Dear parents/ carers

It has been quite the start to the new school year!

Children feel like they have settled very quickly into their new classes and routines – and school is a lovely calm and purposeful place.

It was lovely to be part of the PTFA AGM this morning – lots of exciting things planned for the year ahead… some favourites, some new ideas or at least 1 hair raising idea…. Watch for news of the year ahead….. we are very lucky to have such a committed and active PTFA.

Meet the Teacher:

This is Monday! There will be 2 sessions for a general introduction to the year for parents – and a chance to meet your child's new teacher as well as ask some general questions. Sessions will start at 3:30pm and 4:00pm.

These will take place in the classrooms.

Remember to get in touch with class teachers – you can use the Year1@djf.srscmat.co.uk email address (change the number to the class number or use Year R@)

Swimming:

Separate letters will have come today with information about swimming this school year – including information about swimming after school clubs for the 2 weeks the pools are on site.

Having looked at the way that the pool needs to be organised, just Year 4 and 5 will swim this year for curriculum swimming lessons. Over the years ahead, I firmly believe this is a better way to teach swimming than the weekly trips to Moorways.

Harvest:

Our harvest Celebration of the Word will be led by Year 5 this year. This will be on Thursday 12th November.

Classes can start bringing in donations to their classrooms from Thursday 1st October. A display of donations will then be created as part of the Celebration of the Word.

We will again be donating to Doorways in Derby.

Please only give what you can.

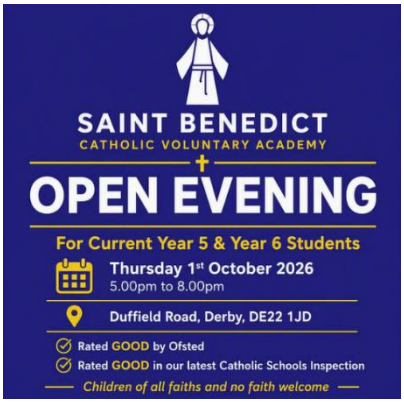
Social Media:

In line with recent advice from government, we will be changing the way photographs are shown on our Facebook or Instagram – we won't be showing full facial pictures front on of individual children – but photos from the side or behind or larger group shots.

We are hoping to post more on both.....

We have records of social media permissions for all children – if you want to change these, please speak to Miss Willmott.

Instagram Facebook

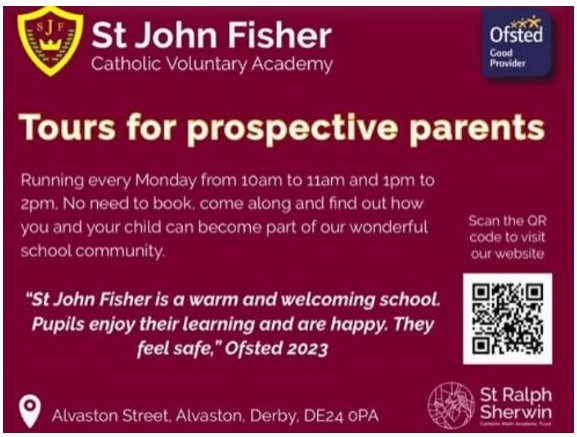


Next school year:

As soon as 1 year begins – we are starting the application and visits rounds for next school year!

Year 6 children need to apply for their secondary place by 31/10/26 – St Benedicts have their visits for Year 5 and 6 parents next week.

Also, if you – or a friend/ neighbour/ family member have a child due to start Year R – or move from an infant school into Year 3 – applications start 1st November – but our school visits start now! Visits for new children are every Monday between 10am and 11am or 1pm and 2pm.



Free School Meals:

A reminder – if you haven't done so – please do visit our new FSM checker here. It takes a very short time – you only need to do this once and the system will keep checking if your eligibility changes.

Lots of additional families are entitled this year after changes in eligibility – we have had some surprised families who are newly eligible.

Electric Scooters:

We have been advised that electric scooters should not be ridden to school – or stored at school in our bike sheds.

Please do not allow your child to ride to school on an electric scooter. Also please bear this in mind while planning for Christmas presents.....

Best wishes

Graham Lobb

Headteacher

October:

Thursday 1st	- Whole School Poetry Assembly/ Macmillan Breakfast (8:30am->)
	- Start of Black History Month
w/c Monday 5th	- Pool to be set up on site
Wednesday 7th	- Individual photos
w/c Monday 12th	- Swimming Wk1
w/c Monday 19th	- Swimming Wk2
Friday 23rd	- Break up for half term

The last newsletter was also missing the dates of Year 1's CotW and Retreat...

Retreat: Tuesday 24th November

CotW with breakfast for families: Thursday 3rd December