



Catholic Virtues

Our virtues this term are: **Faith filled and Hopeful**

Absence and attendance

We are currently in the process of inviting in all families whose children have under 90% attendance, we know these are for multiple reasons, but we need to ensure attendance pushes to 97%. If your child is sick, you must explain how, not just state that they are 'unwell', this is a legal requirement. Lateness is also becoming an issue: this table highlights to impact of lateness

Minutes per day late	Equivalent of missing
5	3.4 school days a year
10	6.9 school days a year
15	10.3 school days a year
20	13.4 school days a year
30	20.7 school days a year

» Diary Dates

28.03.2024	Boys Football Finals at TOA
28.03.2024	Break up 1pm – All classes and Nursery
15.04.2024	Return to School from Easter Break
16.04.2024	St Bernadette Feast Day Mass
24.04.2024	Year 4 Residential – Return 26/04/24
02.05.2024	Reception and Y6 Class Photos
02.05.2024	Year 2 Mansfield College Trip
06.05.2024	MAY BANK HOLIDAY
07.05.2024	Year 5 Pizza Express Trip
09.05.2024	Ascension Mass 1:30 in School
13.05.2024	SATS WEEK



» Parish News

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for March 2024

For the Martyrs.

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

Sacred Heart Church
Blessed Dominic Barberi Church
Our Lady Help of Christians

<https://sacredheartoxford.com/>
<https://www.bldominicbarberioxford.org.uk/>
<https://olhoccowley.co.uk/>

God Bless,
Mr P Higgins (Principal)
and the SJF Team



St John Fisher Newsletter



March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we are deep in Holy Week preparing for Easter, the year is disappearing fast. So much has happened this term at St John Fisher and this is a great chance to celebrate our achievements!

Headteacher News

Hopefully, most are aware already, but I was successfully appointed as Permanent Headteacher this month. This offers a chance for us to plan long term and build for a long and successful future for the school.

St Patrick's Day

A fantastic Irish Dance Display two dancing stars who entertained everyone in assembly, accompanied by a very nimble Ms McCarthy!



Ducks in EYFS

It is that time of year where ducklings take over our EYFS setting. The children loved watching the ducks hatch, grow rapidly, swim and play for the few weeks they were at school. They've now gone back to their farm



Worship

Holy Week

This week is Holy Week which will see a focus each day on the key events leading up to the death and resurrection of Our Lord. Children attended Mass on Monday at Bd Dominic Barberi, which was beautiful, and will have the opportunity to take part in Stations of The Cross in the school hall.



Online Safety *We have been made aware that there are WhatsApp groups with increasingly large memberships inviting people to join. Please monitor your child's phone usage and ensure that they are not in any groups with people they do not know in person. If you need any support here, we have a page on our website with more information and are always free to talk to.*



Summer Fayre

It may seem a long way away, but our Summer Fayre planning is in full flow. This will be a huge event on **Saturday 6th July**, so please pencil the date in now. We have booked a wide range of activities including giant inflatables as well as a wide variety of refreshments (Mrs Ball has renewed her bar license especially). If you know of, or work for any organisations who may provide us with donations for our raffle, please get in touch as this is vital to raising funds for the school. Anyone who wishes to help out on the day, even if it is just for an hour or two, please also get in touch with Mrs Ball, Mrs Moss or Mrs Gibbons.



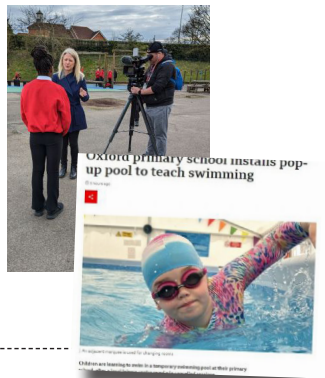
NEW PARTNERSHIPS – OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Our Year 5 children visited Oxford High School recently to take part in their JEMS project engaging children in STEM. This was an incredible success, with staff singing the praises of our children. We have been invited back for their next event and hope to build on this in future.

Photos of our children also appeared in the Oxford Mail advertising the success of the day.

POP UP POOL – ON THE BBC!

The pool was a resounding success, and we are doing what we can to try and make it a permanent (or semi-permanent) fixture, but as you can imagine it is logistically difficult. A year ago I didn't expect to be running a school, but at least I know education. I have a fair bit of learning to do if I am going to also become a swimming pool manager. I am however, fairly decent at generating media attention and so it was fabulous to host BBC Oxford. None of the articles were meant to be a hit-job on Fusion from my end, even if they turned out that way. I thought our Y5s were amazing and spoke so well on camera.



SATS Revision

From Monday 15th April we will run a SATs revision club for all Y6 children Mon-Thu mornings, children can arrive from 7.45 for an 8:00 start. This is free, but not for siblings, they may however join breakfast club at the usual cost.

 **Follow us on twitter for daily updates** <https://twitter.com/SJFOxford> 

»Playmakers

The Year 6 Playmakers project reached its conclusion with the class watching performance at the Oxford Playhouse. Natan was lucky enough to have his play acted out on stage, a huge privilege. We have been part of this partnership for 9 years and it continues to enrich our curriculum provision.



I am humbled and amazed by how quickly this school has become a powerhouse in Oxford sport. For such a small school, to always compete at such a high level is incredible. We may not always have so much success, but by building this sporting culture, we will embed a love of sport in all our children.

HOCKEY

Our Year 4/5/6 hockey team took part in the Oxfordshire School Games hockey finals at Radley School, where they performed exceptionally and placed 3rd in the

whole county. This competition featured many Prep Schools who have far more resources and focus on hockey than we have yet were defeated by our excellent team. I have booked a hockey coach for Y5/6 after half term from Oxford Hockey Club to build on this success.

FOOTBALL

An unbelievable few weeks for St John Fisher. This month we represented Oxford United




at Northampton FC in a regional tournament, and then the very next day took part in the Pokemon Small Schools South-West Finals (catchy title) where we performed at an incredibly high level and triumphed on penalties to reach the National Finals where we will be one of the best 8 small schools in the country. Then on Monday, our girls took part in their very own finals at The Oxford Academy. An unbelievable defensive display throughout the tournament meant that we only conceded one goal all day, and therefore the one goal we scored, plus absolutely ice-cold penalty technique led us to one of the most incredible victories I have ever witnessed. It put Greece 2004 to shame and showed what is possible, even against all the odds, with teamwork and belief.


BIKEABILITY


Our Y5s have been out on their bikes learning road safety through Bikeability. This course lasted a week and has improved the confidence of our children no end.



»Staffing updates

 Ms Axtell has now left us to continue her studies to become a teacher, she was a fabulous addition to the school whilst on placement.

 Yasmin Haseeb and Holly Kilduff have started with us as apprentice TAs and will be working across the school

 We now have Ms Trujillo on her final year teaching practice in Year 2 working with Ms McCarthy