

11th September 2026

Newsletter



Headteacher's Welcome

It has been a wonderful start to the new academic year, and I have been delighted to see how quickly and positively the children have settled back into school life. They have shown great enthusiasm for learning, resilience during some unexpected wet playtimes, and a determination to make the most of every opportunity.

There have already been some exciting experiences taking place across the school. Our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils have begun their swimming lessons, Year 3 have enjoyed getting started with tag rugby and recorders, Year 2 have made their own coleslaw and our Reception children have made a fantastic start to their academic journey. It has been a pleasure to see their confidence growing each day as they become familiar with their new routines, classmates and learning environment.

The safety and wellbeing of all our children remain an absolute priority. Over the coming weeks, we will be practising both a fire drill and an invacuation drill. An invacuation involves everyone remaining safely inside the building and is sometimes referred to as a partial lockdown procedure. These practice drills help us ensure that staff and pupils know exactly what to do should an emergency ever arise. I will be leading assemblies with the children beforehand so that they understand the purpose of each drill and feel reassured about what is expected.

Thank you for your continued support in this opening fortnight as we begin another exciting year together – the 60th year since St John Fisher's school's establishment. I look forward to sharing many more achievements and successes with you in the weeks ahead.

Mr Gallagher
Headteacher

DATES FOR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

- 16th - Year 5 at Leicester Tigers
Boys Football at Judgemeadow Community College
- 19th - Stay & Play open day for new starters 2027-2028
- 22nd - Mass at 9a.m. - All welcome
- 24th - Year 3 & 4 selected pupils attending Sports Event at Inspire Festival
- 29th - Flu Vaccination - Contact for consent has been made directly by the immunisation team on 08/09/2026.

OCTOBER

- 1st -CENSUS Day - Menu change - please see below
- Cross Country at Victoria Park - selected Year 3,4,5 & 6 pupils
- 2nd - Adults Quiz Night - All Welcome - Tickets available on Arbor
- 6th - Year 6 at Warning Zone
- 13th & 15th Parent's Evening (more information to follow)
- 14th - Open Afternoon for new parents
- 17th to 25th HALF TERM
- 26th - Year 5 Bikeability
- 29th - Harvest Mass

NOVEMBER

- 2nd - School Photos
- 5th - Travelling Books week
- 6th- Open morning for new parents
- 20th -INSET DAY- SCHOOL CLOSED

DECEMBER

- 3rd Advent Mass & Confessions
- 4th - Year 6 Menphys
- 16th - Pantomime a.m.- whole school
- 17th - Christmas Dinner Menu
- 18th - 2 p.m. finish- LAST DAY OF TERM (END OF TERM 19th to 4th January 2027)

SCHOOL MEALS PRE-ORDER

School Meal Bookings - Important Information for Parents

Dear Parents/Carers,

To help improve the efficiency of our morning routines and ensure accurate meal numbers are provided to our kitchen team, we are introducing a new process for ordering school meals.

From now on, all parents/carers must book their child's meal choices in advance through Arbor.

What you need to do:

1. Log in to Arbor.
2. Go to Meals.
3. Select your child's meal choice for the following week.

You can choose to:

- Book meals one week at a time.
- Book meals for a whole month.
- Book meals for an entire term.

Please note: We require all parents to complete this, even if their child has a packed lunch.

Each Monday, we will provide the kitchen with meal numbers and choices for the week ahead, so it is essential that bookings are made in advance.

This system is already being introduced in many schools and offers several benefits:

- Reduces valuable classroom time spent by teachers recording meal choices each morning.
- Helps the kitchen plan meals more accurately and reduce waste.
- Gives parents and children the opportunity to discuss meal options together before school.

We would appreciate your support in ensuring meal choices are booked in Arbor ahead of time.

Thank you for your cooperation.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council Menu Challenge!

Can Your Child Create Our Next School Lunch Favourite?

The School Council is inviting all pupils to get creative and design a brand-new meal idea for our school menu!

We would love children to think about healthy, tasty, and exciting dishes that they would enjoy seeing at lunchtime.

All menu suggestions will be sent to our kitchen team for consideration, and some ideas may even be featured on the new school menu from October.

How to Enter

- ☒ Create a new meal idea
- ☒ Give your dish a name
- ☒ List the ingredients
- ☒ Draw a picture (optional but encouraged!)
- ☒ Hand it to your class teacher

Deadline

 Please submit entries by Friday 18th September

The School Council will collect all entries and share them with the kitchen team.

We can't wait to see the fantastic ideas our pupils come up with!

Who knows? Your child's creation could become the next school lunch special!



Consent

Trip and Event Consent

To help ensure that school trips and events run smoothly, **please provide consent by the deadline given.** Late responses can impact a number of important preparations, including:

- Finalising pupil attendance lists.
- Confirming staffing and supervision arrangements.
- Completing risk assessments and safeguarding checks.
- Ensuring all administrative procedures are completed on time.
- Avoiding the need for staff to make follow-up phone calls on the day of the trip or event.

Your prompt response helps us organise activities efficiently and ensures that children can participate without unnecessary delays.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.



Volunteering



Reading Volunteers Needed!

Can you spare a little time to help our children develop a love of reading?

At our school, we are passionate about helping every child become a confident and enthusiastic reader. We are looking for parents, guardians, grandparents, and other family members who may be interested in volunteering as Reading Volunteers.

By giving just a small amount of your time each week, you could make a huge difference to a child's confidence, fluency, and enjoyment of reading.

What does a Reading Volunteer do?

- ✓ Listen to children read on a one-to-one basis
- ✓ Encourage confidence and enjoyment of books
- ✓ Support children in developing their reading skills
- ✓ Help foster a lifelong love of reading

No teaching experience is required. We will provide guidance and support.

Volunteer Recruitment Process

As part of our commitment to safeguarding the children in our school, all volunteers are required to complete our HR recruitment and vetting process before they can begin volunteering.

This process includes:

- Proof of identity (ID)
- Two satisfactory references
- An enhanced DBS check
- Completion of relevant volunteer documentation

Our school office and HR team will guide you through each step of the process.

Interested?

We would love to hear from you!

If you are interested in becoming a Reading Volunteer, please contact the school office or speak to a member of staff for further information.



PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2027

Applications for Primary School places in Leicestershire for September 2027 open on 1 September 2026 and close on 15 January 2027.

Important: Our School Has a Two-Step Application Process

1	Apply through the Local Authority (Leicestershire County Council Admissions Portal)
2	Complete and return the School Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

Both steps must be completed. Submitting only one part of the process is not sufficient for your application to be fully considered.

Key Dates

Applications Open	1 September 2026
Applications Close	15 January 2027
National Offer Day	16 April 2027

Who Can Apply?

Children born between **1 September 2022** and **31 August 2023** are eligible to start primary school in Autumn 2027.

Parents Checklist

- Apply through Leicestershire County Council
- Complete the School Supplementary Information Form (SIF)
- Submit both by 15 January 2027



CENSUS DAY MENU

THURSDAY 1st OCTOBER 2026

Sausage, Chips & Baked Beans

or

Vegan Sausage, Chips & Baked Beans

or

Jacket Potato, Cheese, Baked Beans (VG), Tuna
Mayonnaise

Iced Sponge with Sprinkles

or

Jelly & Fruit (VG)

Fresh fruit and Yogurt also available



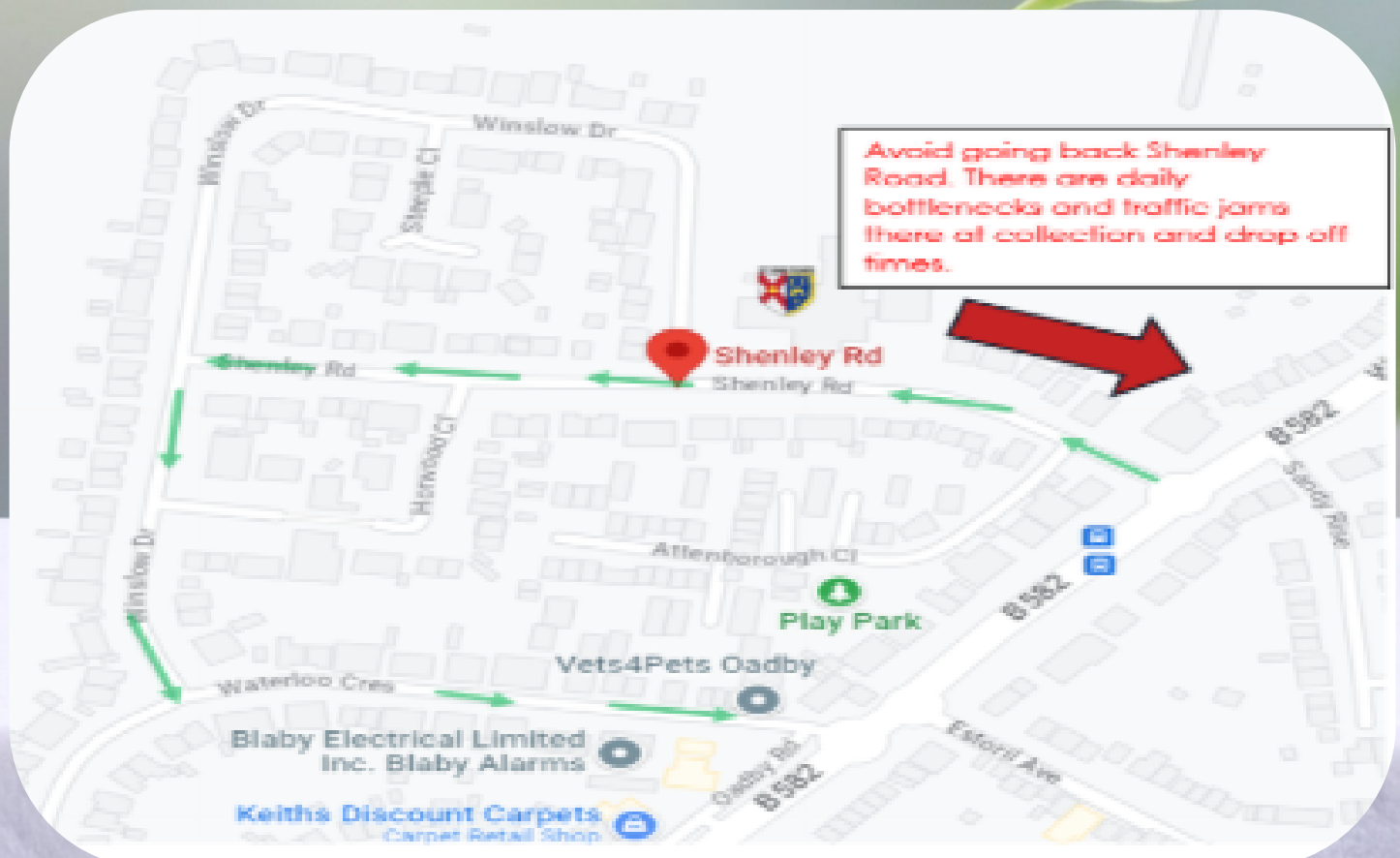
Let's Keep Our School Drop-Off and Pick-Up Safe and Smooth!

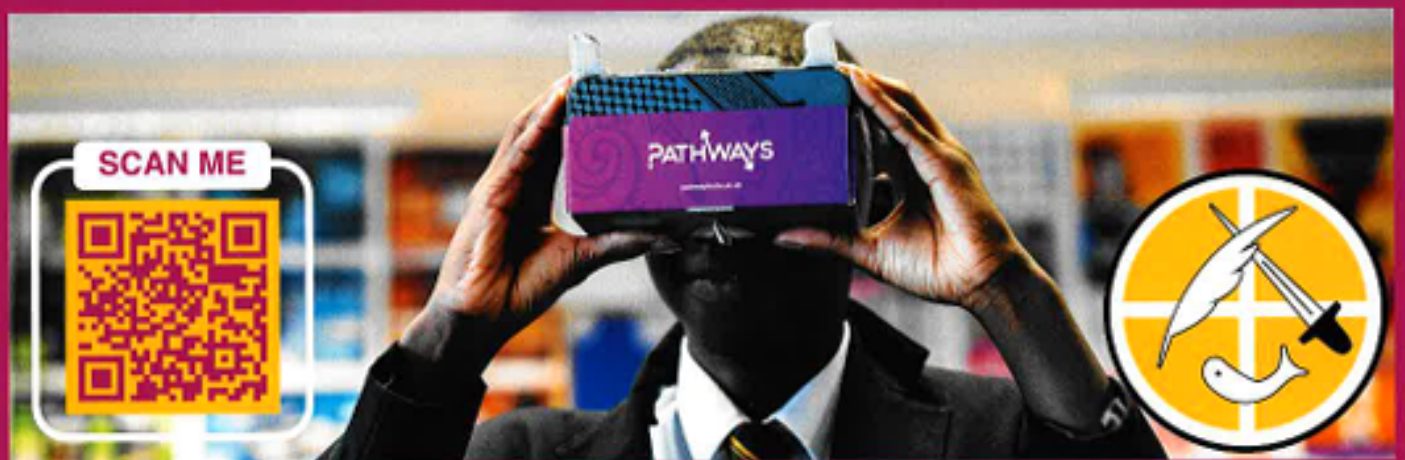
Thank you to all the families who already show great care when driving and parking around school. Your efforts make a real difference to everyone's safety.

To help keep things running safely and smoothly, please remember:

- Plan ahead: Give yourself a little extra time.
- Park responsibly: Avoid corners, driveways, and anything that blocks visibility.
- Drive safely: Please avoid U-turns near school and try not to reverse onto main roads.

Your support helps create a safe, welcoming environment for all our children. Thank you for your cooperation!





ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

Year 7 Open Evening

Thursday 17 September: 4.30pm-6.45pm

SPENCEFIELD LANE, LEICESTER

MOUNT SAINT BERNARD'S ABBEY

AN AFTERNOON OF

Faith

COME TOGETHER IN PRAYER & CELEBRATION



SUNDAY 13
SEPTEMBER:
FROM 2PM

MOUNT SAINT
BERNARD'S ABBEY
COALVILLE

OUTDOOR MASS • FAMILY PICNIC
MARIAN PROCESSION • ADORATION
PLEASE BRING A CHAIR OR PICNIC BLANKET & PICNIC

Event organised by James Noakes: English Martyrs' Chaplain
For more details contact: JNoakes@englishmartyrs.org

**From 1st September you
can apply for your child's
school place for the
2027/28 academic year**



**Secondary
school application
closing date**

**Saturday
31st October 2026**



**Primary and Infant
to Junior school
application closing date**

**Friday
15th January 2027**

**For hints and tips about
the process, information on
Leicestershire schools
and to apply, visit**



leicestershire.gov.uk/admissions



Applications Open:
**1st
September**

Secondary
Deadline: 31st
October | Offer Day:
1st March*

Primary
Deadline: 15th
January | Offer Day:
16th April*

 Leicestershire
County Council

*or next working day if
this falls on a weekend
/bank holiday.

School Admissions Checklist

For primary & secondary school places



Step 1: How to get started - preparing to apply

- ☐ Create a [parent portal account](#) or check you can still log in.
- ☐ Create or change to a password you can remember.
- ☐ Keep a note of the email address you applied with – you must use the same email address to log in later.

Step 2: List your school preferences

- ☐ Include your catchment school in your preferences, or the nearest local school if there is no defined catchment area. This will help increase your chance to securing a place at your nearby school.
- ☐ Maximise your opportunities by listing up to 5 different school preferences.
- ☐ Double check your order of preferences- we always aim to try to offer the highest preference where possible.

Step 3: Check your catchment areas

- ☐ Visit your local school website.
- ☐ Contact the school directly to check your catchment area.

Step 4: Review your order of preferences

- ☐ Check your details are correct before you submit your application.

TOP TIPS

1. Check out the [Your Guide to Education](#).
2. Attend open days, visit schools before finalising your choices.
3. Consider how you'd get your child to and from school. More on our [school transport policy and eligibility](#).
4. Remember late applications will be processed after those that were sent on time.
5. Help your child get [school ready](#) if applying for the first time.
6. Download our ["Moving Up" booklet](#) to help anyone transitioning on to secondary school.
7. Choosing one school will not guarantee a place.
8. If none of your preferences are offered, you may be allocated a school further away.
9. Don't assume - boundaries can be different than you expect and in some instances you may live in a catchment with multiple schools.
10. If you make changes or even re-open your application to check your submitted application, you must then click the RESUBMIT button - if you don't your application status is unsubmitted.

For hints and tips about the process, information
on Leicestershire schools and to apply, visit

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