



The Diocese of Nottingham  
**ST JOHNFISHER CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY**  
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Leadership Team: P. Ackers, J. Grattidge, C. Endson, P. Harlow

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

#### A message from the Headteacher

It was such a pleasure and privilege to support both Reception class and Key Stage 1 over the past two weeks at their Nativity performances. Both were truly magical and the children can be so proud of their efforts. Their singing, acting and speaking was of the highest quality and left everybody in awe of their talent. They also helped us to remember what an important and precious time of the year we are in and of the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you also, to all the staff for their hard work and preparation.

It has been an action packed few weeks here at St John Fisher with lots of exciting events taking place. It was lovely to welcome our grandparents and members of the local community through our doors as we held a mince pies and carols afternoon where they were royally entertained by the school choir. Fr Mark has asked me to pass on his thanks and appreciation for your support at last Friday's Christingle service. It was really uplifting to see so many of our families there. Finally, a really BIG thank you also to the PTFA for all their efforts at last weeks' discos; your support and hard work is greatly appreciated. The children had a fantastic time!

#### Mass at English Martyrs

Fr Mark warmly invites our children and their families to join them for Christmas Mass over the festive period. Please see dates and timings below.

**Christmas Eve at 4.30pm at English Martyrs 6.30pm (Chellaston) Midnight Mass following Carols from 11.30pm at English Martyrs and Christmas Day at 9.00am (Chellaston) and 10.30am at English Martyrs.**

#### Overall attendance winners for autumn 2

Year 5 are our overall attendance winners for autumn 2. Fantastic work Year 5, keep it up!

#### Mrs Curtis

Congratulations to Mrs Curtis who is expecting her first child in April. I am sure that you will join everyone here at St John Fisher in sending Mrs Curtis our warmest regards and love on hearing this wonderful news.

Year 5 parents and carers, please rest assured, that the educational needs of your children will remain of the upmost importance and I will write out to you in the new year.

#### Superclass

Congratulations to Year 2 who are our very first SUPERCLASS winners. It has been a very close run event over the course of this half term with Miss Flaherty's class just having the edge. As a reward, they are allowed to wear their own clothes tomorrow.

#### House Team Winners

Well done to 'Courage' House who were this half term team points winners. As a prize they enjoyed a games afternoon last Friday - it looked like they had lots of fun!

#### A BIG thank you

We managed to raise a magnificent £188.00 for 'Save the Children' from our 'Jeans and Christmas jumper' day. This is a fantastic amount and will go a long way to helping support this very worthy charity. Thank you all for your generosity.

#### Staying Safe Online

We just wanted to highlight the importance of staying safe online once again. Particularly at this time of year, when children are receiving new 'gadgets' we feel being vigilant is heightened even further.

Keeping your child safe online is more important than ever. The internet is an amazing resource which enables children and young people to connect, communicate and be creative in a number of different ways, on a range of devices. Using modern technology is an essential life skill in this day and age. However, the internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge.

We have been informed by the police that young children left unsupervised online are most likely to be drawn in by unsuitable strangers.

Parents and carers play a key role in supporting children to learn about how to stay safe online, and they are one of the first people children turn to if things go wrong. Ensure your child stays safe online or on their mobile phones by regularly taking the following precautions:

- Remind them about using technology responsibly
- Check what sites/ games/films they are accessing
- Insist you have access to any online social group they belong to.

### Uniform

We are really proud of our school uniform and we think that the children look really smart. It also reflects a sense of pride. With this in mind can you please ensure that your child is wearing their winter uniform for school. Ties are to be worn with shirts (no polo shirts) and boots are not allowed. Any child walking to and from St John Fisher in their boots will need to change into shoes for school. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter

### Admissions for September 2018

Every year we have disappointed parents who do not get a place for their child at our school because they have applied late or did not complete our supplementary form on time. If you know anyone who has a child that might be due to start school in September please draw their attention to this notice.

**The closing date to apply for a place at Saint John Fisher is January 15<sup>th</sup> 2018.** Any application after this date will be classed as a late application and will not be looked at until all the other applications have been processed - this will seriously impede your chances of being allocated a place.

You can apply online by visiting [www.derby.gov.uk/primapps](http://www.derby.gov.uk/primapps). It is really important that when applying for a place in a Catholic school that **a supplementary form together with any relevant documentation is also completed and sent or handed in directly to the school so that we receive it by the 15th January 2018.**

If you are unsure of any part of the procedure, please call the school office and ask to speak to Mrs Harlow or phone admissions directly on 01332 642730. Thank you.

### Premier Education Wraparound care

Premier Education will be running a wraparound day on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 from 8am - 4pm priced at £15.00 for the day. To access this facility please book online at <https://www.premier-education.com>

Please select the extra curricular dropdown tab and book a course option.

Premier Education have places available for both before and after school care priced at £4.00 and £7.00 respectively and they are able to accept child care vouchers. Please contact the school office or the above website link for further details.

### Loss Property

We have a number of unclaimed clothing items within school and we will be leaving the lost property tubs in the school foyer tomorrow. Please can you have a check and reclaim any lost items, thank you.

### Bookmarks for sale

Members from the PTFA will be selling bookmarks before and at the end of school tomorrow. There are 3 types to choose from and will make a fabulous Christmas present priced at only £1.00.

### Bad weather procedures

In the event of snow **please do not phone** the school to see if we are open as the telephone jams with the number of calls and you are unlikely to get through. We aim to stay open and in the very unlikely circumstances that we have to close we will send a group call to say so. Unless you receive a group call, then please assume we that are open. We will also contact Radio Derby and they will put an announcement out.

### Christmas Holiday

School will close tomorrow (Tuesday) and will reopen on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

All our afterschool clubs will begin the second full week back in January. Please see the timetable below.

### Extra Curricular Clubs w/b - 15.01.2018

**Monday** - Y5/Y6 Football (4.15pm finish), Homework(lunchtime) Premier Sports Handball after school  
**Tuesday** - Premier Sports Gymnastics after school, Book café (Lunchtime)  
**Thursday** - Premier Sports Cheerleading after school  
Y5/Y6 'Typing' after school - **limited to 10 pupils**  
**Friday** - Y4-6 Rugby (4.15pm finish)

### Dates for your diary - up until February half term 2018

**3rd January** – Inset Day  
**4th January** – Back to School  
**5th January** – Mass in school @ 09:30am (intention Sister Gertrude)  
**11th January** – Ten Ten Theatre - Parent Session @9:10am  
**16th January** – Y2 & Y6 SATs meeting @3:30pm & 6:00pm  
**17th January** – Parent Lunch Yr4 @ 11:45am  
**2nd February** – Candlemas for parents and children @ English Martyrs @6:30pm  
**7th February** – Class and Team Photo's  
**14th February** – Ash Wednesday Mass@ school @9:30am Parents and Parishioners welcome  
**16th February** – Break up for Half Term  
**26th February** – Back to School

### A final thought

**Have a fabulous Christmas and New Year; with our very best wishes to you and your family.**

Yours sincerely,  
P.Ackers, C.Endsor J.Grattidge, P.Harlow