



End of the Year of Mercy

This Sunday 20 November marks the end of the Year of Mercy, a special Jubilee Year that Pope Francis called for and launched on the 8 December.

This past year, and especially the last few months have called for this Mercy to be used in many different ways. Here at St John Fisher we have helped ourselves

remember this with our very own Door of Mercy, which has been open in the Main Hall for the whole year and has been used as a focus in Reconciliation services, Masses, reflections and assemblies.

Mercy is shown in many individual ways, but some of the ways we have tried to live out that Mercy as a school include the recent visit from John Pridmore and the St Patrick's Community who spoke to Years 8, 9, 10 and 11, through the continued work of our School Heroes, a group of pupils attending the Ignite Youth Festival in May, taking part in the annual Holocaust Memorial Day services, our school Focus days and in our Celebration of Achievement when we celebrated the accomplishments of our students as well as many others.

To mark the end of the Year of Mercy, the Rochester House Mass, which is taking place on Thursday, 24 November, will be set aside as an opportunity to reflect on the past year and to thank God for all the opportunities to be merciful we have had. As part of this, we will be bringing up cards with examples of times we have shown mercy written on them during the offertory at this Mass.

As we leave the Year of Mercy, we continue to strive towards fulfilling the Merciful calling of Jesus and that of our school Mission – to live life and live it to the full.



Advent Appeal

The Season of Advent is fast approaching, the time when Catholics and other Christians prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. It is also an opportunity to step up and show Mercy to others as we mark the end of our Year of Mercy.

This Advent, we are asking all staff and students to help with a collection for those who are homeless over this Advent and Christmas period, as well as a number of refugee families.

From the 28 November, each of our four Houses will have a large House box which will be situated in the Chapel. During each of the four weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays, we will be asking students to bring in and donate a specific item which will be collected during tutor time, and placed in their specific House box. The donations for each week are as follows:

Week commencing 28 November: Cans of food, pasta, soup, etc.

Week commencing 5 December: Toothbrushes and toothpaste

Week commencing 12 December: Soup, flannels, towels, hygiene products.

Week commencing 19 December: Warm items of clothing – gloves, scarves, etc.

We would very much appreciate all the help we can get with this appeal – if you have any items you do not need any more or are willing to buy any extra bits to donate while doing your weekly shop it would be hugely appreciated.

Parents Evening next Tuesday

A reminder that as we have this event for Years 10-13 on Tuesday from 2.30 to 6.30, students will be dismissed at 2pm. Students may wait in school until their parents arrive but should go to the library or Atrium. Online appointments should be made in advance of the evening please; some may still be available on the evening but we are expecting to be very busy.

Father Anthony Slack RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Father Anthony, who passed away last week. He had been parish priest of Whittlesey until the summer and was very supportive of the school. May he rest in peace.

Winter is Coming

Further to my notice last week about the arrangements in the case of extreme weather, can I remind parents that we do need correct contact details on our school system. This particularly applies to email addresses which we use to send important communications. We ask parents to check the details we have when they come to Parents Evenings but I am aware that not everyone is able to attend these. If you think your details may have change please let us know and we will check we have the correct ones on record.

Sean Hayes

Twitter

Please follow us on Twitter:
[@sjfpeterborough](https://twitter.com/sjfpeterborough)



Learning Support Parent Drop-in: Year 7

There will be an opportunity for parents of students in Year 7 with Special Educational Needs to drop into school on Monday 28 November from 3.30 – 4.30pm. This will provide the opportunity to ask any questions and also discuss the learning pathways for the year ahead. Parents should have already received a letter notifying them that their child has been placed on the SEND register. *Ms Wilson*

Sports Update

We have had lots of sports fixtures over the last few weeks so here is an update:

The Year 7 Rugby team came 3rd in the Peterborough Schools Rugby Tournament which was held at the Peterborough Rugby Club. The boys had impressive wins against schools across Peterborough especially the thrashings of Peterborough High School and TDA. The team also had an All Schools Festival at Peterborough Lions Rugby Club.

The Under 14's basketball suffered a narrow loss to a very tall Stanground team this week – a brilliant 3 pointer and reverse lay up from Ricardo Santos being the highlight. The Under 16 team fared better, in a thrilling game beating Stanground 24-22 – 10 points from Paulo Rocha and some superb play clinching the victory. The team are second in their group and must beat Kings convincingly in the next round to progress to the next round. *Mr Plane*

Special Educational Needs Policy Review

In order to ensure that we include the views of parents, we are inviting you to participate in the latest review of our Special Educational Needs policy, which can be found on the school website. If you have any comments or feedback about the policy, please email Miss Wilson. The deadline for comments is 2 December and there will be a drop in for parents to view a draft policy on Tuesday 6 December 2016 from 3.15 – 3.45pm.

Remembrance

Friday the 11 November, students and staff throughout the school participated in a 2 minutes silence at 11am to remember and respect those that have died in conflicts throughout the world. The SJF Combined Cadet Force were joined by parents, sixth form and Year 7 students on the tennis courts to mark Remembrance. Members of the CCF also joined many other armed forces and cadet contingents in Peterborough City Centre on Sunday to march through the town. Along with hundreds of spectators they then attended a Remembrance Service in Peterborough Cathedral. A huge amount of hard work and practise from the CCF members meant that both parades were faultless.

