



Wednesday, 9th September, 2026

RE: Birthday Celebrations at St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Birthdays are special occasions, and we know how much children enjoy celebrating their birthdays with their friends. We also recognise that, for many families, sharing something with others is an important part of marking a birthday.

As a Catholic school, we want our celebrations to reflect the values we seek to nurture in our children. In Acts 20:35, we are reminded that:

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

With this in mind, we are introducing a new approach to birthday celebrations in school this academic year.

Birthday Treats

Historically, some families have kindly brought in sweets, crisps, cakes, doughnuts and party bags for their child to share with the class. We are grateful for the generosity behind these gestures and understand that they are intended as a way of celebrating and including others.

From this academic year, however, we kindly ask that food treats and party bags are not brought into school for children to share with their classmates.

There are a number of reasons for this change. As a school, we have a responsibility to consider children with allergies, food intolerances and medical or dietary requirements. Removing birthday food also means that families do not need to worry about what foods are suitable for other children or whether particular treats can be shared safely.

It also helps us to avoid disruption to the school day and, importantly, reduces any sense that children or families are expected to provide treats for the whole class when it is their child's birthday.

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

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When you love to learn, you learn to love



Headteacher: Mrs K Garrett BA (Hons) NPQH

A Birthday Gift to the Class

We would, however, love to encourage families who wish to mark their child's birthday in school to consider donating a book or a board game to their child's class instead.

A donated book could be enjoyed as part of our class reading provision, while a board game could be added to the class collection for children to enjoy during wet-play and other appropriate times. In this way, a birthday can become an opportunity to give something lasting to the class community for everyone to enjoy.

There is no expectation for families to purchase or donate anything. A birthday is a special occasion whether or not a gift is brought into school.

Celebrating Birthdays Together

We will continue to celebrate our children's birthdays as part of our Thursday Celebration Assembly, where we will sing Happy Birthday and recognise children who have celebrated their birthday during the week. We want every child to feel that their birthday is special and that they are an important part of our St John Fisher family.

We appreciate that this is a change from what some families may have been accustomed to, and we are grateful for your understanding and support as we introduce this approach. We hope that by encouraging the gift of a book or board game, we can retain the wonderful spirit of generosity that has been part of our birthday celebrations while ensuring that our approach is inclusive, safe and manageable for all.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us to build a school community where we Love, show Integrity, embrace Growth, have Hope and live in Togetherness.

With every good wish,

Mrs K Garrett
Headteacher