

SJF NEWS







www.st-johnfisher.org | www.ourladyoflourdessheffield.org.uk | Friday 7th October 2022

Citizen of the Week

Our Citizen of the Week is **Jack** in **Y3** who understands how to show that he is sorry in line with our 'Statement of Belief'. Jack understands that, from time to time, we will all make mistakes - and when we do it is important to then show that we are genuinely sorry. Jack has such a positive attitude and is able to set a wonderful example to his classmates every day. Congratulations Jack, we are all very proud of you, well done!

Term 1 Smiley Scores

St Andrew's House	St David's House	St Patrick's House	St George's House
			
509	510	481	501

SJF Calendar

You can keep on top of what is going on in school by checking out our new 2022-2023 calendar via this [link](#).

Pupil Voice at SJF



SJF School Council Update

Our SJF School Council met this week. Here is a word from Cavani, one of our Y6 Councillors and this year's Secretary of our School Council...

This week at the school council we learned about democracy and Parliament. We talked about how democracy allows people to vote for a person to represent them, for example Members of Parliament or School Councillors. We also learned about the House of Commons, which creates bills, and the House of Lords, which checks the bills before they become laws.



SJF Healthy Minds Champions Update



Parents, carers, family members and friends are also invited to join us for a cuppa and to learn more about the 'Healthy Minds' culture we are embedding in school, on **Thursday 13th October 2022**. Please try and join us at **2.30pm** to find out more about what we do, why we do it, and the support that is out there for our children and their families. Our latest (October) Healthy Minds newsletter is out and can be accessed by hitting this [LINK](#).

Our Catholic Life

SJF Chaplaincy Team Update: Harvest 2022

The Chaplaincy Team met to discuss preparations for our annual Harvest Mass, which takes place **10.00am** on **Friday 21st October** at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

As well as the Mass, our young Chaplains also discussed plans for the collection of food items for the St Wilfrid's Centre, as part of our Harvest Festival celebrations. The St Wilfrid's Centre is a special Sheffield community where the most vulnerable people



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



in our city, including homeless and socially excluded adults, can find compassion, understanding; lots of practical advice, assistance; a sense of belonging; and support to help them regain self-esteem.

If you would like to support us, it is important that donated food is **non-perishable**.

Items such as tins/jars of meat, fish, soup, vegetables and fruit; packets of cereals, dried 'Pot Noodle'-type products, biscuits, hot chocolate, tea and coffee, UHT milk, instant mashed potato, pasta, pasta sauce, rice and dried noodles, tea and coffee and any other nutritional items that have a long shelf life are ideal. Basically, anything tinned, dried or in jars (with long 'use-by' dates) would be perfect. Donations can be left by children in the hall or by parents/carers in the main foyer, from **Monday 10th October 2022** and right up to **Friday 21st October 2022**.



In these extraordinarily challenging times, characterised by drastic inflation and rises in the prices of food and fuel, it is sadly inevitable that more and more people will become vulnerable. Arguably, this appeal, at this time, has never been more important or needed. Thank you for your support.

Our Catholic Life

Collective Worship

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Citizenship Statement of Belief Assembly (Headteacher) & Chaplains' Liturgies (Years 1, 5 and 6)	'Virtues to Live By' Class Assembly (Teachers & Chaplains)	Themed Assembly (Teacher-Led)	Weekly Liturgy of the Word (Class-Led)	Celebration Assembly (Headteacher & Deputy Headteacher) Chaplains' Liturgies (Years 2, 3 and 4) Story Liturgy (FS2)

Our Virtues to Live By

In our Tuesday assemblies currently, we are focusing on the virtue '**thankfulness**'.

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Thank you to Miss Brownbill and the young people of **Y2** who led this week's Liturgy of the Word so brilliantly! There will be no Liturgy of the Word until **Thursday 1st November 2022**, when it will be led by our **Y1** children. This is because next week it is our first assessment point of the school year and the week after we have our Harvest Mass.



SJF Harvest Mass 2022

We invite you all to join us for this year's SJF Harvest Mass which will be led by the young people of **Y4** on **Friday 21st October 2022** at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. It will start 10.00am and everyone is invited to join us. All the food that is donated will be presented and blessed.

October Gathering Song

October is the month of Mary and our 'gathering' song is 'Ave Maria'.

Ave Maria,

Gratia plena.

Dominus, te cum –

Benedicta tu.

As I kneel before you

As I bow my head in prayer

Take this day, make it yours

And feel me with your love.



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Our October Prayer

Our prayer of the month is 'Hail Holy Queen', a traditional prayer dedicated to Our Lady.

Hail, holy Queen,
Mother of mercy,
Hail our life,
Our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs,



Mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
Thine eyes of mercy toward us,
And after this our exile,
Show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Amen.

Y6 Residential

Last week, the Y6 children visited 'The Hollowford Centre' in Castleton for our residential visit. Here's a word from one of our Y6 children on our fantastic trip...



Last week we went on our residential to the Hollowford Centre. It was so much fun! We were there for two nights, arriving on Wednesday morning and returning back to school on Friday. Every day was packed full of exciting activities. We took part in archery and orienteering, canoeing, hill walking (where we walked up Mam Tor), abseiling and caving. It was a fantastic way to start the year and we all had a brilliant time!



Y6 Hollowford Residential 2022

As has been reported previously, our Y6 children received so many compliments and positive comments from the team and other users at the Hollowford Centre, for their manners and behaviour, teamwork and attitudes.

I would like to thank each of them, along with Mr MacInnes for all his hard work in organising and coordinating this very special visit. I would also like to thank Mrs Raynes, Mrs Steenson and Mr Smith who supported the children so well. Even though the weather was mixed at points, everyone had an absolutely fantastic time!



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Golden Children

- FS2** **Marcaris** for being polite and for using good manners all the time. He is so respectful! He regularly asks if it is alright if he does a different activity. What a superstar!
- Y1** **George** for being such a kind and caring member of our class and for always listening and doing the right thing! Well done, George!
- Y2** **Freddie D** for really trying hard to make the right choices around learning and attitude to learning. Well done! Keep it up, Freddie!
- Y3** **Natalia** for showing such resilience with tricky tasks and for leading our fantastic 'Virtues' collective worship this week!
- Y4** **Lottie** for always working hard and this week she tried really hard in our mathematics lessons. Though she found it hard to start with she had faith in herself - and concentrated well - so feels more confident.
- Y5** **William** for continuing to show determination! He shares his knowledge and is more proactive in class discussions, which is great to see. He quietly gets on with his work without a fuss.
- Y6** **Oscar** for being such a good friend to everyone in Y6, and for working so hard in every lesson. A fantastic example to everyone!

Writing Champions

- FS2** **Rose** for working very hard on her letter formation for 'U' this week. She insisted on filling the whole page with U's and they were very well formed! Fantastic!
- Y1** **Leon** for writing a brilliant letter replying to Goldilocks, I really enjoyed reading it, you used super vocabulary!
- Y2** **Arya** for pushing herself within her writing to make ambitious word choices! Her language builds a beautiful image in your mind. Keep it up!
- Y3** **Esma** for writing a wonderful story based on 'The Stone Age Boy'. It was wonderful!
- Y4** **Charlie F** for trying really hard to improve his handwriting as well as the content of his written work. His efforts are paying off!
- Y5** **Bella** for including some great lines in her speech - based on Martin Luther King's, 'I have a dream' speech - about the importance of having better homes for those living in slums around the world.
- Y6** **Cavani** for the excellent presentation of his work, especially in his most recent piece of writing on the life of Jesse Owens. Well done, Cavani!



Our BYB Challenge

Last week our Sports Major, Priscilla, led an awesome challenge which many of the children enjoyed. It was amazing to see how many improved over the week!

This week's fun BYB challenge has been set by Freddie, another of our Sports Majors. His activity challenges the children to shoot basketballs accurately into a hoop.

A point is awarded, each time a ball is thrown successfully through the hoop. The level of challenge can be increased or decreased for different year groups and abilities by changing the height or size of the hoop and/or the distance from the hoop when the ball is thrown.

The more attempts the children have, the more points they will gain by the end of the week. Also, the more practise they have, the better they will become, so we hope that lots will find Freddie and Mr Johnson, and have a go. Click [here](#) to watch Freddie's demonstration. Why not practise in school or with family members and friends at home? What will your best score be? Can you beat your best?



Attendance			
1 st	Y6	98.1%	Bobby Bear will visit next week
2 nd	Y3	97.9%	Brenda Bear will visit next week
3 rd	Y4	95.3%	Elvis Owl will visit next week
4 th	FS2	94.3%	Billy Bear will visit next week
4 th	Y5	92.2%	
6 th	Y2	90.0%	
7 th	Y1	87.1%	
Target = 98.0%		Average Attendance = 93.7%	



Get Set, GO!		
1 st	Y2	86%
2 nd	FS2	82%
3 rd	Y4	75%
4 th	Y5	75%
5 th	Y3	70%
5 th	Y1	69%
7 th	Y6	67%
		Average = 76%



As mentioned in last week's newsletter, Mr Smith met with our local authority attendance officer this week. Along with colleagues in other Sheffield schools, he also attended a citywide conference, convened in response to serious concerns around pupils' attendance in Sheffield.

As a result of these concerns, a raft of measures was announced, to identify and address the various barriers to pupils' good attendance.

We understand completely that some absences are unavoidable, especially when they are due to sickness/COVID etc. and so our response will continue to be a positive and supportive one – promoting the benefits of attendance.

Here is a word from Mr Smith:

We know the last couple of years have been very difficult, and have impacted children's education in lots of different ways. Let us work together to keep absences to a minimum. The best place for children to be is in school, and the best way to catch up is to turn up. We want to help! Keep reading for some advice and tips...

Why being in school matters...

- ✓ being in school is the best way for children to catch up and close gaps where they exist
- ✓ being in school gives children more opportunities to achieve a depth of understanding that is greater than national age-related expectations
- ✓ being in school provides more benefits than those related purely to learning and education, it also helps children:
 - build and maintain friendships
 - enjoy new activities and experiences
 - build confidence and skills for future life
- ✓ being in school helps to keep children safe and well, because statistically, children with good school attendance are less likely to be involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
- ✓ being in school significantly increases the likelihood that a child will do better in school and achieve the success they deserve
- ✓ good attendance habits start at a young age and by working together to encourage/support this, we will set out values and habits that will help our children thrive and achieve success in their future lives

How to support your child to go to school and to catch up...

Talk to us straight away if your child is worried about coming to school, because we want to help. If your child is struggling to attend because they are nervous about coming to school or anxious about something in school, it is really important to let us know, so that we can try to understand and then do something about it.

Please call us (01142486009); email us (enquiries@st-johnfisher.org or via the class email addresses); or speak to us in the school office or on the pedestrian gates at the start or end of the school day. We want to know and we want to help by making sure that the right support is in place for any children struggling.



PLEASE AVOID BOOKING TERM-TIME HOLIDAYS. This has been identified as the main issue for our school, both for big holidays and for odd days taken here and there. The graphic below offers a reminder that there are **175 non-school days** in an academic year for holidays and breaks to be booked. Unless circumstances are exceptional, time off for term-time holidays can never be authorised. Unfortunately, it has also been picked up that some families book term-time holidays every year, and some book multiple breaks in the same year.

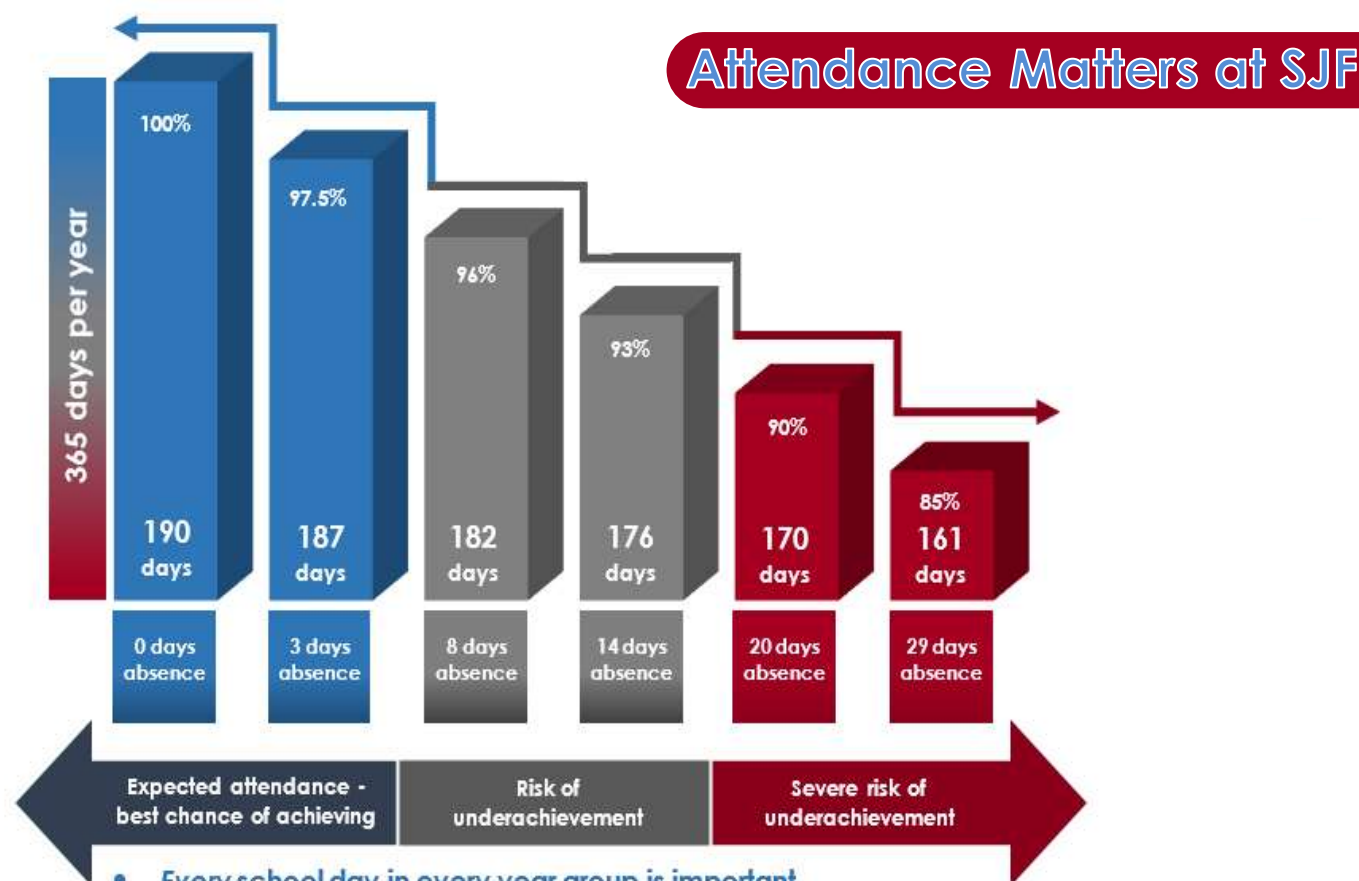
Help your child catch up with the work they have missed if you can. Missed classes do not have to mean missed learning. Speak to us. There are lots of resources we can direct you to, or make available to you. We will also help in school as much as we can. Please follow the link below, to find out more about what is on offer to help children catch up and to support their physical, social and mental wellbeing.

<https://educationcatchup.campaign.gov.uk/>

Getting your child to school

If you struggle getting your child to school, please speak to us. Support is also available from the local authority's 'Attendance and Inclusion Team' and you can reach them via this link:

sheffieldinclusion&attendance@sheffield.gov.uk



- Every school day in every year group is important
- Holidays in term-time can have an impact on children and their progress
- 98%+ attendance is the target (186+ days) this year
- Try to have no more than 4 days off a year
- There are 175 non-school days for holidays and appointments (where there is flexibility)
- Good attenders tend to feel more happy and secure in school, and achieve well



Punctuality Matters at SJF



"The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go."
-Dr. Seuss

Our Feature Books of the Week!

Our new 2022-2023 **SJF book list** can be accessed via this [link](#). Our latest feature books are:

Too Much Stuff by Emily Gravett

(click [here](#) for more information)

The Wanderer by Peter Van den Ende

(click [here](#) for more information)

Too Much Stuff: The Waterstones Review

From the creator of modern classic *Meerkat Mail* comes a very funny woodland story showing the dangers of having too much stuff. *Too Much Stuff* is set in the same forest as Gravett's award-winning *Tidy*, it features a host of woodland animals, including Pete the badger.

Meg and Ash are a pair of magpies who are building a nest for their perfect eggs. Although they begin their nest construction using the usual mud, sticks and grass, Meg and Ash are soon convinced that their nest doesn't have enough stuff and begin to collect more things to add to an ever-growing pile. From cuckoo clocks to mops and socks, a pram and even a car - their need for stuff seems endless. Until, crash! The inevitable happens.



Emily Gravett's engaging, exquisitely illustrated story will appeal to fans of *Tidy* and of such classics as *The Animals of Farthing Wood* and the glorious package including a double-sided jacket with shaped flaps, make it a perfect gift for young eco-warriors.



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

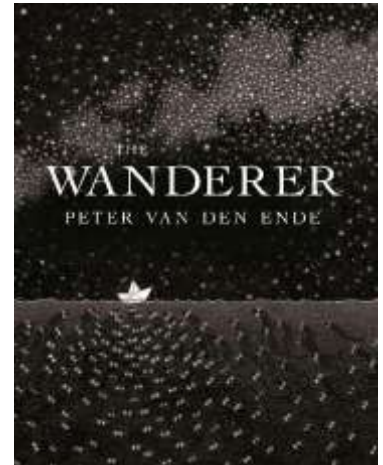


The Wanderer: The Waterstones Review

An immersive, wordless picture book that celebrates the vast majesty of the ocean, *The Wanderer* sends a lonely vessel through a series of breathtaking seascapes in an attempt to find its way home. Shortlisted for the **Kate Greenaway Medal 2022**

A little boat sets out to sea and begins its voyage toward home. To get there it must travel across many strange, beautiful oceanscapes, full of fantastic creatures and deadly monsters, swept by terrifying storms and sailed by mysterious ships. Can the Wanderer pick a path through all these perils to a safe harbour?

This beautifully illustrated, wordless picture book is a gateway into a captivating marine fantasy world.



Reading Allowed

We are excited and delighted to announce the resumption of the brilliant 'Reading Allowed' initiative in our school for the first time since the imposition COVID restrictions halted it in 2020.

Reading Allowed



This wonderful initiative was created by Cid and Mo (Derbyshire authors) as part of a fantastic project that encouraged reading *aloud* as something that should be *allowed* in the busyness of the school day. Its aim is to give children the time and space to build a love of reading, which links to our **reading for pleasure** ethos.

The 'Reading Allowed' process encourages older children to get involved and become 'Reading Experts'. Their role is to simply share and enjoy a range of different books with their designated 'Reading Partners' - our younger children. The aim is to build reading confidence and an enjoyment of reading and books for *both* the older experts as well as their younger partners. The children will be swapped over the year so we can involve as many pupils as possible. We look forward to 'Reading Allowed' taking off in the year ahead!

SJF Poetry Competition: It Takes Just One Poem!



Healthy
Minds



The theme of this year's National Poetry Day is 'The Environment'. We are offering one lucky child the chance to become a winner of our very poetry competition! If you are interested then please write a short poem about the environment and a winner will be chosen and announced in the next newsletter. Use this [LINK](#) to help you get started if you are interested and want to have a go.

Every poem submitted will be displayed around school and the playground and ten will be chosen as winners, with each poet winning a special prize! One will then be chosen to appear in our next newsletter as winner of the Grand Poet prize. Good luck everyone!

Achievements outside of School

A reminder to please send details of your children's achievements outside of school to us via our main email address (enquiries@st-johnfisher.org) so that they can be included in the newsletter. It does not matter whether achievements are big or small we would be delighted to share the good news and celebrate them!

- **Lucy Y1** passed earned the Level 2 award in ice skating recently! She has tried so hard and is really proud of herself – as are we Lucy! What a star! Well done!



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Parking

Recently, I have had to deal with a significant number of complaints and concerns that have been raised with me by parents, carers and neighbours of our school, about parking at the beginning and end of the school day.

Worryingly, there have also been several reports of arguments and shouting between parents, carers and neighbours which included one, extremely serious and worrying recent incident, that needed to be reported to the police.



My first priority is to ensure that our children and their families are safe, including at the busier drop off and collection times at either end of the school day. Inconsiderate or dangerous parking can create problems for example, if the view of the road is obscured for those trying to cross, including some of our children who are allowed to make their own way home or leave school on their own to walk and meet someone parked away from school. I therefore need everyone's help to reduce the risk of accidents happening.

Inconsiderate parking also really upsets our neighbours. I have reported previously that cars parked up on the grass, and in some cases on the pavement itself, not only cause an obstruction to pedestrians - and block the view of the road - they also spoil the grass verges that our neighbours take great care to maintain.

Cars parked on the yellow lines at the mouth of the junction with Spa View Road can also make it very difficult for other cars trying to turn in and out of Spring Water Avenue. Neighbours have complained that their vehicles have sometimes been scratched and bumped because of this, and because vehicles are sometimes parked on both sides of the road and the gap left between them is too narrow.

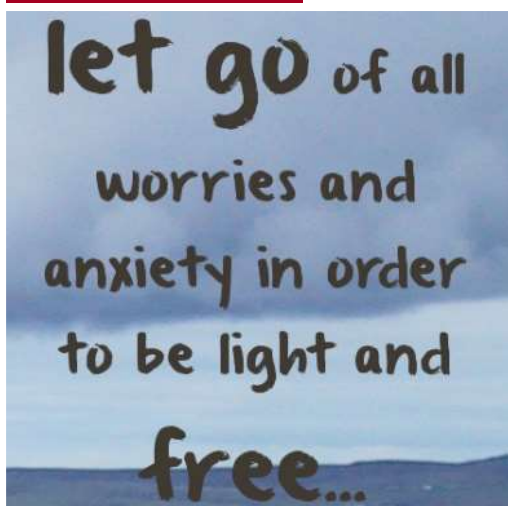
At points cars have been observed parking on the yellow zigzag lines or on the pavement between the two gates to the staff and visitor car park. This is not allowed. Sometimes cars have blocked the entrance to the parish car park as well. I have had to deal with complaints from neighbours' angry that their drives have been blocked fully or partially and in one case an allegation that a parent was parking on a neighbour's drive!

I know that most people park sensibly and I simply ask that everyone tries to park as considerately and safely as possible, so we can all play our parts to help keep everyone safe (and not antagonise our neighbours). If you are able to park a bit further away, where there is more space, it would help us if you did. Thank you, in advance, for your understanding and support.

Assessment Point 1

Next week is our first formal assessment point of the academic year. Attendance every day is therefore very important. Thank you.

Our Statement of Belief



Next week our 'statement of Belief' is "**I can say how I feel.**"

Time to talk: Why is it important to share our worries and say how we feel, especially if we are sad or anxious?

Does it ever help to 'bottle up' you feelings? Why?

It is very important to remember that we all have the right to feel happy, safe and loved every day at school and at home.

In our school we know that it is important to 'Tell! Tell! Tell!' whenever we have a worry ball. We know that there will always be someone to listen and care.

Who would you choose to tell?

