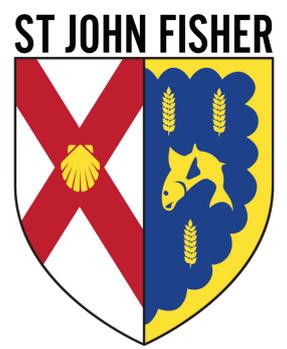


13th February 2026

Newsletter



Dear Parents,

This week, we've focused on two vital themes: Children's Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day. These topics are deeply connected, particularly when it comes to the impact of screen time on our children's well-being.

At St John Fisher CVA, we are very fortunate to have both a School Counsellor (Mrs Johnson) and a Senior Health Lead (Mrs Sneath) dedicated to supporting our pupils. If you feel your child could benefit from a chat or extra support, please reach out to the school office.

Regarding digital safety, this is now a core part of our curriculum from Reception through to Year 6. We cover everything from privacy and online bullying to self-image and healthy habits—you can find a plethora of [parent guides here](#) on what we teach. Here is another useful source of information from the government especially for parents: [Online safety: how to get started](#)

As a parent myself, I know that managing screen time and monitoring apps can feel like a full-time job! However, the time we invest in setting those boundaries now is so worth it for our children's long-term peace of mind.

God Bless
Mr Gallagher

DATES FOR THE DIARY

February

- 13th Non-School Uniform
14th to 22nd Feb - End of Half Term
18th Ash Wednesday - Start of Lent
- 26th Road Safety at School Visit
Swimming Gala - Selected Year 5 & 6

March

- 5th World Book Day - Costume is Book Characters
- 10th Reception Class - Mothering Sunday Liturgy - Parents Welcome
- 19th Mass - All Welcome
- 23rd Group Photo & Class Photos
Reception class - Balance Bikes
- 24th Stations of the Cross led by Year 6- All Welcome
- 26th Easter Menu - more information to follow
- 27th Non-school Uniform for Big Lent Walk - CAFOD
30th to 12th April - End of Term

April

- 13th Back to School

May

- 4th Bank Holiday - School Closed**
- 7th Year 3 Sports Festival at St Pauls
- 18th Walk to School Week - more information to follow.
- 19th May Assembly - 9a.m - Led by Year 1- All Welcome
Year 4 Sports Festival at St Pauls
- 20th Lesson 10 of Branch 5 - Led by Year 3
23rd to 31st - Half Term

June

- 1st Back to School
- 3rd Lesson 10 of Branch 5 -9a.m - Led by Year 5
- 4th Lesson 10 of Branch 5 - 9a.m - Led by Year 2
- 9th Year 5 Sports Festival at St Pauls
- 11th Year 6 Sports Festival at St Pauls
Year 1 Trip - Beaumanor Hall
- 15th Year 6 CRICH Trip - 15th to 17th

July

- 3rd Sports Day - more information to follow
- 10th End of Academic Year - School finishes at 2p.m. After school club is available until 4.15p.m**

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!



Awards go to:

Love
Angela

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.



Love of Learning
Zaynah

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.



Gratitude
Harith

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.

Pilgrims of Hope
Luca



Payment for Meals & Wraparound Care

Please can you kindly check your account balance and top-up any low balance. If your child is regularly having school meals and/or is in breakfast club or afterschool club, it may be beneficial to either top-up to cover up to the end of half-term. Wraparound care can be booked in advance as far as the end of the term. We are unable to take bookings for wraparound care if there is insufficient funds on the account.

Booking for Breakfast Club & After school club

Please can you kindly book your child to the clubs via Arbor. For Breakfast club, you should be able to add your child to the club for the same morning up until 7.a.m. With regards to the after-school club, there is a cut of time of 12 hours. This is to enable the school to make sure that sufficient staff are available to cover the pupil numbers.

Cross country

Unfortunately, last week's cross country race was cancelled due to bad weather. We will still continue with cross country club for another few weeks, Congratulations and good luck to those selected by Leicester SSPAN based on previous performances to represent East Leicester in the county cross finals at Rutland Water this Saturday.



When is my child's PE day?

PE days this half term:

Reception: Monday & Wednesday

Year 1: Thursday & Friday

Year 2: Monday & Tuesday

Year 3: Monday & Thursday

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



No Swimming this half-term. Swimming will commence on 17th April for Year 4 & 5.

WORLD BOOK DAY 5TH MARCH

Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Please bring a book that you have already read and that you would be happy to swap with a friend.

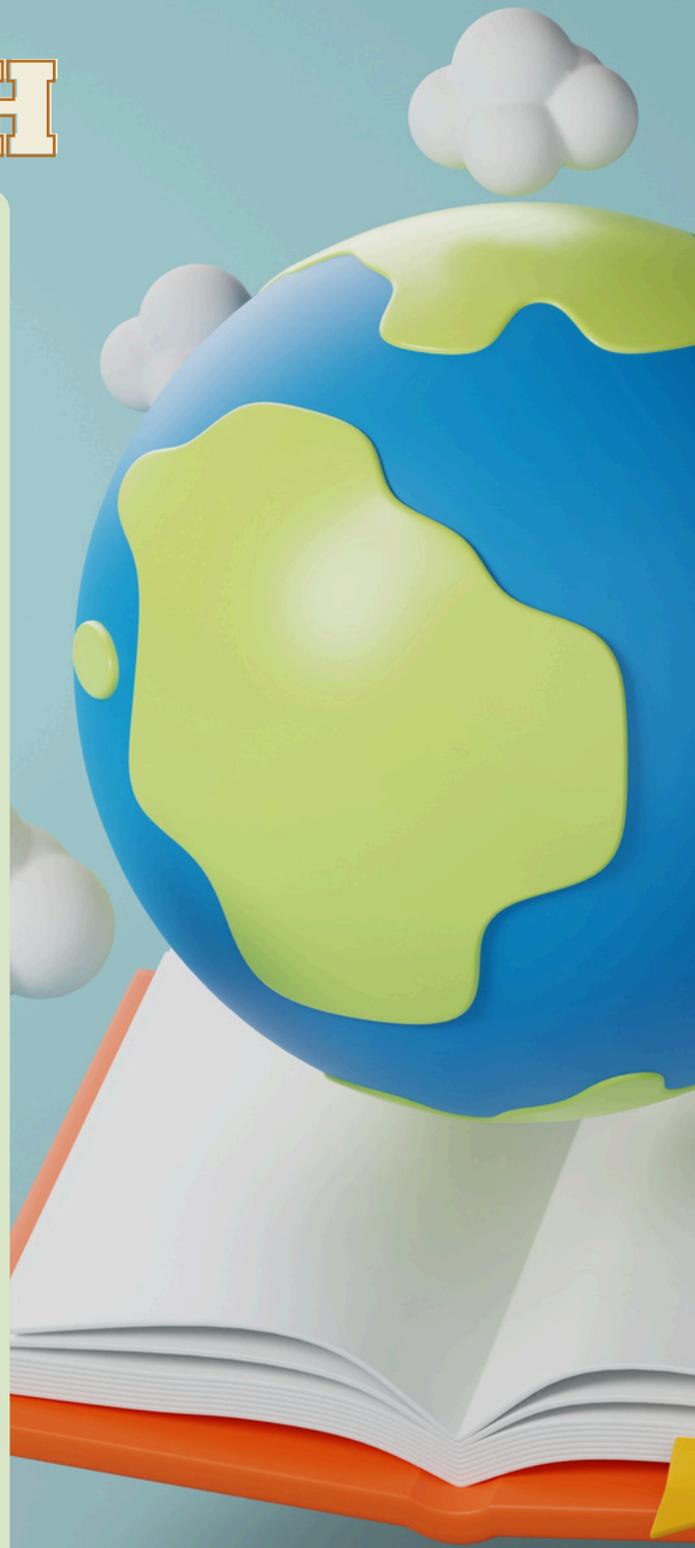
We will be celebrating with a range of reading activities throughout the day, including story sharing between classes and special reading events.

From 2:40pm, parents of Reception and KS1 children are invited to read with their child until home time. Please wait outside the classroom as normal for collection — staff will invite you in.

Each child will receive a £1 World Book Day voucher. This can be used at most bookshops and supermarkets to get a special £1 World Book Day book or to take £1 off another book.

KS2 children will also receive a new Reading for Pleasure Bingo card — full instructions will be shared on ClassDojo.

We're looking forward to a fun day celebrating reading and books! 📖



ECO

Our Eco-Club have been busy learning how to care for our environment. We took part in quizzes about recycling and environmental issues, regularly emptied and monitored our school recycling boxes, and counted collected pens and batteries. The children also carried out a rubbish audit in each classroom to check what was being thrown away and whether it could be recycled, before confidently reporting their findings in assembly. To support the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch, we designed posters and made biodegradable bird feeders using orange peel and birdseed. We have also been planning more exciting activities to continue our work throughout the rest of the year.



SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Stay Device Safe

Lent Term 2025-2026

Devices and children: the bigger picture

Children now move between several internet-connected devices each day, phones, tablets, gaming consoles, smart TVs, laptops and wearables. These devices support learning, creativity, social connection and entertainment and for most families they are a normal part of daily life. Because children switch quickly between platforms, online safety is not just about one app; it is about the whole device environment and the habits around it.

Risks can include:

- **Contact risks:** messages or interactions with strangers, and unkind behaviour from others
- **Content risks:** age-inappropriate, harmful, or upsetting material
- **Conduct risks:** oversharing personal information, accidental spending, and too much unsupervised screen time

The most effective approach is usually simple and consistent:

(1) set up the right controls, (2) keep active interest in what your child does online, and (3) have regular, calm conversations so they will come to you early if something goes wrong.



Device focus: where to prioritise

Start with the devices your child uses most.

Phones & tablets

- Use age-appropriate profiles and app limits
- Check privacy/location settings
- Turn off unknown contact requests where possible

Gaming consoles

- Restrict chat/messages to known friends
- Apply age ratings to games
- Set spending controls and purchase PINs

Smart TVs/streaming & laptops

- Use child profiles and content filters
- Turn off autoplay if needed
- Keep software updated and use safe search

Golden rule: Bedroom-free charging overnight supports safer use and better sleep.



More Top Tips

- Set controls first, then explain why (safety, not punishment)
- Review settings monthly as apps/devices change
- Keep devices in shared spaces when possible
- Agree screen-time boundaries (especially before bed)
- Teach block/report on games and apps
- Use strong passwords/PINs and keep parent controls private
- Talk often and calmly: "Anything online made you feel uncomfortable?"
- Ask for help early from school if a concern escalates

Get advice on supporting children if they have seen harmful or upsetting content online

[CLICK HERE](#)

How to start the conversation about online safety and how to navigate tricky topics

[CLICK HERE](#)

23 Schools - 9000 Pupils - One Team

February Half Term

at Leicester Cathedral



FREE



Tues 17 and Thurs 19 Feb
10.30am-12pm and 2.00-4.00pm

Get creative and sew any design you like onto binca canvas (recommended age for activity 5+)

FREE drop-in activity, donations welcome
All children must be accompanied by an adult

All week in half term
10.30am-4.30pm

Come along to see our 'Peacemakers' installation and all are welcome to join in with the weaving
Available for all ages

FREE drop-in activity.
All children must be accompanied by an adult

FREE



Join us for three exciting children's comedy shows at Leicester Cathedral - more details overleaf.



www.leicestercathedral.org



Tickets available from
the LCF website

All U18s must be accompanied
by an appropriate adult



Ask Granny

Ages 6+

17 Feb, 11.30am & 3.00pm & 19 Feb, 11.30am

Granny's here bringing giggles, tickles & a sprinkle of chaos! NaanE - the fruit-loving, fun-making granny - turns kids' questions into silly games and hilarious life hacks in this laugh-out-loud, interactive show. Expect laughter, surprises & mischief.

Richard Atkinson: Saints Alive

Parental Guidance

19 February, 1.00pm & 3.00pm

Whilst at primary school Richard was pulled up by his teacher for drawing Jesus wearing jeans and playing football. Stunned at his historical inaccuracy he has sought to right the wrongs and learn about the Saints of the Christian Church. Richard III isn't a Saint but Henry VI nearly made it! A fascinating journey pulling up some of the more unusual elements of more than 20 Saints, this promises to be an opportunity to explore faith with a light-hearted twist.

Benny Shakes: Slugageddon!

Age 7+

17 February, 1.45pm

Slugs, slugs and more slugs! Can you help Benny defeat the slug army with a piano made of vegetables, some delicious compost and a final showdown with the boss?.



www.leicestercathedral.org





FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2026

February 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

This February half-term, from 14th to 20th February 2026, parents can take advantage of a family-friendly offer at Subway. When you buy any full-price Footlong Sub, you can receive a free children's 4" sub, snack, and drink. You can also find a huge list of other restaurants, pubs and cafes offering free/discounted food over half term. Click on the subway sandwich to find more information.



Things to do

Click on the heart below to learn more about events across Leicester for families to get involved in. Activities include a comedy festival, Bollywood dance workshop, pokemon crafts and Dino Day!



More things to do

Families are invited to a free, drop-in creative workshop on Saturday 21 February 2026, 10:00am-12:00pm at Modern Painters, in Loughborough. The session is designed as a relaxed space to make, play and explore together. Click the balloons to learn more



Rutland

Celebrate Chinese New Year at Rutland Museum with children's craft activities inspired by the Year of the Horse. Sessions are drop-in, so there's no need to book a time slot. Cost is £3 per child, and under-4s go free. Click on the horse for more information about this activity.



Fun at home

The National Trust's "50 things to do before you're 18" is a family activity list to help children get outdoors, connect with nature and learn new skills. It includes ideas from den building and puddle splashing to stargazing and tree-spotting, with seasonal picks (like winter and rainy-day activities) plus safety tips. Click on the wellies to see the list!



ACE THE BASICS

KNIGHTON PARK

LE2 3RE

STARTING TUES 3RD MARCH



£19.99 4 WEEK ACE THE BASICS COURSE

JUNIOR TENNIS AGES 4-12

4-5pm ages 4-8
5-6pm ages 9-12

Racket option included

BOOK OR CONTACT US:

01952 984 894
enquiries@wedotennis.co.uk

-



**SCAN
ME**

SCROLL DOWN TO
SHORT COURSES



**WE DO
TENNIS**

 Leicester
City Council

Holy Mass Bulletin - Sixth Week of Ordinary Time and into Lent, Year A, 2026

Saturday 14th February - Sts. Cyril, monk, and Methodius, bishop, Patrons of Europe

6pm - St. John Bosco's, Paul Hickey RIP

Sunday 15th February - Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

9am - St. Edward's, All Parishioners

11am - St. Mary's, Frank Hartley RIP

6pm - St. Mary's, David Casserley RIP

Wednesday 18th February - Ash Wednesday (fasting and abstinence, all Catholics aged 18 to 59 (one full meal and two smaller meals), and all 14 and over to abstain from meat

10am - St. Edward's, Pope Leo & all Catholic Priests and Consecrated Religious

7pm - St. Mary's, Ray Eaton RIP

Thursday 19th February

10am - St. Mary's, Molly Shryane RIP

Friday 20th February (No Meat Today)

10am - St. John Bosco's, All Parishioners

7pm - St. Mary's, Stations of the Cross

Saturday 21st February - St. Peter Damian, bishop and doctor (commemoration)

6pm - St. John Bosco's, Paul Hickey RIP

Sunday 22nd February - First Sunday of Lent

9am - St. Edward's, Donal Fitzpatrick RIP

11am - St. Mary's, Keith Bates RIP

Confessions: Saturday 5:30pm - St. John Bosco's, Sunday 5:30pm - St. Mary's

6pm on Ash Wednesday. Also after any Holy Mass or liturgy and by appointment

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

As we celebrate the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Church gently turns our hearts towards the holy season of Lent. On Ash Wednesday we receive blessed ashes and are called anew to repentance and faith in the Gospel. Lent is a grace-filled season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, through which the Lord purifies our hearts and strengthens us in charity. Let us begin this Lent confident that God never fails to bless the smallest step we take towards Him. I encourage each of you to make a simple and concrete resolution, and to approach the Sacrament of Confession during these sacred weeks. May Our Lady guide us through this season, so that we may share more fully in the joy of Easter.

NOTICES

- No Sunday evening Mass on the 22nd of February and 1st of March.
- Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and Crafty Corner, Tues. 17th February 4pm at St. Edward's
- Short liturgy meeting after the St. Mary's Ash Wednesday Mass on the 18th.
- Lenten Reflections every Monday at St. Edward's at 7pm beginning on 23rd February
- All Catholics must make a confession between the 18th February and the 31st of May.

PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD

- Donal Fitzpatrick RIP, Funeral Mass 10:30am on Wednesday 4th March at St. Edward's

Parish Website: cathparishmje.co.uk, Office: 07354 832195 cathparishmje@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. John Owens: john.owens@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Safeguarding Representative: Hilari Chetwood: 07734 690611