



# Catholic Virtues

Our virtues this term are: **Loving and Compassionate**

**LOOKING AHEAD** Two key things to mention at the very start of the next half term.

**Pop up Pool!** – For the first four weeks after half term, we will be the first school in Oxford to have a swimming pool in our playground. This will be in a heated marquee and will allow us to provide our swimming provision on site. More information will follow before half term, but if successful we will look for potential grant funding to make it a permanent fixture.



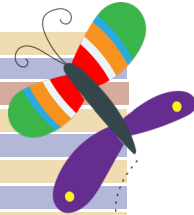
### Archbishop's Visit

I have invited Archbishop Bernard Longley to visit our school in the second week after half term. We are finalising the plan for his time in school, but hopefully we will be able to all worship together during his time here.



### » Diary Dates

31.01.2024 Bookie Breakfast – 08:00
01.02.2024 St Brigid Class Mass at Blessed Dominic Barberi – 09:30
01.02.2024 Year 4 Mansfield College Trip
02.02.2024 Year 5/6 Boys Small Schools Football Final (AM – TOA)
02.02.2024 KS2 Cross Country at John Henry Newman (PM)
02.02.2024 Y5 Metro Bank Visit (AM)
02.02.2024 Fr Harry and Ms McCarthy Hot Chocolate
05.02.2024 Cyber Champions – Internet Safety Workshops
06.02.2024 Y3/4 Indoor Athletics at TOA
08.02.2024 St Josephine Feast Day Mass at Bd Dominic Barberi – 09:30
09.02.2024 Break up for Half Term 3.15
19.02.2024 Return to School – Y6 Residential and Pop Up Swimming Pool



### » Parish News

#### Pope Francis Prayer Intention for January 2024

*For the Holy Spirit*

In January, we pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of the different rites within the Catholic Church..

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

<https://sacredheartoxford.com/>  
<https://www.blodominicbarberioxford.org.uk/>  
<https://olhocowley.co.uk/>

God Bless,

Mr P Higgins (Principal)  
and the SJF Team



# St John Fisher Newsletter



29th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the New Year everyone, it feels like we only came back yesterday, and we are already so close to half term! It has been an extremely busy first few weeks as we look to build on a superb Christmas season.

### Advent Homework

Fr Harry and Ms McCarthy will be celebrating all of our entrants with a 'hot chocolate tea party' and the entries will be displayed on rotation around the school.



### Headteacher News

As you know, I am the 'Acting Headteacher' at St John Fisher and an advert is out currently to appoint a permanent head teacher. The PFMAC and governors hope to have everything tied up before the Easter break so we can all look forward long term. Whether this is myself, or an external candidate, I can assure you all that every decision will be made with the children at the centre.



If you venture into your local TESCOs you will see that St John Fisher are one of the community projects for you to put your blue tokens into. We are trying to raise money to continue, and hopefully even expand, our SEND trips to Thomley Hall, which have immense value to our children. So please take handfuls, even bucketfuls, of tokens and pour them all in for us.

## Worship New Year Mass

Fr Harry came into school to celebrate Mass for our new year. The children were fantastic and it was wonderful to have Amelia be altar server. If any other children are interested in becoming a server, please get in touch and Fr Harry will arrange training.



## VAPING

Please do not Vape on our school site, we are a no-smoking and no-vaping site. There are young children here and we should all be setting a good example.

## ENRICHMENT



»Metro Bank have been in school this half term teaching our Y5 children all about 'Money Matters'. It has been surprisingly interesting and will culminate with our children visiting their vaults in Oxford City Centre. I'd advise you to check your current account that day, and we will check their bags upon return if there is a discrepancy.

»Our Reception Children had an exciting visit to supplement their transport topic where they were collected by a bus and taken down to the depot to learn all about buses and even travel through the 'bus-wash'

»Year 5 visited Headington school for a wonderful Netball Festival, learning to play the game in a fun and enjoyable way.

»To enhance their understanding of 'Frozen Kingdoms' Year 6 visited the Oxford Ice Rink. It was an extremely fun day and showed the resilience and helpful nature of our children.



## »Forest School

The school has received a grant which has allowed us to train Mr Keith and purchase lots of new equipment for our Forest School area. This will see the provision extended to KS2 and allow us to run a Forest School After School club moving forward.

If anyone has any old wellington boots, please can they bring them in as this will help keep the school clean and tidy.



## Sports News



**Athletics:** Our Y5/6 Athletes were declared Oxford Champions after defeating 12 schools in an indoor athletics competition at The Oxford Academy. Again, for such a small school, this is an incredible achievement and reflects the unbelievable levels of talent we have in our community.

**Football:** Our Y5/6 Girls started the new year with a 3-1 victory over Orchard Meadow this week. Our Boys are back in action on Friday with the 'Small Schools Cup Final'.



## BOOKIE BREAKFAST at SJF



## Reading

Our Reading Tree is blossoming nicely as children continue to hit their reading targets for the year. The 100 Club is growing and will soon receive their books.

Wednesday 31 st January will see the return of our 'Bookie Breakfast' Please join us from 8:00 to read with your child and have a cup of tea and some pastries in the hall.



## »Staffing updates

- We currently have Ms Axtell working with us in Year 4 who is on a teaching placement from Oxford Brookes University, she has settled in well and made a great start.
- Our call for volunteers has been taken up with Nicola Brandram volunteering on a Monday and Tuesday to help support our children.
- Carol Giles has also kindly decided to volunteer a few days a week as she couldn't quite cope with full retirement and missed us all too much! We are delighted to have her back.
- Rama and Cameron from Oxford United are supporting our PE provision this term.
- Mrs Greer has been in and visited us all (she snuck in to see the donkey) and we are still hopeful to have her back before the summer holidays.



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

