We would really love to see you there!

Best wishes,

The LACY team.





Developmental Language Disorder

1 IN 14 people haveDevelopmental Language Disorder(DLD),an invisible, lifelongdisability.



DLD is the accepted term in English-speaking countries replacing specific language impairment, language disorder and language delay.

DLDisadiagnosisgivento a person whohas difficulty talking and/or understanding language.



Diagnosis is made by a speech pathologist however a person with DLD may need support from other health professionals.



DLD affects an individual's life, regardless of their nationality and language. Speaking more than one language does not cause DLD.





DLD has a genetic and biological basis, but **there is not a single known cause.**DLD is not caused by how parents verbally interact with their children.

abc 123

Children with DLD are 4 times more likely to have math disabilities and 6 times more likely to have reading disabilities.



Co-occurring conditions can include learning difficulties, ADHD, dyslexia, and mental health issues.



People with DLD can succeed in life, with the right supports that meet their unique strengths and areas of need.



Learn more about DLD at TheDLDProject.com