



St John Fisher News



Friday 6th September 2013 (Issue 1 2013/14)

Welcome Back

On Wednesday I sent home a letter to welcome you all back for the start of the new school. It was really great to see the children again and catch up with all their news. It was also really nice to meet the first group of children who joined our Foundation 2 class. What a special bunch they are! The next group starts on Monday and the final group will begin school next Wednesday. I look forward to catching up with more of you in the coming days. This year is going to be a special and exciting year in the life of our school community.

Please note that the date of Foundation 2 Welcome Assembly is going to be put back in order to give our youngest children more time to settle. We will inform you of the new details in due course. Thank you.

Calendar

At the end of last year we sent home a calendar of events and information. Please keep this safe and refer to it. It is our intention to add it to the website soon.

Buddies

Every child has now been linked with at least one buddy. I spoke to some children who were very excited about this new initiative. The purpose is to promote positive behaviour by encouraging the older buddies to act as positive role models to their young buddies. Buddies will have opportunities to meet each other both informally and during lesson time.

Houses

We reviewed the 'House' system with the aim of re-launching it this year. When I spoke to the children I realised that they did not really know much about the previous patron saints. As part of this process my colleagues and I also considered other options to engage the children. You will recall that I also wrote to you for ideas and feedback. I would like to thank those of you able to respond and your suggestions were included as part of this process. After careful consideration we decided to renew the system and select the UK's national Saints to be patrons of our School Houses. All staff, apart from Mrs Evans and I will also be members of each House. On a feast day the members of the house only, children and staff, will be invited to attend school in their House colour rather than wear normal school uniform. If the feast day is on a weekend or during a holiday the children will be allowed to dress up on the day highlighted on the table below:

House	Colour	Emblem	Feast Day	House Colour Dress Up Day	Heads of House	House Captains
St Andrew	Blue	Thistle	Saturday 30 th November	Monday 2 nd December	Miss D'Roza	Amelia J-W Vice Captain Winnie S
St David	Yellow	Daffodil	Saturday 1 st March 2014	Monday 3 rd March 2014	Mrs Asquith	Norbert B Vice Captain Olivia W
St Patrick	Green	Shamrock	Monday 17 th March 2014	Monday 17 th March 2014	Mrs Dewsnap	Sam W Vice Captain Sasha D
St George	Red	Rose	Wednesday 23 rd April 2014	Wednesday 23 rd April 2014	Mr Hawley	Corey G Vice Captain Holly L

Pupil Achievement Consultations

We have received lots of positive feedback about consultations held at the beginning of the week. Parents/carers appreciated the opportunity to meet teachers, hear about progress over the last academic year and know what the targets are for the coming weeks. I hope it was informative and a clear indication of our firm intention to 'hit the ground running' this year in order to raise standards rapidly and help our children realise their potential.

Welcome Meetings

I would like to remind you that from next week you will have an opportunity to meet your child(ren)'s teacher(s) and find out a about the year ahead – everything from curriculum news to information about teacher expectations, class routines, homework etc. We are happy to look after children and younger siblings in another room. The meetings will take place in the respective classrooms.

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| • Monday 9 th September | Year 6 Welcome meeting | (3.30pm) |
| • Tuesday 10 th September | Year 5 Welcome meeting | (3.30pm) |
| • Wednesday 11 th September | Year 4 Welcome meeting | (3.30pm) |
| • Thursday 12 th September | Year 3 Welcome meeting | (3.30pm) |
| • Monday 16 th September | Year 2 Welcome meeting | (3.30pm) |
| • Tuesday 17 th September | Year 1 Welcome meeting | (3.30pm) |

New Year Welcome Mass

You will note from the calendar that we will be celebrating Mass to mark the beginning of the new school year on Friday 13th September at a changed time of **2.00pm** at Our Lady of Lourdes. All are welcome. Please note that the children in Foundation 2 will not be attending this Mass as they will still be getting used to school and all the new routines and ways of doing things.

Parent and Carer Focus Group

Among the items covered at our first meeting last night was a review of our new positive behaviour and anti-bullying policies and processes. This was an issue picked up from the last parent and carer questionnaire. A lot of work has been done to develop a new positive behaviour system and the group are reviewing it so that it is helpful and informative when we present it to parents. The next meeting is on Thursday 19th September at 6.00pm, all are welcome. I am very grateful to our dedicated members, but our group is very small currently when you consider that the work that we are doing is absolutely key to our school's recovery. If you can spare a little time to attend all or some of the meetings I would be extremely grateful. Thank you.

Golden Children

Colleagues will start adding the names of children to the Golden Book from next week.

Term 1 Curriculum Overviews

We aim to send this term's overviews home to you next Friday.

Weekly Attendance Winners

The classes achieving the highest attendance this week were Foundation 2, Year 3 and Year 5 who each achieved a fantastic 100% attendance! The school average this week was 97.4% which is above our 96% target.

Achievements Outside School

Please don't forget that you can pass details of your children's achievements outside of school for inclusion in the newsletter. We celebrate all success here at St John Fisher!

Morrison's Vouchers

We are collecting vouchers, so if you pick any up and are happy to donate, we would be very grateful. The collection box is outside the office.

School Building Work

Work is coming along nicely and is on schedule for hand over at the end of the month. Though we are taking all necessary precautions please make sure that you supervise your children so that they do not enter the contractors' compound or play around staff vehicles parked on the playground.

Road Markings

Please be careful when parking in the vicinity of school. Though the markings have not been painted yet, I would appeal that you park as if they were. I know parking around school is a challenge and can be frustrating for you but I am concerned about safety of children and families crossing the roads safely.

Statement to Live By

Next week our statement to live by is: **"We are all special."**

Time to talk: Together you could think about the things that make us special to others and the things that make others special to us.

Have a wonderful weekend,

F Barratt