

SJF NEWS

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Friday 4th March 2022 (Issue 23 2021/22)



Update: SJF Covid Plan

As you know, following government announcements regarding the relaxation of national Covid rules we reverted to our September plan at the start of Term 4. This week all Sheffield schools were invited to attend an important meeting with the local Public Health team and were advised that we can once again invite parents and carers in to school on the proviso that if there is a future outbreak of Covid in school, temporary restrictions may be reimposed for a short time. Even so, this is a hugely positive and welcomed step forward. It is fantastic news! We have really missed our parents/carers in school, supporting us and just being part of our school life.

Many of the regulations that we have been living under have transformed in to 'advice' and so we will still rely on people not coming in to school if they feel unwell and are experiencing Covid symptoms. We will continue to promote handwashing/sanitising for everyone in school, including parent/carers and visitors.

This means that from next week family and friends can again join us in school if their children's class is leading the weekly Liturgy of the Word, or it is their turn to attend our Celebration Assemblies on Fridays. Limited places will also be available to anyone wishing to attend the Lenten class liturgies and family and friends will be invited to join us in church for Masses too. Masses and liturgies will continue to be recorded and made available to watch online, as this has proved very popular for those who are never able to attend.

Also, many of the meetings that did have to transfer to 'Zoom', 'Teams' or over the telephone because of the pandemic, will return to being face-to-face, and we are delighted to be able to invite you to our next SJF Curriculum Showcase on **Wednesday 23rd March 2022**.



I would like to thank you for your patience and support throughout the Covid pandemic. I would like to recognise our wonderful Governors for the constant support they gave me and my team. I would like to thank my fearless and dedicated colleagues who all stepped up, so bravely, to do all they were able to do, to ensure that, in spite of everything, our children received the best that we were able to offer – including support with learning and wellbeing in school and at home. They did this, without questioning, before there were vaccines and much was even known about this dangerous virus. I salute their bravery and applaud their dedication. I am so grateful to them - in all their various and important roles - buildings maintenance, cleaners, catering, lunchtime supervisors, school administration, teaching and learning and inclusion support.

It is important to recognise the hard work of Sheffield City Council and our multi-academy Trust, and of course we offer special thanks to Greg Fell, the Director of Public Health for Sheffield, Bethen Plant and their whole amazing team who supported us, and guided me, so brilliantly, each challenging step of the way.

We give thanks for all our parents and carers too, who were also at the vanguard of the national fightback against Covid in so many different ways, including those of you who are nurses, doctors, health care assistants; care home/nursing home workers; home helps; mental health workers, pharmacists and other NHS workers; cleaners, refuse workers; teachers and teaching assistants in other schools; nursery workers; social workers; shop/supermarket and food chain workers; local and government civil servants; members of our emergency services; vets and veterinary workers; those in the media sharing important information and everyone who supported neighbours or who volunteered for charities, food banks and churches that helped the vulnerable. We also recognise the amazing efforts of all our lockdown home-teachers and anyone else who put themselves on the line to help and support others, in spite of the sacrifices and personal risks. You are all heroes.







Citizen of the Week

This week our special award goes to **Katie** in **Y4** who knows why it is important to use kind words that make the world and others' lives better, in line with our Statement of Belief this week. Katie is a very well-mannered and kind member of our school community. She is generous and kind - sharing what she has, including her time, to help and support others. In paired and group work Katie is very effective, because she listens brilliantly and uses words carefully in order to support those she is working with, and get the task achieved. She also uses words to help and cheer up others who might be feeling sad or worried about something. What an amazing example you are Katie, thank you!

Term 4 Smiley Scores

The overall year-to-date smiley scores are below.

St Andrew's House  320 2820 (4th)	St David's House  337 2949 (1st)	St Patrick's House  297 2843 (3rd)	St George's House  332 2924 (2nd)
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The Feast of St Patrick & Green Day

This year the feast of St Patrick is on Thursday 17th March 2022. The members of **St Patrick's House** will therefore celebrate their 'Green Day' on **Friday 18th March 2022**. A reminder that the invitation to come to school wearing green, instead of school uniform, is one that is extended to members of St Patrick's House only. Members of the other three Houses will be expected to attend school wearing full school uniform as usual.

100 Smilies

Congratulations to the following children who have earned 100+ smilies so far this year! In **FS2** we have Imogen, Macoley and Madia and in **Y1** we have Eliel, Felicity and Scarlett! There are a number of children across school who are close to achieving 100 smilies, and we hope to see their names in our newsletter soon!

Weekly Attendance			
1 st	Y2	98.6%	Bobby Bear will visit next week
2 nd	Y5	97.8%	Brenda Bear will visit next week
3 rd	Y4	97.7%	Billy Bear will visit next week
4 th	Y3	94.4%	
5 th	FS2	93.8%	
6 th	Y6	92.5%	
7 th	Y1	92.3%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 95.3%	



Get Set, GO!		
1 st	Y2	90%
2 nd	Y3	82%
2 nd	Y4	82%
4 th	FS2	73%
5 th	Y5	69%
5 th	Y6	69%
7 th	Y1	66%
Average = 76%		



Achievements outside of School

Please share details of your children's achievements out of school, via our school email address (enquiries@st-johnfisher.org) and we will celebrate them in our weekly newsletter. Thank you.

- Amelia** in **Y3** passed her Level 3 swimming assessment! A fantastic achievement, well done superstar!
- James** in **Y5** received a special recognition award recently, for his hard work and effort in speed skating! What an impressive achievement! Congratulations James!

SJF Calendar of Events

Please click [here](#) in order to see the weekly update on our home page or hit [LINK](#) for the 2021-22 calendar.



PTFA News

Face-to-Face Meeting

The next PTFA monthly meeting will be on **Tuesday 8th March** in school at **6pm**. Please try attend and get involved. Our PTFA plays such a key role in school life, and as we emerge from the pandemic there are opportunities for new event as well as the return of discos and other familiar and popular events to bring parents and carers together in support of our special school. Your commitment to the PTFA can be as small or as big as you want it to be, so why not come to the meeting and bring a friend? To find out more you can just turn up, speak to a member of the PTFA committee in person or email them (ptfa@st-johnfisher.org). Thank you.



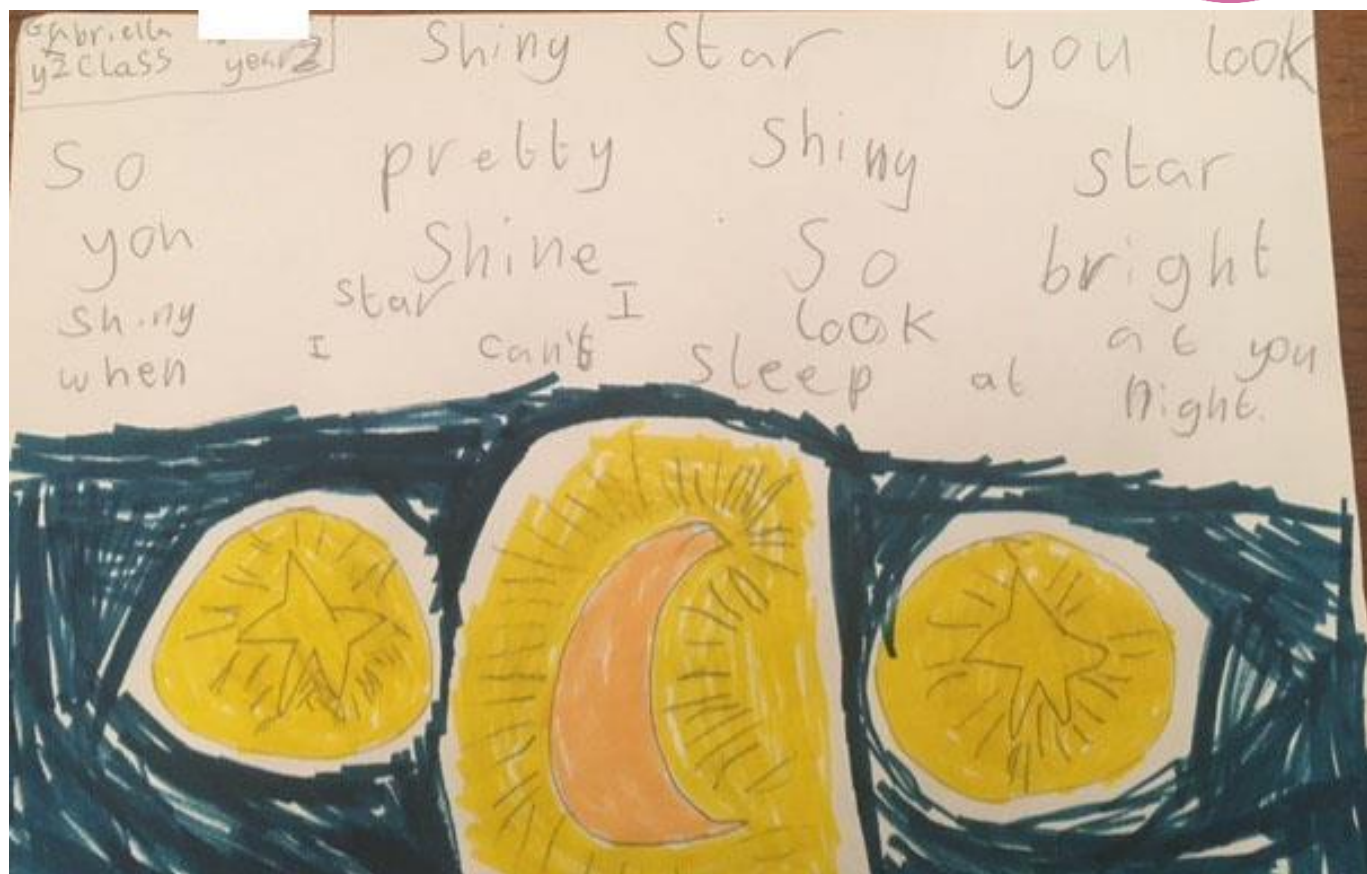
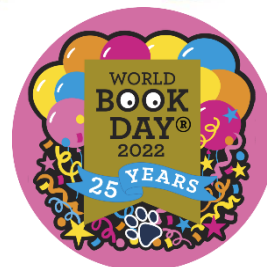
Pre-Loved Uniform Sale

Items of high quality and pre-loved school uniform will be on sale in the School Library (accessed via the playground) on **Tuesday 8th March 2022** at the end of the school day, accessed from the playground. Items will be available to buy at knock down prices, including, jumpers, skirts, shirts, PE uniform - with all money raised going to support PTFA projects. The sales will now take place regularly. If you are not able to attend and need of any items of uniform, please contact the School Office or the PTFA directly. Thank you.



Poetry Competition

Thank you to all the children who entered the PTFA poetry competition, in support of our SJF World Book Day 2022. You can view the entries online by clicking [here](#). Congratulations to Gabriella, the KS1 winner and Sebastian, the KS2 winner. They and the runners up received the special prizes provided by the PTFA at this morning's Celebration Assembly.

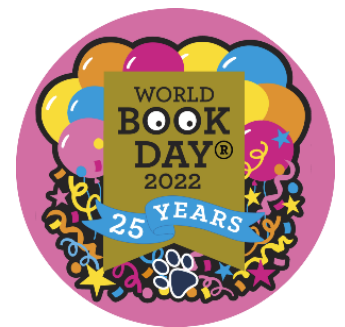


By Sebastian y4

I love looking at the glittery sky
With all the stars above so high
In a rocket ship I'd love to fly
And to my home planet say "goodbye"
Because I'd love to find out why
The milky way looks like a big googly
eye.

SJF World Book Day 2022

On Thursday we joined with school across the UK and world in order to celebrate World Book Day. This year marks the 25th anniversary of this special event. As usual the children had the option to come dressed in nightwear or onesies to support a bedtime reading theme. We have done this over the years not just to promote bedtime reading – which is so important – but also because it keeps things simple for children and hard-pressed parents/carers. We know that whilst some children really enjoy dressing up, some do not, and so there was an option to dress up or down – basically so that children could come to school wearing anything they chose. There is never any competition, it is just about the children having a great day - and they most certainly did. It was fantastic!



Please check out the class pages by clicking this [link](#) or the News section on the homepage by clicking [here](#) to find out more.

Huge thanks to Mrs Darken for coordinating the day and all the staff for making it special!

Staff 'Shelfie' Competition

Can you guess who the member of staff is just by looking at the books they have selected for their shelf? Please follow this [link](#), if you want to have a go at guess which staff members all the other 'shelfies' belong to!





The Y6 St John Fisher School Councilors met this week. Here's a word from one of our councilors on what was discussed.

The Y6 councilors met this week so that we could present and discuss how to promote a potential fundraising event we are beginning to plan. We're excited to share our news in the next few weeks!

Caleb, School Council Vice Chair

SJF Eco Team Update

On Wednesday 9th March 2022 our SJF Eco Team members will begin planting trees around our school grounds. We ask that they bring some wellington boots with them, if they have them. If they do not, please contact us (011 2485009) and we will try to sort them some. We would be grateful if they could bring in garden spades too, if they have them. Please make sure the spades are labelled with your family name, thank you. Also we are looking for parents/carers who can come in from 9.30am until approximately 10.45 on the day, to help Miss Brownbill and our children. Again, if volunteers could come with spades, we would be very grateful. Thank you!



Our Catholic Life

Collective Worship Overview

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Statement of Belief Citizen Assembly (Headteacher)	SJF Virtues Assembly (Class-Based)	Themed Assembly (Staff-Led)	Weekly Liturgy of the Word (Class-Led)	Celebration Assembly (All Staff)

Parish News

Information about parish and Diocesan life including Mass times and arrangements for sacramental preparation, Lent and Easter is available via this [link](#).

Ash Wednesday

I would like to thank Fr Bede for celebrating our Ash Wednesday Mass this week. It was a wonderfully fitting way to start the important season of Lent, as preparation for Easter. The liturgy was led beautifully by the young people of Y6. All the children behaved well and joined in. They were all an absolute credit our school.

I would like to thank Mrs Barrett for helping to sort the liturgy; Mr MacInnes and Mrs Walton for preparing the children so well; Mr McGurrin, Mrs Downes, Mrs Tandy and Seb for providing and leading the beautiful music. I would like to thank the Parish Wardens and finally all the parents and carers who were able to join us. Fr Bede gave permission for a recording of the Mass to be made, which can be viewed online via this [link](#).

Lenten Class Liturgies

There will be three simple liturgies each week in the classes at the end of the day, during Lent to support the children on their Lenten journeys and help prepare them for the greatest Feast of Easter. We invite a few family and friends to join us. Places are limited and can be reserved through the School Office, who will ensure that everyone that wants to, will have the opportunity to join a Lenten liturgy at some point. Please arrive by 3.05pm and report to the School Office. You will be asked if you are well and should sanitise your hands.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y1	FS2	FS2	FS2	Y2
Y5	Y3	Y1	Y1	Y3
Y6	Y4	Y2	Y2	Y4
	Y5	Y5	Y3	
	Y6	Y6	Y4	



Our Lenten Prayer: 'The Confiteor'

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done,
and in what I have failed to do;

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.



Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Our next liturgy will be led by the young people of **Y4** on **Thursday 10th March 2022** and we are delighted to be able to invite their family and friends to join us in the School Hall on the day. Entry will be via the Y5/Y6 entrance and you will be asked to sanitise your hands on entry. A reminder that liturgies will continue to be recorded and made available to watch online via this [link](#). Thank you.

Our Term 4 'Virtues to Live By'

As we progress through the term so our focus will switch from the virtues of love and charity towards **forgiveness** and **mercy** later in the Term. Please click [here](#) for more information about these and all our virtues. Thank you.



SJF Chaplaincy Team Update

We have started our new virtue of love and charity. Showing love for all our neighbours near and far away. Our whole virtue has been summed up so beautifully in this simple prayer written by Niamh in Y2

Dear Jesus,
Light of the beautiful world,
You taught us to be kind, friendly and honest.
Thank you for loving us and forgiving us –
when we have sinned against you.
You taught us to respect, love and trust one another.
Thank you for your sacrifice.
You taught us to make time for you and God.



Amen



Ukraine Crisis

We continue to pray as a staff and school community for an end to hostilities in Ukraine and for an authentic, just and lasting peace, following the complete withdrawal of the invading Russian forces.

We pray for all those who are suffering including families separated by this terrible conflict.

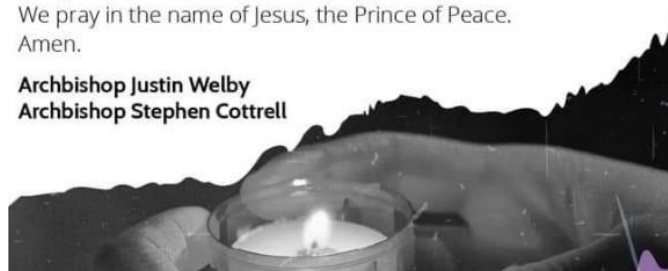
We pray for those working for peace; who are making a stand, especially those doing so in Russia, where the personal consequences of speaking up for peace and truth against tyranny can be huge.

We pray for all those in Ukraine, in neighbouring countries and in the UK and across the world who are offering help, sanctuary and shelter to those caught up in this conflict. We also pray for those left behind, who cannot flee or who refuse to leave their homes.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



Our BYB Challenge (Week 24)

**CHALLENGE
ACCEPTED**

Please follow this [link](#) for a demonstration of our latest 'Beat Your Best' challenge demonstrated by Maya one of our Sports Majors.

This week we have another fun challenge for everyone to try, this time demonstrated by Maya, one of our fantastic Sports Majors.

This challenge is a fun one which will test your throwing and catching skills. There are **three** variations of the challenge so why not have a go at them all, or the one that you believe will challenge you most! Watch the video to see Maya's demonstration and have a go at breaktime and or at home. Why not see if you can beat your personal best?

Golden Children

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| FS2 | Vaani for working really hard on her reading and writing at school and at home and for being such a lovely member of the class who always has something interesting to say and who is kind to her friends! |
| Y1 | Heidi for never giving up, even when she may find something difficult! Heidi is always so well behaved and polite, and so it is an absolute pleasure to have her in our class! What a star! |
| Y2 | Gabriella for working hard all week and for giving every task a 100% effort. She has managed all this with a great big smile on her face. Well done superstar! |
| Y3 | Hyrum for working very hard and for really applying himself brilliantly in all lessons. Absolutely brilliant! |
| Y4 | Florence for having a brilliant term so far, and in particularly this week! She has been working so hard in all subject areas and has 'smashed it' in Maths and GPS! What a star! Keep it up! |
| Y5 | Lena for being such a great member of our Y5 family and for always working hard! Lena tries her best in all she does. Keep it up Lena, you are such a brilliant example! |
| Y6 | Maya for working so hard to improve her arithmetic and maths-reasoning over the past two weeks. Keep it up, we are all very proud of you! |

Writing Champions

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| FS2 | Imogen for trying really hard with her writing and for thinking really carefully about how to use sounds in order to write words and sentences! What a star! |
| Y1 | Sapphire for trying so hard with all her writing! Her confidence is growing and she will now have a go without any help! She labelled a picture about the Mass completely independently! Well done! |
| Y2 | Renae for writing a beautiful and thoughtful prayer, it was very emotive! |
| Y3 | Jenson for working really hard to improve his handwriting and overall presentation in every lesson! Well done superstar, keep it up! |
| Y4 | William for producing some great work! Over the last couple of weeks he has started to increase the quantity, whilst at the same time maintaining the overall quality. Well done, keep it up! |
| Y5 | Katy for making great improvements in her writing and for trying hard to use lots of wonderfully expressive language! Well done! |
| Y6 | Marika for making brilliant progress in her reading and for using this to really improve her writing! It is wonderful! Keep it up, superstar! |



Our Feature Books of the Week!

Our full 2021-22 SJF book list can be accessed via this [link](#).

Our latest recommendation for our younger children is: **'The Littlest Yak'** by **Lu Fraser** and **Kate Hindley**.



The Waterstones Review

On the tip of the top of a mountain all snowy, where the ice-swirling, toe-curling blizzards were blowy, in a herd full of huddling yaks, big and small, lived Gertie . . . the littlest yak of them all.

Gertie is the littlest yak in her whole herd, and she's feeling stuck in her smallness - she wants to grow UP and have bigness and tallness!

But when it turns out that there are some things that *only* Gertie can do, might she come to see that she's perfect, just the way she is?

A rollicking, heart-warming and reassuring story from debut author, Lu Fraser and much-loved illustrator, Kate Hindley.

Please click [here](#) to find out more.

This week's recommendation for our older children is: **'Amazing Islands'** by **Sabrina Weiss** and **Kerry Hyndman**.

The Waterstones Review

Discover 100 of the planet's most magical islands - their wildlife, trees, diversity, people, treasures, and more - in this beautifully illustrated book.

From islands that have been taken over by animals to disappearing islands, islands made of shells, artificial islands, and even islands that were once prison colonies!

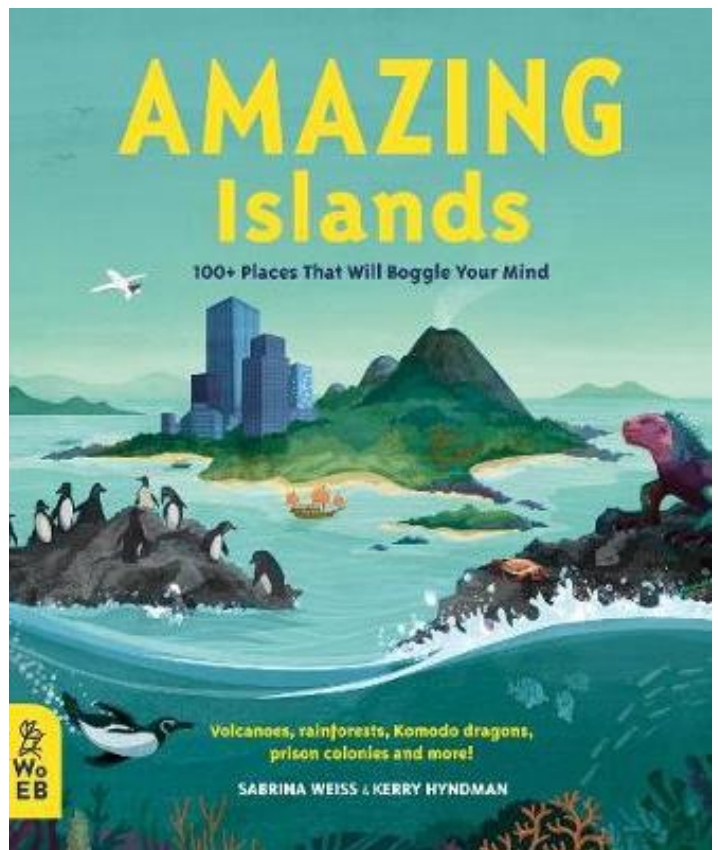
Amazing Islands is a whirlwind tour of some of the smallest land masses in the world.

Discover the Galapagos islands, home of giant tortoises, penguins, boobies of all colours. Or visit Jiangxin Park in China, a natural island with an awe-inspiring, giant bookshop.

Islands can be home to giant cities, colonies of cats or crabs; they have been hideouts for pirates and have given rise to astonishing scientific discoveries.

Amazing Islands celebrates island life in all its extraordinary diversity.

Please click [here](#) to find out more.



SJF Curriculum Showcase

Our next curriculum showcase will on Wednesday 23rd March 2022, in the School Hall and everyone is invited! The children's exhibition will be open to family and friends from 8.45am until 9.45am and again at the end of the school day from 3.30pm until 4.15pm. Representatives from each class will be chosen by their teachers to be curators for the morning session and they will be available to talk about their learning, work and curriculum and answer any questions our visitors might have.

Refreshments will be available, and if you would like to volunteer to help please contact the PTFA (ptfa@st-johnfisher.org). Thank you.

Reading Volunteers

Reading continues to be a huge priority and if you would like to be a Reading Volunteer, please email us (enquiries@st-johnfisher.org) or speak to one of my colleagues in the School Office. You will be subject to the usual safeguarding checks. Thank you.

Statement of Belief

Next week our 'statement of Belief' is "**I try to appreciate the beauty and wonder in the world.**"

Time to talk: Take some time to be very still and silent in your garden or with your family in the park, or woods or countryside. What can you hear, or see, or smell? What do you feel, as in the texture? How do you feel?

Take photographs to remind you of the moment. Look back at these at the end of the day. What do you remember?

Whilst you are out look at a leaf, a flower, the bark on a tree, carefully. Pause and really study it for a while. What do you notice?

Make a mental note of its colours, smell, patterns and textures.

What places are special to you and your family members? Why?

Where would you go if you could go anywhere? Why?

What can we all do to help look after our beautiful world?

