

SJF NEWS

www.st-johnfisher.org | www.ourladyoflourdessheffield.org.uk | Final Newsletter 2021 -22



★ Farewell Y6 – The Class of '22!

★ It is time say goodbye to the young people of Y6, a very special group of young people who have contributed so positively, in their own ways, to school life throughout their time with us – and especially during recent more challenging times!

We thank each of them for being part of our SJF family and for all they have contributed, and we pray for them and their intentions as they embark on the next exciting phase of their life journeys.

Our Y6 pupils will leave with all our love and best wishes for the very happy, successful and healthy futures they each deserve. So farewell to:

- | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-------------|----------|---------|----------|------------|
| • Ruby | • Jessica | • Mateah | • Ernie | • Alan | • Marika | • Filip |
| • Charlie | • Polly | • Lexi | • Kiya | • Tyler | • Kessy | • Raheel |
| • Stefania | • Azaan | • Lacey Lou | • Alfie | • Caleb | • Olivia | • Giovanni |
| • Courtney | • Max | • Annabell | • Finley | • Maya | • Faye | • Phoenix |
| • Dylan | • Isobel | • Olivia | • Riley | | | |



We also bid a sad farewell to a number of parents, carers and families who have been part of our community for a number of years. We thank them all for their support and encouragement and for all they have contributed to school life. We also wish them good health and happiness as they also now move on, and our prayers will continue to be with them and their families.





A Thought...

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure!

It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves;

"who am I to be brilliant, talented, gorgeous and fabulous?"

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

You playing small does not serve the world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that others won't feel insecure around you.

We were all born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone!

And as we let our own lights shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

Marianne Williamson

SJF Awards 2022

It is a tradition, going back over many years, that special awards are presented to a few Y6 pupils, at the Leavers' Mass, just before they leave us.

The Liam McGurrian Award for Citizenship

The award is the legacy of Mr McGurrian, our school's Headteacher from 1982 until 2007, and goes to a child who lives our school values and demonstrates them, consistently, in their behaviour and responses every day at school. This year's recipient is **Giovanni**.

The Nick Zelly Memorial Shield for Sporting Achievement

The award is the legacy of Nick Zelly, a much loved former pupil who contributed so much to our school community whilst he was a pupil here, especially in the field of sport. He was a highly talented footballer, with links to Sheffield Wednesday FC and was also a great all-rounder. He was developing as both a promising leader and fantastically supportive teammate because he lived the school's values. Sadly Nick died suddenly from complications after contracting meningitis when he was in Y8 and at All Saints Catholic High School. The idea for a memorial shield was conceived by Mr McGurrian and his parents as a way of honouring his memory, and so is a very special award that is given to a child who has tried to follow his example. Our 2022 recipient is **Riley**.

The Excel Award

This relatively new award is presented to a child who has demonstrated our school values as they have pushed themselves to make significant progress from wherever their starting point was. This year's award was presented jointly to **Kiya** and **Olivia**.


The Endeavour Award

This is also a relatively new award and is presented to a child who has exhibited our school values as they have tried hard to tackle and overcome any sort of significant barrier in order to achieve a goal or goals. This year's recipient is **Phoenix**.

We congratulate these and all our Y6 children. All thirty-two have tried hard and worked very hard this year. There has been so much to celebrate that is personal to each – because the children have been on their own special journeys this year and during their time with us.


We therefore applaud them all for everything they have achieved; for the challenges they have overcome; and for the incredible steps forward they have taken. We wish each of them much happiness and success as they continue their own personal journeys through Y7 and beyond. Well done, everybody!




Attendance: Final Week			
1 st	Y6		98.3%
2 nd	Y1		96.0%
3 rd	Y5		94.7%
4 th	Y4		94.3%
5 th	Y2		93.4%
6 th	Y3		92.6%
7 th	FS2		89.2%
Average Attendance = 94.1% (Target = 98%)			



Get Set, GO!		
1 st	Y2	92%
1 st	Y4	92%
3 rd	FS2	90%
4 th	Y6	89%
4 th	Y1	86%
6 th	Y3	81%
7 th	Y5	71%
Average = 86%		

Attendance: Term 6				
1 st	Y5			97.6%
2 nd	Y2			97.3%
2 nd	Y4			97.3%
4 th	Y3			96.7%
5 th	Y6			95.7%
6 th	FS2			95.4%
7 th	Y1			94.4%
Average Attendance = 96.4% (Target = 98%)				

Attendance: 2021-2022 Academic Year				
1 st	Y2			97.2%
2 nd	Y5			96.5%
3 rd	Y4			95.3%
4 th	Y3			95.3%
5 th	Y1			94.7%
6 th	Y6			94.6%
7 th	FS2			92.7%
Average Attendance = 95.2% (Target = 98%)				

Thank You

The Children

I would like to thank our children for all their hard work, positive attitudes and for the resilience shown, especially as they have coped with lockdowns and home-learning, pandemic-linked restrictions and the adjustment to the gradual reopening of our school. They have all been incredible. We thank all the children who have engaged so positively with school life by being:

- a class councillor as part of our SJF School Council,
 - our 2021-2022 Senior Councillors were:
 - Jessica (Chair)
 - Caleb (Vice-Chair)
 - Alan (Treasurer)
 - Polly (Secretary)
- a member of our SJF Eco Team
- a chaplain as part of our SJF Chaplaincy Team
- a 'champion' as part of our SJF Healthy Minds Team
- a Sports Major or Leader



Thank you to the staff who support these important pupil groups:

SJF School Council	Mr MacInnes	SJF Chaplaincy Team	Mrs Barrett
SJF Eco Team	Miss Brownbill	SJF Healthy Minds Champions	Mr Smith
SJF Sports Majors & Leaders	Mrs Broadhead, Mr Johnson and our partners at the LINKS partnership		

Huge thanks also to all the staff who have given up their time to run after-school clubs for the children, including Mr Broadhead and Mr Johnson who have led football groups for girls and boys; Mr Omesher who led a musical theatre group; and Mr Smith who organised and led our drama group.

The Parents and Carers

I would like to thank you, our parents and carers, for the support and encouragement you have given us. One of the happiest and most special moments this year was when we were able to open school back up to parents/carers as restrictions were eased. It was wonderful to welcome you all back in to school and church for Masses, liturgies, celebration assemblies, showcases etc. For some it was the first time they had been able to come in to school, and so it was very special. For us in school it was like we were putting the community back together again after the terrible challenges we faced during the COVID pandemic.



Our SJF Team

I would like to thank the staff for their tremendous hard work and dedication to our children and community. It is easy to forget that when the school year started we were still operating under various COVID-related restrictions and as recently as January, schools were put on alert for further expected full lockdown in January, which, thankfully did not materialise. I am so proud of my colleagues and grateful to them for the way they worked so hard throughout the pandemic, including the period before vaccines were available - when the risks seemed to be as high as the mortality rates. They never wavered because they cared and wanted to play their full parts alongside all other key workers in Sheffield and the UK - key workers that included so many of you, our own parents and carers. For their commitment, in all their different roles, I thank them, sincerely.

Our SJF Governors

I would like to thank our Governing Body for their continued dedication and support of our school community. Much of the vitally important work they do goes unseen, but their support of the strategic leadership of our community has been absolutely key. We thank Jon Ball (Chair), Dan Beever (Vice Chair), Clair Prestidge, Andrew Drummond, Sarah Ludlam and Finnuala Nelis – and our Staff Governors, Mrs Barrett and Mrs Ramsden. We have vacancies for anyone interested in becoming a Governor, or just finding out more about this interesting role. Please contact us (enquiries@st-johnfisher.org) for further information.

Our SJF PTFA

I would like to thank our PTFA Committee for all their hard work this year. They have been wonderful and have worked so incredibly hard for our children and wider school community. At the beginning of the academic year we were hoping to emerge from the pandemic enough, so that the PTFA would be able to do a few things around school. However the committee was just as ambitious and determined as all previous committees have always been, and so, in spite of the many challenges and COVID restrictions, they absolutely went for it! Always focused and always positive. In the end our PTFA has managed to do so much for our children this year!



In spite of the many pressures, including their small numbers, the PTFA committee somehow managed to organise fantastic events like Santa in School; school discos; the Friday Fayre and Y5 Enterprise Challenge; gifts for Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day. They also supported school events like Curriculum Showcases, Jubilee Day, Sports Day, the new FS2 parents/carers meeting, Children in Need day; our annual pantomime visit; they funded our Book Nooks and ukuleles; and have a leading role in the transformation of our school library.

Our incredible PTFA Committee this year was Catherine Cooper (Chair); Jessica Patterson (Vice-Chair); Marie O'Donnelly (Secretary); Ruth Stanton (Treasurer); and Catherine Ball (Public Relations). We thank each of them as well everyone who volunteered to support them at different events over the year. If you have been inspired by them to maybe get more involved and support our school in a really special way, please email the committee (ptfa@st-johnfisher.org). Your commitment to the PTFA can be as small or as big as you want and can manage. Every new idea and offer of help is always appreciated, hugely. Thank you.

Father Bede and the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes

I would like to thank Fr Bede and all our friends from the parish for all their fantastic support of our Catholic life and this year and also with our plans to build the new multi-use games area. Without the support of Fr Bede and the parish, this would not have been possible. Our special parish is such an important part of school life.

SJF School Council 2022-2023



Elections for the new SJF School Council take place at the start of the new academic year. It is open to all pupils in Years 1-6. Children in Years 1-5 can stand for election as a class Councillor twice, so that different children can have a go. Two councillors from each class are elected by classmates.

In Y6 all the children are again eligible to stand for election for any one of the four senior posts on the SJF School Council that are reserved for Y6 pupils. This is regardless of how many times they have been elected to be a class Councillor, previously.



There is a whole school 'general' election following hustings at which the **Y6** candidates are invited to talk about their motivation for being a Senior Councillor and talk about the sort of Councillor they would like to be. Once the candidates have spoken the children can ask them questions. All candidates have the same opportunity to speak and answer questions. Some specify a specific role they want, but they do not have to.

Children in all classes then visit a polling booth in order to cast their votes privately. We try to recreate the democratic process and the children are encouraged throughout the process to think for themselves and vote for the person they believed in most and think will do the best job. They are also reminded and reassured that their vote is private and they do not have to tell anyone who they voted for.

The Y6 candidate who receives the most votes then chooses the role they want to do most. Though many candidates in this position choose the Chair's role, it is not always the case. The votes they receive give them the right to choose. The candidate who receives the second highest number of votes then chooses a role from the three remaining, and so on until all the posts are taken. In the event of a tie at any stage of the process, the candidates can choose either to do different roles or one jointly, whatever they prefer. If your child is interested in being part of the SJF School Council, they might want to think about it before September.

SJF Calendar

Our new 2022-2023 calendar has been finalised and will be uploaded to the website shortly. Please note that **Thursday 1st September** and **Friday 2nd September** are staff training (INSET) days, meaning that school will be closed to the children. The first day of the new academic year will therefore be **Monday 5th September 2022** for all children. The first day will start with 'Wake Up! Shake Up!' on the playground at 8.40am.

FS2 2022-23

The arrangements for the new starters joining **FS2** in September 2022 are as follows:

- **05-09-22** FS2 AM only (8.45am – 11.30am)
- **06-09-22** FS2 AM only (8.45am – 11.30am)
- **07-09-22** FS2 AM + lunch (8.45am – 1.30pm)
- **08-09-22** FS2 full day (8.45am – 3.20pm)
- **09-09-22** FS2 full day (8.45am – 3.20pm)

Once updated, please make a note of the dates of educational visits, including residential visits and other special events, e.g. curriculum showcases, Masses, services, liturgies, assemblies and nativity plays etc. so that you are able to give plenty of notice if you want to attend something but will need to book time off to do so.

Possible Change to INSET Day

We share the calendar as early as possible, to help you, but sometimes it will be subject to change, for reasons beyond our control. One such example is the staff training (INSET) day set for **Monday 20th February 2023**. There have been some issues tying up the staff training booked for that day, because of the current availability of the provider. This means that the date of the INSET day might have to change. If this is the case, we will notify you immediately, update the website calendar and email out an amended calendar. We are just waiting currently for the training provider to confirm whether training can now go ahead on that date or not. The SJF calendar can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Thank you.

Staff News

Mrs Darken

After eight wonderful years we bid a sad farewell to Mrs Darken who leaves us to pursue new opportunities, including exciting work for Sheffield Hallam University. I would like to thank Mrs Darken for the enormous contribution she has made to our school community, including the transformation of our FS2 phase. Over the years, and supported brilliantly by Mrs Prentice, Mrs Darken has worked tirelessly to provide our youngest children with a positive and happy start and a foundation to sustain their future development throughout school. As well as being such a supportive member of the team, Mrs Darken was active in several Early Years networks and mentored and supported many trainees on various college, undergraduate and post-graduate courses whilst they were on placement with us. Her efforts were recognised several times by the university and she continued to support many former trainees after they left and moved into their careers. We thank Mrs Darken for the passion, love and care she brought to the role and we wish her every happiness and success in her future career.



FS2

Following a recruitment process last summer, Governors did not appoint a new teacher for FS2. The position will therefore be re-advertised with the hope that a new and permanent FS2 teacher will be in post either at the start of Term 2 (November 2022) or the start of Term 3 (January 2023). In the meantime Mrs Goodband, an experienced FS2/Early Years specialist has been appointed on a temporary basis. She is already working with us and will be here to welcome the new FS2 children, with Mrs Prentice, on Monday 5th September. Mrs Darken will also be returning to support us with the new statutory FS2 baselining process for a few days in September.

Holiday Clubs & Wraparound Care



JPAC is again providing wrap-around care throughout the summer holiday at Charnock Hall Academy.

Please call Ryan Robertson ([07971 957839](tel:07971957839)) for more information. For more information about JPAC please click [here](#). Thank you.

The Sheffield Children's University

Across the city there are also other exciting opportunities available through the Sheffield Children's University 'Festival of Fun 2022' are available by clicking [here](#). Thank you,



Sheffield Summer Reading Challenge 2022

- Please click this [link](#) for information about the 2022 'Gadgets' reading challenge
- Please click [here](#) for useful information from Sheffield City Council

So the challenge is for every member of our SJF family (children, parents and carers), to read at least three new books this summer - of any sort - so that by September you can answer the following questions:

1. What is your favourite type of book? (adventure, mystery, funny, poetry, historical etc.)
2. What is your favourite sort of book to read? (fiction, non-fiction, picture book, comic/graphic novel)
3. Who is one of your favourite authors?
4. What is the title of one of your favourite books?
5. Which book would you recommend to a friend? Why?

To help you begin this challenge we would encourage you to sign up to your local library if you haven't already as reading as a hobby can be expensive! Please click [here](#). So enjoy reading this summer and we look forward to talking about the reading you enjoyed and sharing your recommendations in September.



School Uniform

Our uniform is important and pupils are expected to wear it and look smart every day. Our uniform is key to our identity and reflects our ethos, standards and high expectations. We are grateful to parents and carers for supporting us.

**SCHOOL
TRENDS**



Official Uniform Suppliers

We have two official suppliers and items with the official logo can be bought from either 'Logo Leisurewear' or 'School Trends'. No one else, including the market at Crystal Peaks, has permission to sell uniform with the SJF official logo.

Here are the links to the SJF pages on the websites of our two official suppliers:

- for **Logo Leisurewear** SJF uniform please click [HERE](#)
- for **School Trends** please click [HERE](#)

Parents and carers can also purchase uniform items in the correct colours without a logo from other sources. Please note that our official suppliers are the only organisations permitted to sell SJF uniform with a logo.



SJF Blazer
(Optional)



Dark grey cardigan or jumper

SJF Book Bag

(for younger children,
stores more easily than a rucksack)



SJF Tie
(Elastic, clip-on
or normal)



Light blue shirt
(Short-sleeved avoids
awkward cuff buttons)



SJF Coat
(Optional)



Dark grey trousers, mid-length shorts, pinafore dress or skirt
(To be worn with dark grey socks or tights)



SJF scrunch
(Optional)



Light blue
gingham dress

(Optional in Terms 1, 5 and 6 only
and to be worn with white socks)

PE Uniform

Please note that children are expected to come to school wearing their PE uniform on PE days. The official items can be purchased, with logos, from either supplier. If parents/carers opt to source items from elsewhere they must be absolutely plain with no logos, slogans or other embellishments. **No designer labels e.g. Nike, Puma or Adidas etc.** The sweatshirt must be plain maroon/burgundy and the bottoms must be **plain light** grey joggers. **No leggings.**

PE Days 2022-2023 (from 06-09-22)

- **Mondays** FS2*
- **Tuesdays** Years 1 and 2
- **Wednesdays** Years 3 and 4
- **Thursdays** Years 5 and 6



*FS2 will not wear PE uniform on 05-09-22 as it is their first half day. They will come to school wearing it for the first time on 12-09-22 instead.



Earrings and Jewellery

A reminder that children are **not** permitted to wear earrings/studs or any kind of jewellery at school. You might therefore consider having your child's ears at the beginning of the summer holiday so that they are ready for September, if this is something you are contemplating. The wearing of sensible watches is encouraged.

School Shoes

Whilst trainers/high boots **can** be worn to/from school e.g. in bad weather or to play football **at break-times**, pupils are expected to wear proper school shoes in school i.e. **NO** high boots or trainers (even all black ones).



(except on PE days and for break-times)

Reminders

- no leggings at any time
- no open necked shirts/blouses
- no blue polo shirts
- mid-length shorts
- black school shoes not trainers (trainers can be worn on PE days or at break-times to save school shoes)
- white socks with summer dresses (Terms 1, 5 and 6)

Children's Medication

Parents and carers with children who have medication in school are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient supplies in school and that the medication is in date. Please check at the start of the year.

Message for the New Y1 Children

Here is a message from Mrs Sambrook to the parents/carers of children who will be in Y1 in September 2022.

Please purchase the SJF book 'book bags' rather than the huge rucksack as space is limited and the smaller book bags protect the children's books more and are easier for the children to manage. During the first week of school for the children (w/c 05-09-22) the children only need to bring their book bag in on **Thursday**. From the second week the Y1 children will need their book bag every **Monday** and **Thursday**. Thank you.

Our Catholic Life

End of Year Mass of Thanksgiving

Please click [here](#) to see our wonderful Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Fr Bede and involving all members of our community including children in different year groups, staff, Governors and members of the PTFA. I would like to thank Mrs Barrett for planning the liturgy and preparing the children, and Mr McGurrin, Mrs Downes, Mr Tandy and Dr Matthews for leading the music ministry.

Leavers' Mass

A huge thank you to Fr Bede for leading the celebration of Mass for our leavers. This liturgy for this very special Mass is personal to the Y6 children and all are involved in different ways. The singing and reading were amazing. The Mass takes place in the evening with the children joined by their families and friends.

At the end of Mass there is a moment that marks the end of this important stage of their formation, as young people, when their names are called individually and they come out to receive a simple book mark, as a simple gift from the school community that mirrors the book mark they were given when they joined us in FS2. They take a flower, a symbol of God's creation as a token of appreciation from the school community to their parents/carers for entrusting their children into our care.

They then received a special and personal PTFA-funded gift, on behalf of all SJF parents and carers.



Once they had received all three gifts, they returned, not to their places, but to the care of their families, to symbolise the end of their journeys with us.

I would like to thank Mr MacInness, Mrs Walton and Mrs Barrett for planning the liturgy and preparing the children so well, and a very busy Mrs Barrett who led the music too.

Achievements outside of School

- Seven children from St John Fisher took part in a production of 'Matilda the Musical Junior' recently. It was a really challenging show with lots to learn and they all did amazingly. The children who took part were **Annabell** and **Jessica** in **Y6**, **Alexia** in **Y5**, **Alana** in **Y4**, **Charly**, **Emily** and **Rebecca** in **Y3**. **Jessica** also won a special award for best senior ballerina, while **Rebecca** won an award for showing the most improvement in her age category. Congratulations children, and well done for all your achievements!
- Isabelle** in **Y5** represented Sheffield Gymnastics Academy in her first gymnastics competition in Chorley recently. Entered for five pieces (bars, trampette, range and conditioning, tumble and vault) she did really well to earn four podium finishes against 15 competitors – winning a gold medal, two silvers and a bronze!

An Irish Blessing for you All

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind always be at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

And rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



Best wishes,
Mr Barratt

