



Dear parents/ carers,

Welcome back!

Happy new year to you all. I hope you and your families were all able to have a restful and calm Christmas and New Year holidays.

As I hope you are all aware, from the start of the new term, I have started at the school as the permanent and long term headteacher of the school. I would like to thank Mrs Snowdon-Poole, Miss Lewis and, especially, Mrs Campbell, for managing the smooth running of the school throughout Advent term whilst the trust were recruiting the new headteacher.

I would also like to thank you all – and your children – for the warm welcome I have received when I have met you either before or since Christmas.

If you haven't met me yet – I look a little like the photo on the right. Please do come and say hello!



I am in my 10th year as a headteacher having led schools in Derbyshire, the St Ralph Sherwin Trust and in Staffordshire. My history with St John Fisher though goes back further than that as my 3 (adult) children all attended and loved the school.

I look forward to getting to know you all better over the coming weeks, months and years.

To help me gain an understanding on your views of the school now I have created a short online survey – it should take no longer than about 5-10minutes to complete. I would really appreciate your time to give me your views about the school [here](#). It is completely anonymous. Please only complete 1 survey per household.

At the bottom of this letter there are all the dates for the rest of the school year. Many of these are dates already communicated – however, some are new and some have had to be slightly amended to fit in with other activities. We will endeavour to keep to all these dates – and where it isn't possible, will give as much notice as we can for any changes.

St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy
<https://www.stjohnfisherderby.srscmat.co.uk>

For I know the plans I have for you; plans to give you hope and a future – Jeremiah 29:11



Staffing:

On 20th January we welcome Mrs Blurton back from her maternity leave which does sadly mean we have to say goodbye to Mrs Castle. We have loved having her at the school and wish her all the best in her next role.

Applications for Primary School:

The final day for applications for Reception school places to start in September 2025 is Wednesday 15th January. If you have a child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 - and still need to do this – please make sure you do by the deadline. If you have friends with children of this age – do talk to them about this (and remind them what a great school St John Fisher is!) If you need any help with the application – please do get in touch with the school office! Applications need to be completed [here](#)

Best Wishes

Graham Lobb

Headteacher

Diary dates:

These are the key diary dates for the year ahead. We will endeavour to keep to these dates as much as possible and will give as much notice as we can for any changes:

Friday 10 th January	Non-Uniform Day	All pupils, in exchange for gift sets.
Tuesday 21 st January	SLTea 2:45pm	Come for a cuppa and meet the school leadership for informal conversations.
Tuesday 28 th January	SATs meeting for parents 3:30pm	All parents of Y6 welcome to discuss SATs
Friday 7 th February	Year 5 Bikeability Level 1	Details to follow
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day	
Friday 14 th February	Year 5 Bikeability Level 1	Details to follow
Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February	Lent Half Term	School closed for all pupils
Monday 24 th February	INSET DAY	School closed to pupils.
Tuesday 25 th February	Back to school	School opens to all pupils.
Wednesday 26 th February	Compass Coffee Afternoon 2:30pm	All parents welcome.

St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy
<https://www.stjohnfisherderby.srscmat.co.uk>

For I know the plans I have for you; plans to give you hope and a future – Jeremiah 29:11



Wednesday 5 th March	Ash Wednesday Worship 9:15am	All parents welcome.
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day	Details to follow
Monday 17 th March	Parents evening session 1 3:30-6:30	Parents' evening appointments.
Tuesday 18 th March	Parents evening session 2 3:30-6:30	Parents' evening appointments.
Friday 21 st March	World Poetry Day	Details to follow
Friday 4 th April	End of term Worship 2:00pm (TBC)	All parents welcome.
Monday 7 th April – Friday 18 th April	Easter Holidays	School Closed
Wednesday 23 rd April	Y6 Leavers Photos	All year 6 to have their leavers photograph.
Wednesday 23 rd April	St George's Day Liturgy	All parents welcome.
Tuesday 6 th May	Y5 Class Worship	Y5 Parents welcome (2:45)
Monday 12 th – Thursday 15 th May	SATs Week	Y6 SATs tests will be taking place
Tuesday 13 th May	Y4 Class Worship	Y4 Parents welcome (2:45)
Friday 16 th May	Non-Uniform Day	Raising money for Derby Children's Holiday Centre
Tuesday 20 th May	Y3 Class Worship	Y3 Parents welcome (2:45)
Wednesday 21 st May	Year 6 Trip to Alton Towers	
Friday 23 rd May	INSET Day	School closed to all pupils
Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May	Half Term	School closed to all pupils
Monday 2 nd June	School Opens	School opens to all pupils
Wednesday 4 th June	SEND Coffee Afternoon 2:30pm	Parents of SEND children welcome
Thursday 5 th June	Year 5 trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester	
Friday 6 th June: All day	Non uniform day in exchange for chocolates for the Summer Fayre	More information to follow
Monday 9 th June – Friday 13 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Year 4 Multiplication Check Week	All Year 1 and Y4 pupils to be present – no leave of absence may be taken during this time.
Thursday 12 th June	New Starters' Evening 3:45-4:30	All families with children starting FS2 for September 2025. Childcare will be provided.
Friday 13 th June	Non uniform day in exchange for bottles for the Summer Fayre	More information to follow



Monday 16 th - Wednesday 18 th June	Year 6 residential to Lea Green	
Tuesday 17 th June	Year 2 Class Worship 2:45pm	Y2 parents welcome
Wednesday 18 th June	Year 3&4 trip to ThinkTank in Birmingham	
Friday 20 th June	Summer Fayre (after school)	
Monday 23 rd June	St John Fisher Feast Day Worship 9am	All families welcome
W/c Monday 23 rd June	Healthy Fortnight begins!	
Tuesday 24 th June	Reception and Y1 Class Worship 2:45pm	Reception and Y1 parents welcome
Wednesday 25 th June	Reception/ Year 1&2 trip to Twycross Zoo	
Thursday 26 th June	Sports Day 1:30pm	All welcome. The date may be due to change should weather conditions be adverse.
Monday 30 th June:	Mass for SS Peter and Paul 2:00pm (An occasion to celebrate everyone who has made their First Holy Communion this year)	All families are welcome. More information to follow closer to the time.
Tuesday 1 st July-Thursday 3 rd July (Subject to confirmation by Derby City)	Transition Days	All children move up to their new classes. Year 6 visit their new secondary schools all 3 days.
Tuesday 8 th July	Year 6 Production 2:00pm	Tickets can be purchased – 4 per family. Date of release to be confirmed.
Thursday 10 th July	Year 6 Production 5.30pm	Tickets can be purchased – 4 per family. Date of release to be confirmed.
Friday 11 th July	School reports go out to all families	
Tuesday 15 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Celebration and Worship	Year 6 pupils to arrive at 4:30pm for the party. Families to arrive at 5.30pm for the worship and awards ceremony. TBC closer to the day
Thursday 17 th July	PTFA Disco	Details to follow closer to the time
Date TBC	End of Year Mass	All families and parishioners welcome
Wednesday 23 rd July – Friday 5 th September	Summer Holidays	School Closed
Thursday 4 th and Friday 5 th September are INSET days		
Monday 7 th September	Pupils return	School open for all pupils