



Headlines

St John Fisher R.C. Primary School Autumn Term 2023/24
school@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk

Week Beginning – 2nd September

Monday 2nd

Inset Day—SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 3rd

Inset Day—SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday 4th

All pupils return to school

Thursday 5th

Yr4 Residential Trip Information Session—
ONLINE 6:30pm

Friday 6th

Sunday 8th

Education Sunday—Mass at SJF Church

Congratulations everyone school year 2023/24 officially completed!

A huge thanks to every member of the SJF community for making this year such a successful one and a particular thanks to all those staff who worked tirelessly every day to ensure that the school offers the very best it can to the pupils in its care.

I hope that the summer break affords everyone the opportunity to relax and spend time together and to take life at a slightly slower pace than usual.

Thank you for the cards, gifts and messages of gratitude that we have received over the last days, they are very much appreciated.

We wish all of our leavers (from all generations) the very best of luck as they move on from SJF.

Enjoy a wonderful holiday everyone and see (most) of you in September.

Letters Home

Parents / Carers Survey—Yr6
End of School Arrangements—Yr6
'A Hint of Snow White' Download—Yr6

Caterlink

The menu for each week can be found on the school website by using the link below and scrolling to the bottom of the page:

[Click HERE for menu](#)

BUILD BETTER LEARNING

For giving their very best in everything they have done at SJF

Mrs Nash, Mrs Crane, Mrs Brierly,
Mrs Dimitrova, Mrs Gleeson, Mrs Reuss,
Mrs Lovett, Mrs Doughty, Miss Ather,
Mr Hall, Miss Kay and Mr Walton.



Thank you for everything you have done for us all.

Designated Safeguarding Leaders

Ms J Kenna *DSL,*
Mrs C Ellerker *Deputy DSL,*
Miss C Higgins *Deputy DSL*



If you have any concerns about a child please contact school@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk



St John Fisher Governing Body

Message from Kate Blom, Chair of Governors

This academic year has been another busy one for the school, we've had a very successful Religious Inspection which is a credit to the hard work by staff and pupils and the support of our parents and carers. From a governance perspective there has been a lot of focus on the formation of the Sancta Familia CAT and also on the financial state of the school. Unfortunately, like all schools we are suffering from financial strain and we are relying more on the additional funds generated from our extended services offering and from donations by families via the PTFA and the Governors' Fund. I'd like to thank you all for the support you continue to give us. The Governors would also like to thank the PTFA committee members who have done another fantastic job this year providing significant contributions to our school.

I have included an update from the Chairs of each of our main committees below which I hope helps to outline the work the governing body does to both support and scrutinise Ms Kenna and her leadership team. Our committees focus on ensuring we deliver high quality education, but at the same time continuing to ensure the school is kept within budget.

On behalf of the Governing Board at SJF I would like to thank you all for your continued support and wish you a very enjoyable summer break.

St John Fisher Governors' Fund

Trustees: Kate Blom (Chair), Philip Gilbertson (Treasurer), Adrian Benedict, Frank Huidobro

This academic year the school Governors' fund has purchased the following:

The Governors' School Maintenance Fund is now a registered charity, please consider signing up to Gift Aid to optimise your contributions.

Trustees would like to thank all families for their contributions, and we ask those who haven't yet done so to consider supporting this fund. The Governors' fund has very little overheads, just an annual auditing cost, therefore almost all of your contributions go straight to the school.

Description	Amount
Phonics and Early Reading - additional books	2,741
Maths equipment for year 6 and year3	1,001
Early years foundation stage (EYFS) - replacement of old resources	4,489
Sensory room resources	403
Small hall Ctouch	3,699
Maths resources - White Rose	900
Playground equipment	270
Equalities books	10,000.00
Total 2023/24	23,503.00

Quality of Education

Members: Debbie McCann (Chair), Darren King, Alain Van West, Katie Newman, Janine Kenna, Claire Ellerker

During this academic year, the Quality of Education committee has continued to provide support and challenge to help our school leaders to deliver high quality education, which is tailored to meet the needs of the children in our school.

Given the expected Catholic School Inspection this year, the committee has had a particular focus on supporting the school to self-assess against the inspection standards and ensure staff were as prepared as possible to showcase the schools exceptional work to deliver high quality religious education. We are thrilled that the hard work of teachers and leaders was recognised through the achievement of the 'outstanding' inspection category.

We have continued to support school leaders to focus on priorities highlighted in the last Ofsted inspection report and in the School Development Plan. This includes a focus on 'knowing more and remembering more' and helping to ensure that curriculum plans and teaching mechanisms support pupils to embed core knowledge in their long term memory. This year the school has completed their work on the History, Geography and Science curriculums and teachers have introduced short classroom quizzes to help test and embed component knowledge.

We have supported the use of creative ways to continue championing teachers Continued Professional Development within the context of a tight budget. In addition, we have continued to support and recognise the broad range of extra curricula activities provided through the extensive series of school trips and after school clubs. Looking forward to the next academic year, we will continue to ensure that the quality of education remains central to the management and leadership of the school. We will support school leaders to further tailor the school's deployment of the Talk for Writing scheme to help ensure continuous improvement in how we support pupil's progress in writing. We will also continue to champion the needs of children with SEND, supporting the sharing of best practice between St John Fisher School and other local schools and helping to ensure St John Fisher school receives as much support as possible from the Local Authority.

Quality of Operations

Members: Frank Huidobro (Chair), Kate Blom, Janine Kenna, Philip Gilbertson, Adrian Benedict

This year the Quality of Operations Committee has continued its primary focus on matching the School's expenditure to its financial resources and ensuring that the facilities are compliant and maintained to the best standard possible.

The School was able to work within its financial resources during the financial year albeit with a challenging future year's position due to main education funding streams not matching the generally increased and inflationary costs associated with operating the School. Continued close financial scrutiny of operational costs has therefore continued as in previous years.

Detailed discussions have been held with the Local Authority in recent months on the financial position and outlook and the School has been left with no choice but to address the future funding gap. These discussions included restructuring proposals by the School and how education is provided going forward. Some of these proposals will now be carried forward and will provide financial benefits that strengthen the future financial position of the School. Other proposals cannot be carried forward due the cost of implementation which are beyond the financial means of the Local Authority.

It is now an established and necessary feature of the School financial model that the income generated by the range of extended services provided by the School are offsetting the gap in education funding and for now, at least, enabling the School to balance its in year finances. This in turn ensures that the School can continue to offer the current high standards of education and facilities. A particular thank you goes to everyone who has been part of making this additional revenue generation a success.

The School has benefitted from several projects to improve the School facilities throughout the year and we await the outcome of a decision on Diocesan support with funding for the repairs to the car park gates which have unfortunately remained out of service for longer than the School would like.

Going forward the School is looking to continue to operate within the budget constraints of the year ahead and to maintain the excellent facilities the School has. The focus on raising additional income from the School facilities will continue and hopefully with the support of the St John Fisher community.

Spiritual, Ethos and Wellbeing Committee

Members: Louisa Asgill (Chair), Janine Kenna, Miriam Davis, Father Francis Nonyelu

The Spiritual, Ethos and Wellbeing (SEW) Committee was pleased to welcome two new members - Miriam Davis and Father Francis Nonyelu - whose fresh insights and valuable contributions have been greatly appreciated in what has been a very busy academic year.

Following many months of intensive preparation, the school had its long awaited Catholic Schools Inspection in April and was awarded the highest grade of 'Outstanding'. The report included observations that St John Fisher is a 'warm, prayerful school', with one of its strengths being the 'close relationships between school, home and parish', and the pupils being 'ambassadors for Catholic education'. The SEW Committee congratulates all staff, pupils and parents on this significant achievement, and in particular recognises the extraordinary efforts of Zoe Newnham (RE Lead), Claire Ellerker and Miriam Davies in promoting and embedding Catholic teaching, learning and worship. Thanks also to Father Francis for all of the support provided to the school by the St John Fisher parish.

Pupil wellbeing and mental health has continued to be a key focus. The 'SJF Sports and Wellbeing Fortnight' held earlier this month aimed to support both pupils and adults with their physical and mental health through a variety of activities including sports day events, daily physical challenges, talks from external speakers and sports groups, and a focus in classrooms on '5 ways to wellbeing'. The school has also worked closely with the Merton Wellbeing Team throughout the year to implement a range of initiatives including the Zones of Regulation, a project to teach problem solving skills to Year 2 pupils, online workshops for parents on resilience and coping mechanisms, and a weekly support offering from an art psychotherapist. From a safeguarding perspective, the school has been working with the Merton Local Authority to ensure that it is compliant with new statutory guidance relating to online safety for pupils.

Looking forward to the next academic year, the SEW Committee will continue to support and challenge the school to deliver a high quality Catholic education (including reflecting upon and implementing learnings from the Catholic Schools Inspection) and to build upon its vital work in promoting and facilitating the wellbeing of pupils and staff.

Happy Birthday

Oliver B, Finn K, Antek B, Raphael D'S, King O, Julia AA, Izabella M, Gianluca M, Lewis C, Zaim K, Daisy H, Poppy H, Esme B, Attila L, Benjamin C, Lexi H, Carolina A, Veera T, Annemarie VC, Felix H, Evie H, Leo M, George C, Magdalena H, Peter O, Evie S, Rafael C, Anthury E, Annabelle A, Jack C, Milo M, Jamie McC, Molly B, Stanislaw M, Michaela K-M, Luca JP, Antoni O, Nayana P-D, Maximilian F, Georgie L, Benjamin B, Kirsten O, Ada C, Alicia RT, Frederick McC, Oscar S, Francesca T, Michael L, Alexander R, Rinojan J.

We would like to wish all of our leavers the very best as you leave SJF!

We will miss you all but we know you will do amazing things in your next adventures.



Yr6 parents and carers can check their Google Classroom for a PGL memories throwback.



Thank you

This year, you have helped to raise:

£34,000

Over the next academic year, this money will be used to further improve our school environment and provide amazing experiences for our children..

Achievements this year:

New playground equipment,
Woodland Garden Maintenance,
Year 6 Leaver's Events, Year 3
First Holy Communion Parties,
Easter Lollies, Feast Day Treats,
Christmas Parties and more....



How we did it:

- AUTUMN DISCO: £1.5K
- QUIZ NIGHT £1.5K
- CHRISTMAS £11.2K
- SPRING DISCOS £1.9K
- MAY MUDDER £0.9K
- SUMMER BINGO £1.2K
- SUMMER FAIR £9.6K
- BOOKS/UNIFORM SALES £1.3K
- PARENT DONATIONS £1K
- MATCH FUNDING £3.5K
- OTHER INITIATIVES £0.4K
- Total £34k.

Thank you once again for all your help, donations and volunteered time. We couldn't do this without you.



St John Fisher School Makeover Day

Sunday 29th Sept '24
10am - 3pm

Join us! Help by painting, fixing, gardening and lots, lots more!



Everyone welcome.
Our children. Our school. Our Community.

Bring a picnic to enjoy afterwards!



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!
KEEP IN TOUCH!



@STJOHNFISHERPTFA



@ST JOHN FISHER PTFA



INFO@ST-JOHNFISHERPTA.ORG



SJF PTFA COMMUNITY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES..

- PTFA Welcome Eve: Mon 23rd Sept
- Makeover Day: Sun 29th Sept
- Autumn Discos: Fri 18th Oct

Wednesday
24th July 2024

**Good News
for Families**

1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Jesus saw crowds of people approaching and he said to Philip, "Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?" He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, "Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, "There is a small boy here with five loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?" Jesus said to them, "Make the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted until everyone was fed.



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 28th July 2024. John 6:1-15 (the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **HELP**.



Earth House enjoyed some 'field fun' this week as overall House Point winners of the Sports and Wellbeing fortnight.



Air House had a lovely movie afternoon as a reward for being House Point winners last half term



2200g



2072g



2030g



2007g

Congratulations to **FIRE** house for winning the final House point competition for this school year!

Children did as much as they could to earn tokens as the competition got very close!

The prize for **FIRE** House members 23/24 will be announced at the start of the new school term.

The tubes have all been emptied now and we wait to see who will be the first house point champions for the new school year!