



Dear parents/ carers

It's been a really busy week here at school. I can't quite believe how much we have managed to fit in.

Monday:

It was a delight to welcome Mr Grattidge back to the school to deliver his assembly to launch our Lenten fundraising. The children enjoyed listening to him about the work of Cafod – and asked some really insightful questions to him. He visits many catholic schools while volunteering with Cafod. He told me that not only is St John Fisher his favourite to visit (having worked here for many years) but also the children here were best behaved!

To help parents spread the opportunity far and wide to support the fundraising (and to get me into that chicken costume!) – we have also set up a Just Giving Page [here](#). (if children gain any sponsorship where it will be paid via this page – just note that on their form!)

Children started their pilgrimages on Monday – Year 4 have already walked over 100miles between them – and the school's total is over 250miles!

Tuesday:

We had a visit from the St Ralph Sherwin Multi Academy Trust's CEO – Kevin Gritton. It was a privilege to walk with him around school visiting classes – the children were calm, working hard and happy as we moved around school. He was really impressed with what he saw.



Wednesday:

We welcomed Fr Mark for Mass to mark Ash Wednesday. Again, the children were so well behaved and respectful in Mass. The chaplaincy team who spoke at Mass read clearly and with passion. It was lovely to have so many parents and parishioners join us for this Mass. Parents are always welcome to the school's masses – whether Catholic or of another faith or of no faith.



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



Thursday:

World Book Day!

The day started with a lovely assembly led by Mrs Downing – and ended with the children enjoying a bedtime story with a member of staff. They enjoyed not doing their usual lessons and sharing 3 different books with their class.



The books we used were this year's finalists for the Derby Book Festival's [Derby Children's Picture Book Award](#) and all had a lovely message contained within them. Have you asked your child which book they liked most? (I think my favourite was *The Girl at the Front of the Class*)

It was so lovely being in school in pyjamas – I'd love to do it every day. Even the cleaners and kitchen staff joined in!

Friday:

Is/ Was a normal day – I think we needed it!!

Next week is another busy one.

EYFS are going on a local area walk on Tuesday; Year 6 have a SATs workshop led by Compass on Wednesday and our Ambassadors of Hope (Members of the St Ralph Sherwin Pupil parliament) have a meeting with other children from across the trust – and Bishop Patrick – on Thursday.

Parents Evenings:

Thank you to all of you who have made appointments to see your children's teachers on 17th/ 18th March.

If you have any problems booking (or there don't appear to be any appointments left), please pop in to the school office and we can help you out.

Holiday Club:

As per yesterday's letter, we are excited to be hosting an Easter Holiday Club at St John Fisher School! These are run by Mr G's Holiday Clubs and these are exciting, sports-based clubs in a

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fun and secure environment. The leaders are fully insured, DBS checked, safeguarding and First Aid trained (some SJF staff will also be working at this club so there will be familiar faces)

First come, first served (limited places) - Places are only secured once payment has been received.

If you'd like to sign up, please click the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/mrgholidayclub/Easter25>

As well as paid Spaces, we are proud to announce that we will be a HAF provider this Easter! We will be offering four funded days of activities from Monday 14th - Thursday 17th April. Eligible parents will receive a booking link directly for HAF Spaces which will open on Monday 17th March.

Themed days

Monday 14th – Lego Day
Tuesday 15th – Bake Off Day
Wednesday 16th – Spring Sports Day
Thursday 17th – Easter EggStravaganza

Term dates 25/26:

Derby City's term dates for 25/26 are:

- Thursday 4th September (Children return - Monday 8th September) to Friday 24th October
- Monday 3rd November to Friday 19th December
- Monday 5th January 2026 to Friday 13th February
- Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th March
- Monday 13th April to Friday 22nd May [Bank Holiday Monday 4th May]
- Monday 1st June to Thursday 23rd July

INSET Days: Thursday 4th and Friday 5th September; Monday 23rd February and 2 more TBC.

Please bear these dates in mind when planning holidays.

Future years are already published [here](#).

Best Wishes

Graham Lobb

Headteacher

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