6th November 2026

Newsletter

ST JOHN FISHER

Dear parents and carers,

As we move through this half term, I wanted to share a lovely comment from our school photographer. He recently told us that he always looks forward to visiting St John Fisher because of the warm welcome he receives from both our children and staff. In fact, he said we are the *smiliest* school he visits, and considering he works in many schools throughout the year, we think that is quite a compliment! It speaks volumes about the kindness, positivity and sense of community that make our school such a special place to learn and work.

On a different note, I have a small favour to ask. We are now welcoming applications for next year's Reception intake and would be delighted to show prospective families around our school. Many of our current families tell us they first heard about St John Fisher through a recommendation from a friend, neighbour or family member. Word-of-mouth is one of the most powerful endorsements a school can receive, and we are incredibly grateful for the trust and confidence you place in us.

If you know of any families who are beginning to think about school places for September, please do encourage them to get in touch and arrange a visit. There is no better way to experience our caring community than by seeing it in action.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such wonderful ambassadors for our school. Your recommendations mean a great deal to us.

Finally, happy Diwali to everyone in our school community who is celebrating this weekend.

God bless,

Mr Gallagher

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2027

Applications for Primary School places in Leicestershire for September 2027open 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



PARENT COMMUNICATION HIERACHY FOR CONCERNS & QUERIES



To help us resolve concerns efficiently and ensure the smooth running of the school day, please follow the steps below:

Step 1: Contact Your Child's Teacher via ClassDojo

For most concerns or queries relating to your child, please send a message to your child's class teacher through ClassDojo.
The class teacher will discuss the matter with you and work with you to find an appropriate resolution. As teachers are responsible for teaching and supervising pupils throughout the school day, we kindly ask for your patience while awaiting a response.

Step 2: Safeguarding or More Serious Concerns

If your concern relates to a safeguarding matter, or if further support is required following communication with the class teacher, please contact the school office to request an appointment with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Our office team will arrange a suitable appointment time with the most appropriate member of staff.
If the matter is genuinely urgent and cannot wait, we will make every effort to find an available member of the Senior Leadership Team to speak with you as soon as possible.

A Kind Reminder

At drop-off and collection times, teachers are responsible for the safety and supervision of all children in their class. Therefore, we respectfully ask parents not to expect immediate or lengthy discussions with teachers or other staff members at these times.

If you need to speak with a member of staff, please contact them via ClassDojo or arrange an appointment through the school office so that sufficient time can be given to your concern.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we work together to ensure the best outcomes for all children.

DATES FOR DIARY

NOVEMBER

- 5th - Travelling Books week
- 6th- Open morning for new parents
- 9th & 10th - Travelling Books available to parents - see Dojo message
  9th - EYFS Diwali Day
  - Year 2 Scootability

- 20th -INSET DAY- SCHOOL CLOSED
- 21st - St Mary's Christmas Fayre at St John Fisher - 10a.m to 2p.m.

DECEMBER

- 1st - Year 5 Ukulele Performance at 2.30p.m.
- 3rd Advent Mass & Confessions
- 4th - Year 6 Menphys
- 8th - Reception Nativity Play - 1.30p.m & 5.30p.m.
- 9th - Year 1 & 2 Nativity Play - 1.30p.m. & 6p.m.
- 15th - 9a.m Christmas Concert
- 16th - Pantomime a.m.- whole school
- 17th - Christmas Dinner Menu
  - 9a.m Carol Service
- 18th - 2 p.m. finish- LAST DAY OF TERM (END OF TERM 19th to 4th January 2027)

JANUARY

- 4th - BACK TO SCHOOL
- 19th Year 6 School Musical at St Pauls

CATHOLIC LIFE

We are delighted to invite parents and families to join us for our upcoming Celebration of the Word and school liturgies throughout the year:

📖 Branch 2 - Year 3
10 December 2026 at 9:00am

📖 Branch 3 - Year 5
11 February 2027 at 9:00am

🌷 Mothering Sunday Liturgy - Reception
2 March 2027 at 2:30pm

✝️ Stations of the Cross - Year 6
16 March 2027 at 9:00am

🌸 May Assembly - Year 1
18 May 2027 at 9:00am

📖 Meet In My Name - Branch 5 - Year 2
10 June 2027 at 9:00am

We look forward to welcoming parents, carers, family members and friends to celebrate these special occasions with us.



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
(22 November)

ADVENT
(Begins 29 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
(27 December)

Harvest Mass

Harvest Mass Donations

A huge thank you to all of our wonderful families for your incredibly generous Harvest donations. We are so fortunate to be part of such a caring school community. Your kindness will make a real difference to local families who need a little extra support, and we know the local food bank will be very grateful for your contributions.

We are so proud of how our school community always comes together to help others. Thank you for showing such compassion, generosity and community spirit. Together, we can make a big difference!









School Council Fundraising



A huge thank you to **Fiona Cairns Cake Company** in Fleckney for donating 30 BOXES (180)of chocolate fairy cakes to our school.

Parents, family & friends - we could not have done this without you.

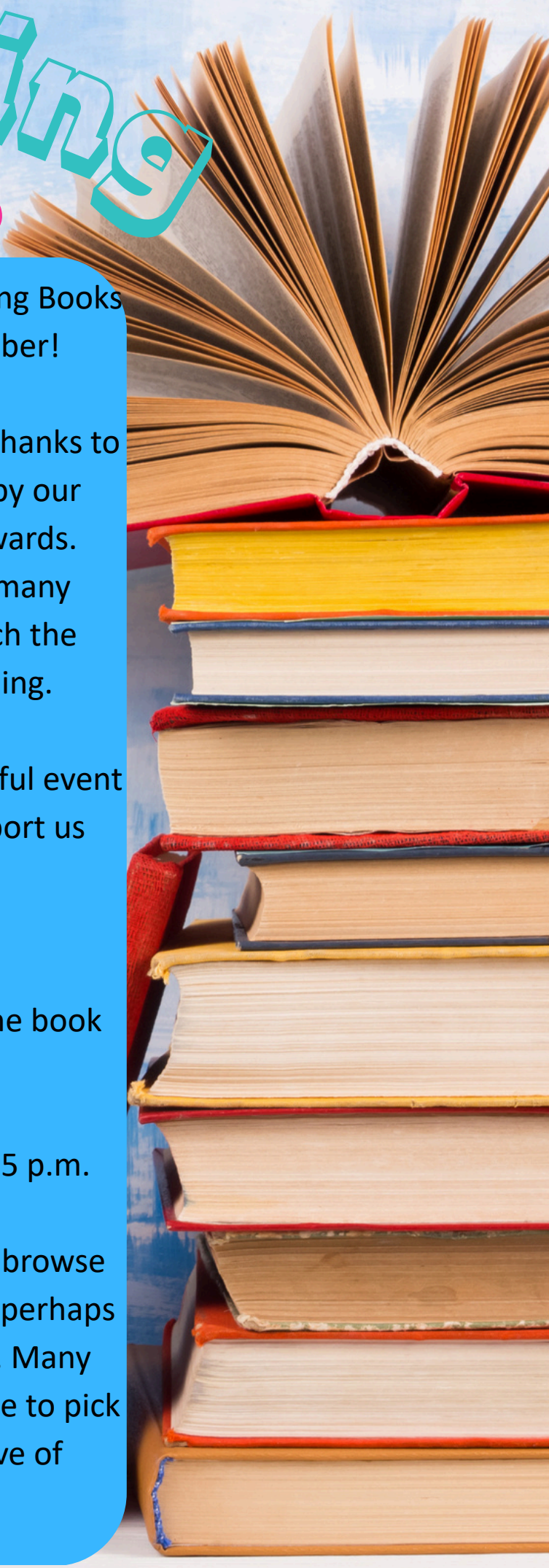
Our school council team were incredibly excited to be selling hot chocolate and cakes. They all got involved and helped plan and deliver on the day. We are incredibly proud of them.



We can confirm that we have raised £316.28 to be used to purchase something for the school. We will keep you updated.

We hope that all the children enjoyed the hot chocolate and cake day.

Travelling BOOKS



We are delighted to announce that Travelling Books will be arriving at school on 5th November!

Last year's event was a huge success, and thanks to all the books and stationery purchased by our families, the school earned valuable rewards. These rewards allowed us to purchase many fantastic new books for our library, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed reading.

We are looking forward to another successful event this year and hope you'll be able to support us once again.

Parent Opening Times

Parents and carers are welcome to visit the book fair at the following times:

Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. AND 2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

These sessions are a great opportunity to browse the selection of books with your child and perhaps get ahead with your Christmas shopping. Many families find the book fair an excellent place to pick up affordable gifts that encourage a love of reading.

GIRLS football

On wednesdsay, was the second round of matches for the girls foorball team. Once again, our 1st match was against St Thomas More. Despite having all the possession and having a number of goal scoring opportunities, the girls were unable to feed the ball past all of St Thomas More's players. The match finished 0-0.

The second match was an unexpected 5 a side against Thurnby Mead, in which Vanessa, Sofia and Annie each scored twice to finish 6-0.

Our 3rd match was against a more spirited Humberstone, although our girls proved to be too strong and finally broke through. Vanessa and Annie both scored to secure a 2-0 win. Again the girls were dominant in their next match against Whitehall. Both Vanessa and Sofia scored meaning a 2-0 win was the end result.

The last match was against Krishna Avanti, who proved to be no match for our team. Sofia and Niamh scored twice each, with Tofunmi and Clara each scoring a goal. The final score was 6-0.

Wednesday's all round effort should see the girls into Division 1.

Well Done!



SYNAGOGUE- YEAR 3 & 4 TRIP









We had a wonderful trip to the synagogue this morning! The children explored what can be found inside a synagogue, including the Torah, which is kept inside the Ark.

We also had the opportunity to look closely at a range of Jewish artefacts and enjoyed trying to work out what they were and how they are used.

The children were complimented on their knowledge, respect and curiosity. We learnt so much about the Jewish faith and really enjoyed bringing our RE learning to life through this experience.

MINI PROFESSORS

This week saw the launch of our very first Mini Professors Club, and what a fantastic start it was! Our KS2 children thoroughly enjoyed their first session, where they began learning all about light through a range of exciting hands-on experiments.

One of the fascinating facts the children discovered was that it takes approximately 8 minutes for light from the Sun to reach Earth. The children showed great curiosity and enthusiasm as they explored scientific concepts and carried out investigations.

We are looking forward to seeing what exciting discoveries our young scientists make in the coming weeks!

HAF eligibility 2026/27- A short guide for parents and carers

Looking forafundedHolidayActivitiesandFood(HAF)placefromwinter2026?Here's whatyou needtoknow.

What changed in September 2026?

FromSeptember2026, FreeSchoolMeals(FSM) became available to children in all households receiving Universal Credit, regardless of income. However, receiving Free School Meals does not automatically mean your child qualifies for a funded HAF place.

HAFis stillfocused on Targeted Free School Meal criteria, not those on expanded FSM.

Can my child get a funded HAF place?

From September2026, the ~~existing HAFeligibility rules~~ still apply:

Receiving Universal Credit with an annual household income of £7,400 or less? Your child receives free schools meals and remains eligible for a funded HAF place. ✓

If your annual household income is above £7,400: your child may receive Free School Meals but will not qualify for a funded HAF place under the standard criteria. ✗

Unsure? Ask your localauthorityto confirm your child's eligibility.

Why does my child no longer qualify?

Some children who attended HAFbeforemay nowbe ineligible, even if they still receive Free School Meals.

This is because Transitional protections, that were in place since 2018, ended after the 2025/26 school year. These protections allowed some children to keep Free School Meals andHAF eligibility even whentheir family's circumstances changed.

What other support is available?

Ifyourchildnolonger qualifiesfor HAF,youcan explore:

Paid holiday clubs: places may be available, including at clubs offering HAF-funded places.

Tax-Free Childcare: depending on your circumstances, this may help with childcare costs. https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare

Local support: check your council website for other holiday activities, childcare and family support. https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk

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.

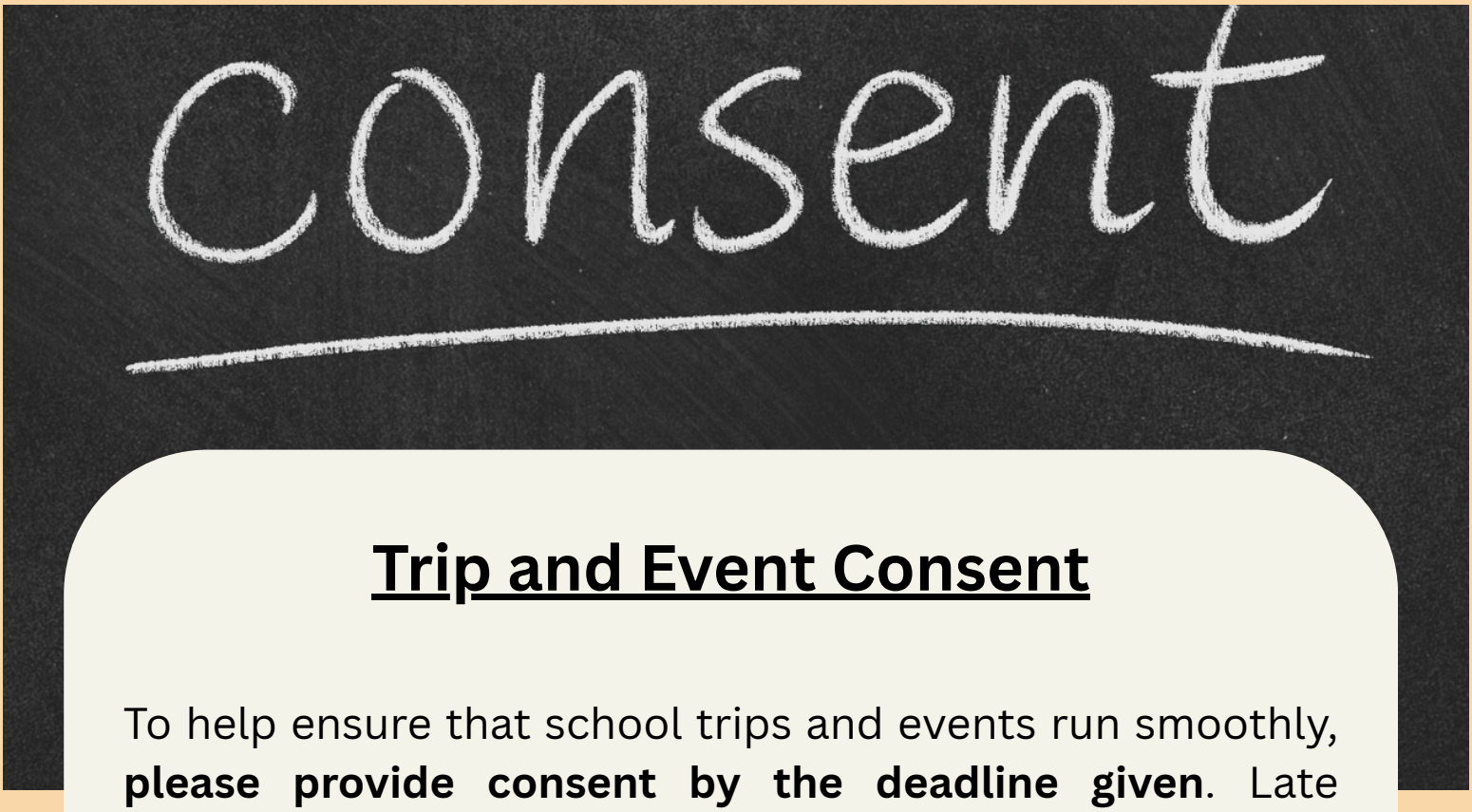
Each Monday, we will provide the kitchen with meal numbers and choices for the week ahead, so it is essential that bookings are made in advance.

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.



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.



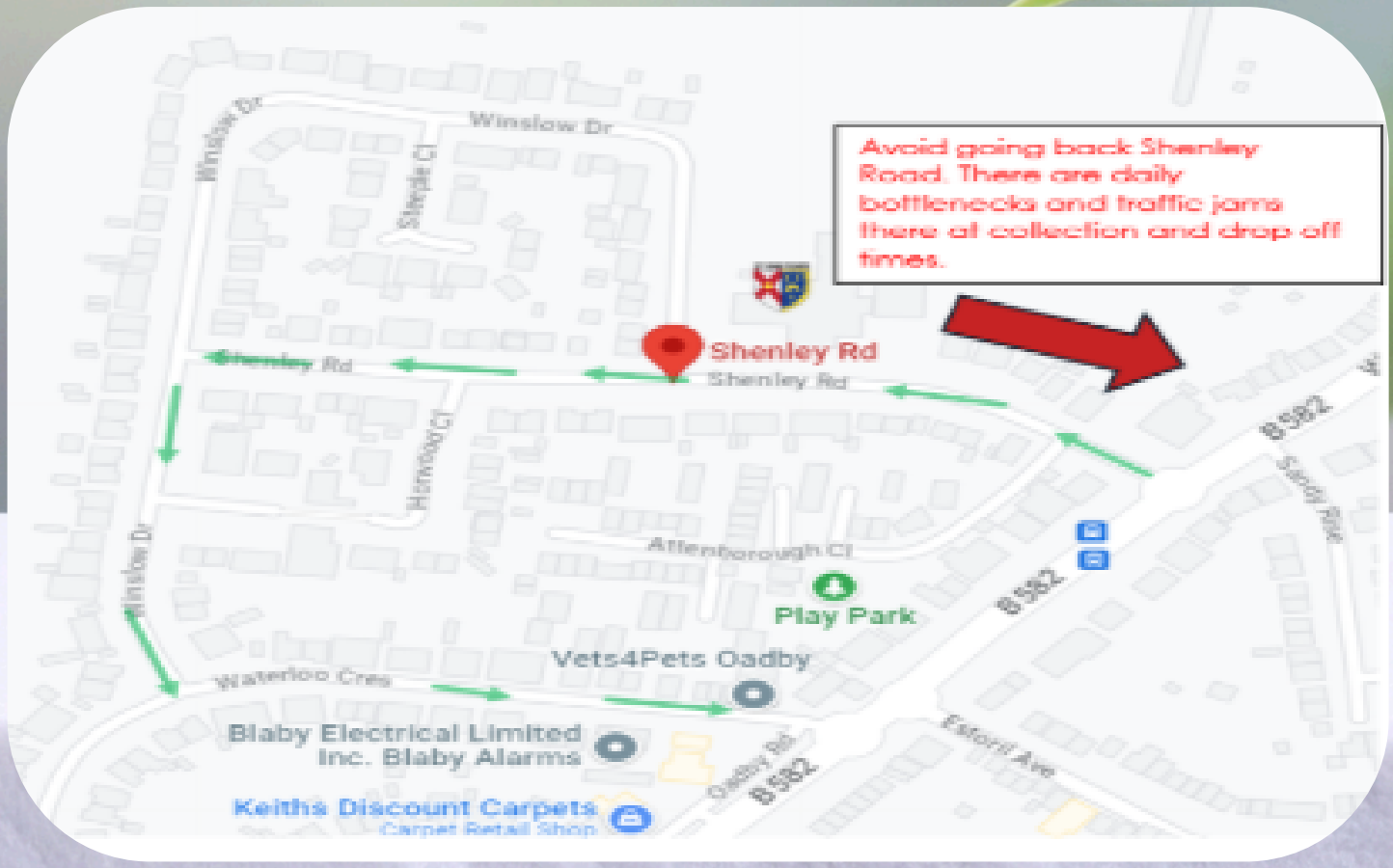
Let's Keep Our School Drop-Off and Pick-Up Safe and Smooth!

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 THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Term dates 2027-2028

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JANUARY

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Holidays

Bank Holiday

Please note the training dates on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th August.
All other staff training will take place after the school day.

St Mary, St John Bosco & St Edward's

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 21st November
St John Fisher School
10.00am – 2.00pm

Games

Come and meet Santa in his  grotto !!

Food and drinks.

Hamper raffle

Lucky dip

Dress up as a Naughty Elf

Judging 12.30pm

10 years and under
Over 10 years
(including adults!)

Gifts

Tombolas

!! FUN !!

Grand Raffle

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
&
ST THOMAS MORE

Christmas BAZAAR

SANTA'S GROTTO – RAFFLE – CAKES – BOTTLE
TOMBOLA – SILENT AUCTION – CHILDREN'S STALLS

Saturday, 28th November 2026
11am - 2pm

At St Thomas More Primary Academy,
Newstead Road,
Leicester LE2 3TA

See you there!

BE BRIGHT

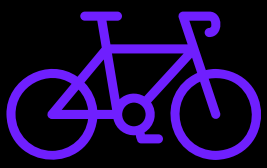
BE SEEN

Help Your Child Stay Safe This Winter

As the days get shorter and darker, it can be harder for drivers and cyclists to see children near roads.

A few simple steps can make a big difference.

Bright by Day, Reflective by Night





Encourage your child to wear:

Brightly coloured coats, hats or bags, reflective strips, stickers or accessories

Leicestershire Road Safety

Leicestershire County Council