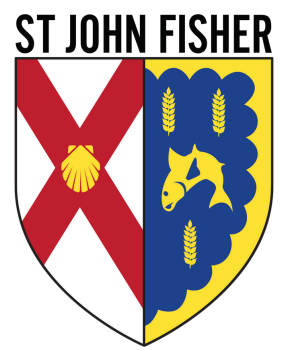


3rd December 2025

Newsletter



Dear Parents/carers,

Once again, the familiar and exciting countdown is truly underway – Christmas is coming! This past Sunday, November 30th, we marked the beginning of the holy season of Advent – a sacred time dedicated to preparing our hearts and minds and waiting with joyful expectation for the most wonderful event of all: the celebration of Christ's birth.

Advent holds a very special significance here in our Catholic primary school.

While it is an incredibly busy time with preparations such as:

- Our dedicated staff and youngest children are busy rehearsing and perfecting the beautiful Nativity plays.
- We are also focusing on our autumn assessments to celebrate the children's progress.
- Rehearsals for the Menphys and the carol service are in full swing.
- We look forward to our exciting pantomime trip!
- And of course, we share in the children's excitement as they look forward to the arrival of Father Christmas.

Happy Advent! May you and your family enjoy this time of expectant waiting and spiritual renewal.

God bless,
Mr. Gallagher



DATES FOR THE DIARY

December

- 4th 9a.m Advent Mass
Cross Country at Victoria Park - *Good luck to the 38 runners from SJF who compete in another cross-country league race on Thursday*
- 5th Menphys Rehearsal at De Montfort Hall (Year 6)
Catholic Schools Carol Concert - *Our School Choir will sing with Sacred Heart, Leicester at De Montfort Hall on Friday 5th December in aid of our local Menphys Charity. Good luck to everyone for the concert and a special thank you to Mrs Chevin and Mrs Astill for their work with our School Choir.*
- 9th Reception Play - 1.30p.m & 5.30p.m
- 10th Immunisation - NHS contacting parents directly for consent.
CAFOD Club Christmas Decorations Sale - after school in KS1 Playground
- 11th Year 1 & 2 Play - 1.30p.m & 6p.m
- 12th PTFA Christmas Disco - 6p.m. to 8p.m. Tickets will be available to purchase on School Shop- Arbor.
- 16th Carol Service - 9a.m - All Welcome.
Pantomime - whole school - please see details below.
- 17th Christmas Dinner, Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Class Parties (products available on school shop to purchase).
Babies & Tots Last Session before Christmas Holidays
- 19th Last day of term : finish time at 2p.m. After school club finishes at 4.15p.m

20th to 4th Jan – END OF TERM

Christmas concert

Unfortunately, there will be no Christmas concert this year due to the delay in getting the Year 4/5/6 music group practicing as a result of our Mrs. Birchall's wrist operation. We aim to run a summer concert and will look at putting on an Easter show if progress is made.

January

- 5th Return to School.
- 9th Year 4 & 5 Swimming.
- 12th Year 4 Instrument Lesson Start.
- 14th Babies & Tots Start

Welcome OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS!



Mrs Chevin
Acting Assistant Head



Miss Church
Year 5 Class Teacher

Staff News for the New School Year

We have some news regarding our staffing structure for the upcoming academic year.

Acting Assistant Head Appointment

We would like to extend a huge congratulations to Mrs. Chevin! Mrs. Chevin will be stepping into the role of Acting Assistant Headteacher for the duration of the next academic year while Miss Barrow is on maternity leave. We are thrilled for Mrs. Chevin and know she will do a fantastic job.

Welcome to Year 5!

As Miss Barrow prepares for her maternity leave, we are also delighted to welcome Miss Church to our team.

Miss Church will be taking over as the Year 5 Class Teacher in Miss Barrow's absence. You may see Miss Church around school over the next few weeks as she begins to transition into her new role.

Please join us in wishing Miss Barrow all the best, and in congratulating Mrs. Chevin and warmly welcoming Miss Church!

Pantomime

Dick Whittington

Pantomime Trip – Tuesday 16th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very excited for our whole-school trip to the De Montfort Hall pantomime on **Tuesday 16th December**. Firstly, a massive thank you to the PTFA team for organising this tradition for our children and everyone behind the scenes who work so hard to make it happen.

Travel & Timings

- Children will have lunch earlier than usual so that we can leave promptly; however, the hot dinner options will be offered as normal.
- We will travel by coach and expect to return to school at approximately **4:30pm**.
- We will send updates and estimated arrival times via **Class Dojo** on the day.

Collection

- All children should be collected from their **usual classrooms (R/KS1)** at **4:30pm**.
- KS2 children will dismissed as usual from the KS1 playground.
- Please allow staff time to return to school, escort pupils inside and help them gather their belongings before dismissal.

After school club

- Afterschool will run as from when the children return till 5.30p.m on this day. Please inform the office or check on Arbor if this is something you want to avail of. A separate club has been set up on Arbor. We would be grateful for early bookings for this day so that the transition can be as smooth as possible.

Parking

- If you are collecting by car, **please you can use KS2 playground for parking** if necessary, to help avoid congestion on the surrounding roads. We will have four buses arriving back at dismissal time so as you can imagine, it will be very busy.

Snacks

- During the interval, each child will receive a small treat bag provided by the PTFA.

If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher. We are looking forward to a wonderful festive trip!

CATHOLIC LIFE

St. Mary And St. John Bosco Parish Christmas Fayre

The fair took place on Saturday 22nd November at St John Fisher School. Father John is grateful for all the support. Over **£2769** was raised.

Advent 2025

On Thursday December 4th, 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 16th 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.

Nativity!

We wish our youngest classes all the best as they prepare for the annual nativity plays. This is always a magical experience for our children, particularly in a Catholic school setting. Please encourage your child to practice their lines, dance moves, and songs at home. We'll be recording the performances and uploading them to a private YouTube channel in time for Christmas.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION **DIRECTORY**

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

ALL SAINTS

(1 November)

We celebrate the lives of special and ordinary people who have responded to God's invitation to love.

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)

(2 November)

Today and throughout the rest of November we pray for those who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

(23 November)

ADVENT

(Begins 30 November)

Advent means 'coming'. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing. It is only in the last week of Advent that we focus upon the events to be celebrated at Christmas.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

(8 December)

This feast marks the first stage of the existence of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

She was 'full of grace' from the very beginning and co-operated with God throughout her life.

When December 8 falls on a Sunday, the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday

CHRISTMAS DAY, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(25 December)

On this day we begin our celebration of the birth of Christ.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

(28 December)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ADVENT TERM 2025

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

We are excited to share that this term, we have begun teaching the new Religious Education Directory, known as the RED, in our Religious Education lessons. This marks an important and exciting new chapter in how we teach Religious Education.

The RED has its own specially designed model curriculum, made up of six branches. Each half-term, we explore one of these branches in class. Each one focuses on a core theme, helping children to grow in their understanding of key aspects of the Catholic faith — including Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ, and life in the Church.

What makes this new approach so special, is that it not only helps pupils learn about their faith in a deeper, more meaningful way, but also invites them to reflect on what it means for their own lives. It helps them to see, judge, and act with greater understanding and compassion.

We're really looking forward to embedding this new vision for Religious Education into our classrooms. To help keep you informed and involved, we'll be sending out a newsletter each term with updates on what your child is learning.

Curriculum branches are the way the programme of study presents its model curriculum. There are six half term branches which are the same in each year group:

Advent term 1 - Creation and Covenant - Encounter the God who creates and calls all people with a focus on the accounts of Creation.

Advent term 2 - Prophecy and Promise - Explore the expectant waiting for the Messiah through the Advent season.

Lent term 1 - Galilee to Jerusalem - Experience the ministry of Jesus and the Word of God. They will learn through parables, encounters, miracles and teachings.

Lent term 2- Desert to Garden - Study the season of Lent and its culmination in the events of Holy Week.

Pentecost term 1- To the ends of the Earth - Study the events that flowed from the Resurrection and Ascension in the coming of the Holy Spirit and the work of the apostles and early Church.

Pentecost term 2 - Dialogue and Encounter - Learn how Christians work together with people of different religious backgrounds, building an understand that all people work towards a common good and should respect all humanity.

How can you support your child at home?

Conversation:

Discuss what your child is learning in RE

Experiences:

Help your child to link RE learning to their everyday life.

Scripture:

Explore some of the scripture shared with your child at home e.g. through homework activities shared

Quiet Reflection:

Encourage your child to spend time in quiet reflection, either through prayer, meditation, or simply taking time to pause and take in the importance of having some quiet time

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Attendance

& ABSENCE PROCEDURES



As we continue our journey through the school year, I want to express my sincere gratitude and pride for the commitment shown by our families in ensuring high attendance at St. John Fisher. Regular attendance is a key part of our children's formation, echoing the commitment and discipline we strive to instill in every pupil.

The classes with the highest attendance so far this year are:

1st place: Year 4 - 97.3%

2nd Place: Year 2 - 97.1%

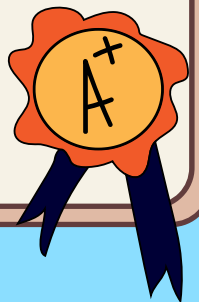
3rd Place: Year 6 and Reception - 96%

Our target is always to have attendance above 97%. Last week, attendance across all year groups was 96.9%.

Unfortunately, our whole school attendance is below where it was compared to last year. We need this to improve for your child's education.

A day off school not only means they miss out a day's education. It means that learning missed out on can lead to gaps in other lessons that build on prior learning.

Remember that excellent attendance leads to amazing achievements.



A Gentle Reminder on Absence Procedures

While we strive for perfect attendance, we understand that illness is unavoidable. When your child is unwell, please exercise careful judgment regarding their fitness for school. The health and well-being of all pupils and staff remain paramount.

- **Reporting Absence:** Parents/carers **must** contact the school office by **9:00 a.m.** on the first day of absence, clearly stating the reason.
- **Medical Evidence:** For medical or dental appointments, we kindly request that you provide the school office with **evidence of the appointment** (e.g., an appointment card or letter).
- **Extended Absence:** If your child is absent for more than a few days, we would expect that they have been seen by a medical professional to justify the extended time away from their learning.

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

[_ \(http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/education/directors-governors/appointment-foundation-governors\)_](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/education/directors-governors/appointment-foundation-governors)

ADMISSIONS 2026-27

Apply
Now!

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 [here](#).

Winter Mini Reading Challenge

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are taking part in the Winter Mini Reading Challenge this year. In the summer, 58 children earned certificates — let's see if we can get even more for the winter challenge!

This is a great way to keep children reading over the winter months and helps build their confidence, vocabulary and enjoyment of books.



Dates:

1 December 2025 – 20 February 2026

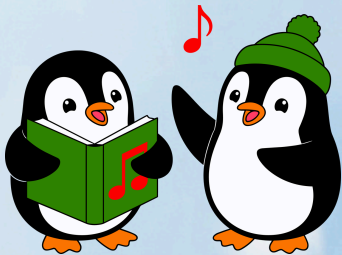
To take part, children need to:

Visit wintermini.org.uk

Read three books or more

Review the books on the website

Download and print their certificate



If children complete the challenge, they will receive:

5 house points

Progress towards their merit certificate chart

Their certificate shown in assembly

Children can read any books — from home, school, the library, e-books or audiobooks.

Thank you for supporting reading at home!

Mr Hill
Reading Lead



SPORT NEWS

YEAR 3 SPORTS DEVELOPMENT



On Wednesday 26th November, 10 Year 3 children attended a Development Day at Sir Jonathan North with five other schools. The idea behind the day was to think about improving self-confidence during sport-based activities. The children enthusiastically took part in an assortment of activities during the morning for example, Throw, Clap, Catch, Speed Bounce and Throwing the Ball through a Basketball Hoop. The children were asked to keep their own scores, noting when they had beaten their previous score, which they recorded in their own booklets. In addition, the children also had to write down how many times they had beaten their score, and this determined whether they were awarded a Gold, Silver or Bronze for that particular activity. As many previous scores were beaten our excited children were awarded many Golds, Silvers and Bronzes. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed the morning. Thank you to Mrs Johnson and Mrs Rahmati for taking the children.



Congratulations!

Thank you to everyone
who attended our
Travelling Book Fair.

Together we have raised.....£1363.59.....
for our school to spend on **FREE BOOKS**



TRAVELLING BOOKS