

St John Fisher Newsletter



December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Advent is now upon us, and as we get closer to the end of term, our school becomes fully focused on Christmas and celebrating the birth of our Lord.

I hope everyone is wrapping up warm and getting their homes ready for the upcoming celebrations. Thank you all for your responses to our recent Parent Survey – a detailed breakdown is on the Website

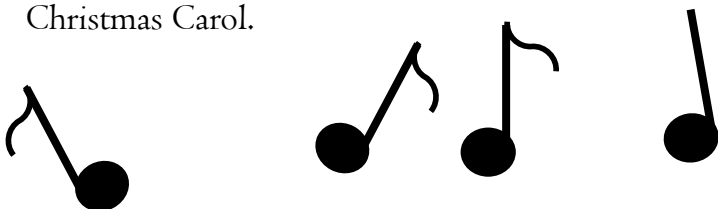


CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND NON-UNIFORM DAY

Friday 6th December will be a Non-Uniform day where we ask that families bring an item for our tombola. The Christmas Bazaar will be on Monday 16th and will last all afternoon. We have taken over a classroom for Santa's Grotto and will be featuring a 'Bucking Reindeer'

BIG CHRISTMAS SING

Last week our KS2 choir took part in The Big Christmas Sing raising money for Christian Aid. Our children performed wonderfully at Barton Music Centre, leading on a Polish Christmas Carol.





» Catholic Virtues

**Our virtues this term are:
Intentional and Prophetic**

CATHOLIC LIFE

This Sunday we celebrate the beginning of advent. We will have a whole school Mass at Blessed Dominic Barberi on Thursday morning, all are welcome! Please check the notice board for the list of Christmas events coming up this month.

one-eighty
▶ TURNING LIVES AROUND

180 continue to support us in school this year, and we have just seen the launch of our 'KickStart' programme in school and training for all staff. If you feel your child could do with some extra support building their confidence let us know and we can see if we can get them involved.

STORY MUSEUM WORKSHOPS

Our 'Spellbound Schools' programme is in full flow with visits from many year groups having taken place. We also welcomed them into school to deliver 'Narnia' themed storytelling workshops to classes from Nursery up.



PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who responded to our parent survey, we got 73 responses, the most so far, a more detailed response is online, but I am pleased to see the positive responses, particularly to the new entrance way and the openness of staff.

The crossing is coming – I met with teams last week and have been informed it will go in during February Half Term. The hedge will be coming out before then, but the council will put up netting and we will re-grow a hedge on this side.

School Starts at 08:45 and closes at 3:15, the gates do not need to be opened by staff before then, we chose to open the KS2 gate at 08:40ish and 3:10ish to avoid congestion, but there is no 'set' time and will not be.

Our Safeguarding leads are Mrs Butler, Ms Moss, Mr Higgins, Ms McCarthy and Mrs Ball.



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER FOR DAILY UPDATES

<https://twitter.com/SJFOxford>

SPORTS NEWS

Oxford City National League Trust Champions

Our boys football team took part in a 26 team County wide competition to win a chance to represent Oxford City at a National Event. Our incredible team once again came out on top, winning the final 1-0 against SS Phillip and James thanks to a delightful finish from Jude. They showed great resilience after losing a few games early on and surviving a penalty shootout in the semi-finals.

Last year our school lost the final of this competition on penalties, so this was a fantastic way to put that to bed. We now go on to represent Oxford City at the Regional Finals.



SWIFT Course

On Thursday 5th December from 1pm-3pm we will be hosting a SWIFT course, this will last two weeks and is to help support families who have children with ASD OR Communication and Interaction needs

Staff News



Mrs Butler will be going on maternity leave from Friday 6th December, we wish her the best of luck in the coming weeks and then send all of our love for a wonderful maternity leave with her new child.

We have recruited a fantastic, experienced teacher to begin from Wednesday 4th December, Mrs O'Neill, who is from within our parish at Bd Dominic Barberi and will take over class responsibility for the rest of the academic year.

Our student teachers, Ms King and Ms Howe, who have been working in Year 1 this term will be leaving us, we thank them and wish them all the best in their teaching journey.



» FLEECES

We have plenty of fleeces, coats and a few hats for sale in office which are perfect for the winter weather!



RECEPTION 2025

Applications for Reception 2025 will open soon, if you know of anyone who has a child who will be 4 in September, please encourage them to visit the school and meet with us to support an application. Our nursery waiting list means it will be full by the end of the year when the next cohort enter, so we expect a large number of 2025 applicants.

» Diary Dates

| | | |
|------------|--|----|
| 02.12.2024 | Football v John Hampden (Home) | ❄️ |
| 03.12.2024 | Cross Country at Spires (AM) | ❄️ |
| 05.12.2024 | | |
| 05.12.2024 | Advent Mass – Bd Dominic Barberi – 09:30 | |
| | Boys Football v Our Lady's (Home) | ❄️ |
| 06.12.2024 | St Nicholas Day – Fr Harry Visit | |
| | Non Uniform Day – Bring a Tombola Prize | |
| | Pantomime | |
| 09.12.2024 | Penitential Service in School | |
| 11.12.2024 | Christmas Dinner / Christmas Jumper Day | |
| 12.12.2024 | SWIFT Course | |
| 13.12.2024 | Nativity Dress Rehearsal | ❄️ |
| 16.12.2024 | Christmas Bazaar | ❄️ |
| 17.12.2024 | Choir to Visit Care Home to Sing | |
| | Nativity Performances 09:30 and 14:00 | |
| 18.12.2024 | Rocksteady Concert – 2pm | |
| 19.12.2024 | Carol Concert at Mansfield College Y3,6 and Choir – 4:30pm | |
| 20.12.2024 | FINISH AT 1PM | ❄️ |



» Parish News

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for December 2024

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Sacred Heart Church <https://sacredheartoxford.com/>

Blessed Dominic Barberi Church <https://www.bldominicbarberioxford.org.uk/>

Our Lady Help of Christians <https://olhoccowley.co.uk/>

God Bless,
Mr Higgins and the SJF Team

