



Dear parents/ carers,

This half term has gone in the blink of an eye (to me) but equally it feels like I have been at the school forever. I really appreciate the welcome I have received from staff, children and parents alike. The community at St John Fisher is very special– and I am loving being part of it again and am looking forward to deepening the relationships with you all over the years to come.

Last night was the excellent Valentine's Disco led by our PTFA. The hall looked amazing and the children had a great time. Thank you to the PTFA volunteers for giving their time so freely and generously – and for the staff for staying to support.

Catholic Life:

In our staff meeting last week Mr Lowson shared some training with teachers on how we will build up greater independence for the children to lead worship for their classes in their classrooms. Child led worship is a wonderful thing in Catholic schools – the children are often far better than adults at sharing messages from worship and how we can take the word of God and live our lives following it.

The opportunity to do this also builds up great skills the children can take with them to later education and life – building their confidence at speaking in front of groups; independence and working as part of a team.

Hopefully your children will talk to you about this at home as they get opportunities to lead their class in small groups.

World Book Day:

World Book Day is Thursday 6th March and the theme we have chosen for the year's activities is 'Bedtime Stories'. All children are invited to come to school in their pyjamas, dressing gowns and slippers for the day (please still bring outside shoes and coats!).

Activities will include opportunities for every class to see and work with the shortlisted books from this year's [Derby Children's Picture Book Award](#) (which are fabulous) and teachers will all read a favourite bedtime story to a class at the end of the day. It should be a great day.

ParentPay:

Please log on to ParentPay to check for any outstanding balances you may have for dinners and trips.

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



Please do come in and talk to school if there are difficulties with the costs of trips/dinners.

Parents' Evening:

The next parents' evenings are on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th March. For these meetings, bookings will be made online through Arbor. Booking will open on Arbor for parents on 3rd March. Instructions will come out the week before!

Compass Coffee Afternoon:

On Wednesday of the 1st week back – 26th February – there is a Compass Coffee Afternoon at 2:30pm. If you know who Compass are – come along to talk about how you feel they could best support you/ your children/ our school – if you don't – come along to find out more about how they can support with mental health with school for children and families. More details [here](#).

Parking:

Thank you to so many of you for thinking of all the children in school's safety at the beginning and end of the day. It is greatly appreciated.

To keep all of our children safe please:

- Do not pull into the driveway of the school to drop off/ pick up – or stop by the end of the drive to do this.
- Park so that the traffic can continue to flow – with respect to our neighbours.
- Do not do 3 point turns in the road – or use the driveway to turn around.
- Drive at a slower speed when around the school on Alvaston Street.

Don't forget – next week is half term holiday – and the first Monday back is an INSET day so children return on Tuesday 25th February! I hope you all have a lovely and restful break.

Best Wishes

Graham Lobb

Headteacher



Diary dates:

For a list of the full dates for the year – see the newsletter from 10th January.

Tuesday 25 th February	Back to school	School opens to all pupils.
Wednesday 26 th February	Compass Coffee Afternoon 2:30pm	All parents welcome.
Wednesday 5 th March	Ash Wednesday Worship 10:00am	All parents welcome.
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day	
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 – Monday 21 st April	Easter Holidays	School Closed