



Dear parents/ carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2026. I hope you all had a restful and refreshing Christmas holidays.

Firstly, thank you for the understanding on the decision to close the school due to the snow last Friday. It is always a difficult decision to make as a headteacher. One of the main factors is the safety of pupils and staff travelling to school – and this was the main factor in the closure last week. We have many staff who live a considerable distance from school that travel in on non-main roads.

I hope all your children were able to spend some time enjoying the snow!

Catholic life:

It was lovely to be able to take all of Year 1 to Year 6 to the church to mass to celebrate the Epiphany. I know the parishioners who were at the mass appreciated the full church and the presence of the children. They were really well behaved.

During mass, Fr Mark invited us back to celebrate with the parish for Candlemas (also known as The Presentation of the Lord) on Monday 2nd February at 11am – and we have accepted that invitation. This is the day that ends the Christmas season, and the Fr Mark will bless candles he will use in church through the year during this mass.

We are also reviewing our school's values with the children at the moment – and looking to refresh our mission statement and the understanding of this. We will be seeking views of parents and the parish as we explore this further.

Trips, school dinner and after school clubs:

Please log on to ParentPay and make sure that all trips your child may be going on are paid in plenty of time before the trip. School cannot afford to subsidise trips due to non-payment. If you have a challenge in paying for any trip/ activity, please do approach Mr Lobb for a confidential conversation.

Upcoming trips:

Year 3&4 – Conkers

Y5 – Space Centre- More information will be emailed next week.

Please also make sure dinner money is paid up to date – preferably in advance.

If your child has been allocated a place onto a paid after school club. Please ensure this has been paid via ParentPay before Friday 30th January 2026.

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



Coming up:

Next week is our STEM week with the theme of 'Medical Marvels'.

Over the week all classes will have an additional focus on science, maths, computing and Design technology linked to this theme. We will also have a few visitors popping into school – look out on Dojo for some pictures!

Mrs Childs:

On Wednesday, Mrs Childs visited school to give us all the opportunity to say thank you and goodbye after over 12 years of service to St John Fisher. She will be missed by us all.



Miss Woodings:

In May, Miss Woodings is running a half marathon (her first) to raise money for Cancer Research UK in memory of her Mum and 2 of her grandparents. If you would like to sponsor her in this – the link is [here](#)

Highlights from Dojo.....

Year 2 representing the baptism of Jesus in their art.



Year 3 Stone Age cave paintings



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Year 6 get their hoodies



Year R exploring the ice and following the star to represent the journey of the Wise Men.



Best wishes

Graham Lobb

Headteacher

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January:

- Wednesday 21st - Year 1 Celebration of the Word (9:15am – preceded by Y1 breakfast at 8:30am)
- w/c Monday 19th - STEM Week
- Friday 30th - PTFA non-uniform day – donations of gift sets

February:

- Monday 2nd - Mass at English Martyrs Church 11am
- Thursday 5th - Year 3&4 Conkers trip
- Monday 9th - Compass Breakfast
- Tuesday 10th - Safer Internet day
- Thursday 12th - PTFA Valentine's Disco 4:30-6:00pm
- Friday 13th - Lent Celebration of the Word 2pm
- Break up for Half term
- Tuesday 24th - Back to School [INSET Day Monday 23rd]
- Wednesday 25th - Year 4 Retreat Day
- Friday 27th - Year 5 Space Centre trip

YOUR PTFA NEED YOUR HELP

FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY

WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

DO YOU HAVE ANY UNWANTED GIFT SETS/BODY SETS/COSMETICS ETC YOU CAN DONATE

BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO SCHOOL ON NON UNIFORM DAY

The PTFA invites the whole school to join them at their annual...

Valentine's Disco

On **12 February**

16.30-18.00
£1 Entry
Includes Free Squash/Water
Tuck Shop
Sweet Treats
Crisps
Flashing Foam
Strobes

Come in Fancy Dress
Prizes to be Won

Tickets For Sale On The Door