



# Headlines

**St John Fisher R.C. Primary School Autumn Term 2023/24**  
**[school@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk](mailto:school@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk)**

## **Week Beginning – 4th December**

### **Tuesday 5th**

St Aidan Class Mass (*parents and carers of pupils in 6STA are welcome to attend*)  
Choir & Chaplains trip to St George's Cathedral

### **Thursday 7th**

EYFS Nativity (*see letter sent home 29th Nov for full details*)

STAN / STM / RSTE / RSTR—9:45am

STAN / STJ / RSTE / RSTR—1:45pm

### **Friday 8th**

Reconciliation services in school —Yr4-Yr6

This morning pupils and parents enjoyed an Advent themed assembly led by St. Ninian class. The theme was certainly very appropriate given today's date!

Our learning about advent started on Monday this week when we learnt more about the tradition of advent calendars.

The idea of counting down the days to Christmas came from a tradition in Germany in the early nineteenth century. Starting on 1 December, Christian people began to put chalk marks on the doors of their houses. They would continue to put a mark on the door each day until it was Christmas Day. The idea was that each time someone entered the house, they would be reminded that God sent Jesus into the world at Christmas.

Today our learning continued as Year 5 talked about another very popular advent tradition—the advent wreath and the significance of each of the 5 candles around the wreath. We are looking forward to lighting the candles over the coming weeks (or at least those weeks left at school!)

Tomorrow we will celebrate another VERY important advent tradition as we enjoy festive fun at the **SJF Christmas fair**. Thank you so much to all those who have been busy planning for the last months and weeks, and to all those who have formed part of the busy preparation team here at school today. I look forward to seeing you all tomorrow to start our Christmas preparations as a school community together!

Enjoy a wonderful weekend everyone.

## **Letters Home**

Nativity Arrangements —EYFS  
Hot Meals & Packed Lunches - Whole school  
Advent Prayers - Whole school  
St James Class (06.12.23) - 5STT

*Happy Birthday*  
Liam De W D'O,  
Ewa M,  
Meadow F, Zadie F,  
Sara K, Noah I, Karish J,  
Amelia K.

## **Designated Safeguarding Leaders**

**Ms J Kenna**  
DSL  
**Mrs C Ellerker**  
Deputy DSL  
**Miss C Higgins**  
Deputy DSL



If you have any concerns about a child please contact **[school@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk](mailto:school@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk)**



As preparation for the season of Advent, we are offering an opportunity for you to join with other parents and carers in prayer. This is one of the things we are called to do in preparation for Christ's birth.

This will be an informal sharing of prayer and a chance to make our Advent more meaningful in our very busy lives at this time of year.

We will meet in St Cecilia's Class at 8:40am on the first 3 Tuesdays of Advent (5th, 12th, 19th December). Tea and coffee will be provided and we expect these sessions will last about half an hour.

We hope you are able to join us. Please complete the Google form below if you are able to attend:

[CLICK HERE - ADVENT PRAYERS](#)

We appreciate you may not be able to attend every week but hope to see as many of you as possible.



### Travelling Kings

As advent is now underway some very visitors will be making their way from class to class over the coming weeks.

The children have spotted that three very regal figures are missing from the nativity scene on the altar. These are of course the three kings bearing their gifts for the new born king.

Between now and the end of term the kings will visit classes across the school where children will be encouraged to reflect on the significance of their journey and the hopes and fears they must have felt along the way.



### THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023



Jesus said to his disciples, "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you do not know when the end time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad; he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his own task, and orders the doorkeeper to stay awake. So, stay awake - because you do not know when the Master of the house is coming; it may be evening or midnight, cockcrow or dawn. If he comes unexpectedly, he may find you still sleeping. What I am saying to you now, I say to everyone: Stay awake!"

*Adapted from Mark 13:33-37  
The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B*

Everyone can learn more about this Gospel  
in church: all are very warmly invited



Our Yr5/6 girls football team gave a fantastic performance today in the Borough Girls Football Championship coming an amazing 4th in the competition—narrowly missing out on a bronze medal. Mr Walton who accompanied the team said the girls played really well and certainly deserved a medal place! They represented SJF well showing respect to the other teams and supporting each other when things didn't end as they had hoped.



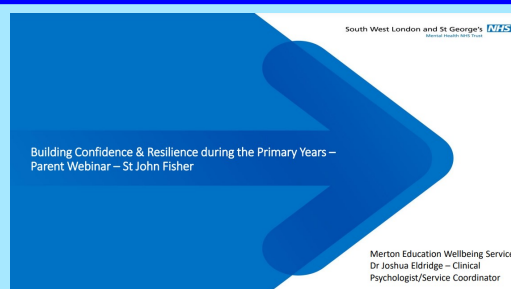
St Elizabeth class would like to say a **HUGE** thank you to a very talented grandad who gifted them with a fantastic Christmas post box which he made for them complete with the new Royal Insignia for King Charles.

Dr Joshua Eldridge, Clinical Psychologist, for Merton Education Wellbeing Service, held a meeting for parents last night, on building confidence and resilience in children.

He talked through strategies that we can all do as parents to help support our children and help them build resilience and coping mechanisms.

Please click on the link to view his slides, to learn more:

<https://www.st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk/assets/2021-2022-onwards/Parent-Workshops/Building-confidence-during-the-Primary-Years.-SWLSTG-Merton-EWS-November-23.pdf>



## PTFA Update - Friday 2nd December

Whoop whoop! **You did it!** Over the last 2 weeks, we've collected all your amazing donations of Christmas jumpers, toys, books, tombola prizes, bottles and lots more. And we've had so many volunteers helping us to make tomorrow's Christmas Fair a huge success - so thank you!

You still have time to get those last minute raffle tickets. **The raffle closes at 11.30pm tonight.** Thanks again to everyone who has bought tickets online this year, we are astounded at the success and have smashed our target!! We'd love to beat the target even more, so keep on buying and sharing if you can. Every penny raised goes towards the new playground and there are some great prizes on offer:

<https://raffall.com/347378/enter-raffle-to-win-sjf-ptfa-christmas-raffle-2023-hosted-by-st-john-fisher-ptfa>

So you know where all the fun will take place tomorrow at the fair, we've attached a little map. Please enter via the main entrance where you will be able to pay your entry fee. There will be lots of delicious drinks and snacks served in the Small Hall, including Mulled Wine, Hot Chocolate, Pasties and Cakes. All the Tombola's are in the main hall along with the Pre-loved Toy Stall. Wander down the corridor to get creative at the Crafting area where the kids can make lovely gifts and something extra special for Santa's reindeers. If you're looking for those all important Hamper raffle tickets - you'll find them inside the main hall on the right as you come in from the corridor! The fun doesn't stop there, as out in the playground (under some marquees!), there are lots of fun games to play and stalls to shop from. And if you were lucky enough to get a ticket to see Santa, you'll find the start to the trail over in the Woodland Garden.

It's looking like a cold but sunny afternoon so wrap up warm!

**Please remember the fair is cash only!**

The fair starts at 12noon with the **Santa Run at 2.15pm** and the very important announcement of who has won the **Top Prizes in the Main Raffle, the Hampers and the "Guess the Sweets" at 2.30pm.**

**See you all tomorrow and thanks again to all of you!**



🎄 Buy your Xmas Tree and raise money for SJF in one click 🎄

**If you buy your Christmas tree from the St Catherine's grounds on Grand Drive (just next to the school), you receive 10% discount and SJF gets a donation to the PTFA for every tree sold!**

### **3 easy steps:**

- 🎅 Follow the QR code and reserve your tree OR just walk/drive in to buy your tree!
- 🎅 Give them the flyer sent home this week with the SJF stamp on the back (or tell them you are an SJF parent so they can track how many trees they sell via the school)
- 🎅 You pick up your tree or they deliver it free to your home.

**The St Catherine's Tree Team are also hoping to be at the fair**

St John Fisher are delighted to announce we have been awarded the Bronze School Award from the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This is an award that supports schools to reduce bullying and improve the well being of all children.



<https://www.st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk/children/united-against-bullying/>
















# REMINDER 1: any playtime snack should be a piece of fruit or some vegetables.

*EYFS & KS1 are provided with a piece of fruit / vegetable through the government's free fruit scheme.*

# REMINDER 2: Lunchtime meal options are chosen on a Monday for the whole week.

*If you child has a packed lunch or school meal they will remain on that for the **whole** week.*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Wholemeal Cheese and Tomato French Bread Pizza	 Spaghetti Bolognaise with Garlic Bread	Sausages, Onions and Gravy with Roast Potatoes	Cottage Pie	Fishfingers or Salmon Fishoake with Chips & Tomato Sauce
Cheese & Pepper Whirl with Jacket Wedges	Vegan Hot Dog with Potato Wedges 	Winter Veg Slice, Roast Potatoes & Gravy 	Vegan Shepherd's Pie with Gravy 	BBQ Quorn Fillet with Chips 
Sweetcorn BBQ Baked Beans	Broccoli Cauliflower	Carrots Cabbage	Winter Mixed Vegetables	Peas Baked Beans
Iced Sponge	<b>NEW</b> Chocolate Orange Cookie 	Fruit Platter 	Peach Upside Down Cake with Custard	<b>NEW</b> Melting Moment Biscuit
Tuna Mayonnaise Salad Roll	Chicken and Coleslaw Wrap	Turkey and Salad Baguette 	Cheese, Tomato and Salad Pitta	Egg Salad Sandwich 
Egg Salad Sandwich 	Cheese Salad Pitta 	Cream Cheese and Cucumber Wrap	Tuna Mayonnaise and Roll	Cheese and Rainbow Slaw Baguette
Daily Salad Bar	Daily Salad Bar	Daily Salad Bar	Daily Salad Bar	Daily Salad Bar
Fruit Salad with Ice cream Yoghurt & Fresh fruit	Pineapple Cake Yoghurt & Fresh fruit	Fruit Platter  Yoghurt & Fresh fruit	Vanilla Shortbread  Yoghurt & Fresh fruit	Chocolate Brownie Yoghurt & Fresh fruit
<p><b>Available Daily:</b></p> <p>- Freshly cooked jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings (where advertised) - Bread freshly baked on site daily- Daily salad selection</p>				

On Tuesday, St Teresa class went to the Ursuline High School to watch Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. We enjoyed it a lot and in our opinion, the spies and Truly were our favourite characters. The Year 7 choir were there to support the actors with their singing and they were amazing! Overall, the trip was really good and fun. We'd love to go again.

Written by Isabella and River.



Thank you for the Boxes of Love which have been donated so far. The first collection was made this week in preparation for Christmas Party for the elderly at the parish on Saturday.

There is still time to send your Box of Love in as more will be collected next week and distributed throughout the community to those who may be feeling lonely and isolated at this time of year.

The cards and letters we receive from those who receive a Box of Love is always heartfelt - they really do make a difference to people, so THANK YOU for your kindness.



Pupils in Fire House enjoyed a cosy movie afternoon this week complete with snacks, comfy cushions and blankets.

As the House Point competition continues we look forward to seeing who will be the final House Point winners of 2023...

# BUILDBETTER LEARNING



These pupils can talk about  
the strategies they have  
used to help them learn.

St Scholastica – Yasmin A

St Aidan – Marcel J

St Ninian – Valentina P

St Teresa – Harry S

St James – Aidan G

St Osmund – Robin McC

St Hugh – Sofina H

St Nicholas – Hoyt W

St Francis – Vanessa

St Ignatius – Isabel L

St Susanna – Leon G

St Helena – Noah V

St Elizabeth – Agnes G

St Rose – Alexandra C

Nursery – Annemarie VC

Attendance Percentage  
week beginning  
**20th November 2023**

Class	Week commencing 20/11/23	Week commencing 13/11/23
St Rose	95.90	93.40
St Elizabeth	94.50	94.50
St Susanna	96.70	98.70
St Helena	97.30	96.30
St Francis	96.80	<b>100.00</b>
St Ignatius	98.00	98.70
St Nicholas	<b>100.00</b>	99.00
St Hugh	96.70	97.00
St James	<b>100.00</b>	97.80
St Osmund	94.80	97.40
St Teresa	97.20	97.20
St Ninian	97.70	99.70
St Aidan	91.10	98.50
St Scholastica	97.20	94.50
<b>Overall</b>	<b>96.70</b>	<b>97.30</b>

**Best Class: St Nicholas & St James**

This week's overall  
winner of Ms Kenna's  
BIG PENCIL.....

**\*\* Ella R \*\***



**WELL DONE**  
**St Elizabeth**

**for being on time, in  
class and ready to learn  
every morning.**