

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Welcome Back!**

It was fantastic to see all our children back after the holiday looking rested, excited and full of news about what they got up to over the break! The shared this news enthusiastically when I had my lunch with them.

### **INSET Days**

I would like to remind you that the remaining INSET days will be on the following dates:

- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Please make a note of these dates in your diaries or on your calendars. Thank you.

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January colleagues will be having training on the new 'Read Write Inc' literacy learning system which is used in a large number of successful primary schools in Sheffield and across the country. It is also highly rated by OFSTED. I will share more information in due course.

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February colleagues and Governors will come together to revisit our school's vision and mission statement as a Catholic Primary School. Nearer the time the children and you, our parents and carers, will be able to contribute to this process.

### **Community Service of Remembrance**

Last Friday the community of St John Fisher Catholic Primary School came together for a Community Service of Remembrance at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. It was a special opportunity for us to come together to remember those in our local community and throughout the world who affected by war – for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice; those dealing with life-changing injuries and their families who are left to pick up the pieces. It is also very important for our children to understand the history and traditions of our nation. Earlier in the week every child also participated in a special lesson exploring the origins of Remembrance Day which culminated in them making individual poppies for their class' wreath which was presented during the service and laid at the foot of the cross on the Sanctuary at church.

I would like to thank Mr Smith and the children of Year 6 for leading the Service; all the children for the positive way in which they joined in with their Remembrance Day lessons and the service; my colleagues for preparing their classes; Mr Burt for providing the beautiful music; Father Paul for enabling us to use the church and supporting the Service; Lewis Dewsnap, an army cadet and Year 10 student from the City School for also supporting the Service; and all the parents, carers and friends of the school who were able to join and support us.

### **New Contact Information & Reporting Absence**

Please note that our new email address for general enquiries is: [enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk) . If your child is absent please do not use the e-mail but telephone us between 8.30am and 9.00am as this enables us to pass information to the relevant teachers and ensure that the correct details are recorded straight away in our registers. (Sometimes the e-mails may not be opened until later in the afternoon)

### **Statement to Live By**

For the first week back after the school holiday our statement to live by will be: ***"I think before I make choices that affect my health"***.

**Time to talk:** Together you could explore what it means to be healthy. Why is it important? What sorts of things can we do at home and at school to be healthy? What should we eat or drink? What would happen if we always made poor choices that affect our health?

### Shoebox Appeal

If you would like to support the Shoebox Appeal following the letter sent home by Ms Robinson, shoeboxes should be left in the hall on top of the cupboards under the big crucifix. They will be collected by Ms Robinson when she visits school. Thank you

### Children's Mass

The next children's Masses at the Church of our Lady of Lourdes will be on the following two dates:

- **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am**
- **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am.**

The service will include special children's songs led by the choir, readings and prayers by the children and a homily aimed at children too. Adults are also especially welcome.

### Attendance

Thank you for all you do to support us in keeping our attendance above the magic 96% mark. The classes with the best attendance for week ending 19<sup>th</sup> October were:

1. In first place was **Y4** - with a **97.9%** attendance
2. In second place was **Y3** with a **97.7%** attendance
3. In third place was **Y5** with **96.8%** attendance

This week Bobby will visit the girls and boys of Year 4; Bertie will remain with the superstars of Year 3 and Elvis will enjoy learning with children of Year 5. Congratulations to you all! Unfortunately for the week ending 26-10-12 the average attendance was 95% which is below our target of 96%.

### Children in Need

This Friday the community will come together to support BBC Children in Need as we do every year. As it is a special day the children can pay **50p** to come to school wearing something spotty rather than their normal school uniform.

I would ask that children do dress sensibly and appropriately and take into account

The weather conditions. (Please no face paints or coloured hair spray). We will also be selling buns at 10p each – ANY DONATIONS OF BUNS WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED



### Achievements Outside School

- Matthew Ford in Year 1 achieved his 10m swimming certificate on 24<sup>th</sup> October. Congratulations Matthew!
- Evie Flint in Year 4 completed the Worksop 5km run with her brother and received a special medal which she brought into show her classmates. Not only did she complete the race, but she managed to do it in fancy dress as well! Evie is apparently already planning to participate in the forthcoming fun runs linked to the Sheffield and Edinburgh marathons. What a star you are Evie, well done!
- Charlotte Hope of Year 4 achieved the 50m distance swim on 29<sup>th</sup> October at Eckington Swimming Baths. What a wonderful achievement Charlotte, we are all very proud of you!
- Finlay Morris in Year 5 came 4<sup>th</sup> in a *national* diving competition for children aged 9 and over. An absolutely fantastic achievement Finlay, congratulations. Maybe you will be an Olympian like Tom Daley one day!

### PTFA

I was finally contacted by parents involved in a successful PTFA in another school to say they would be very happy to come to St John Fisher and share their ideas and tips, but could not give me a date. I will let you know as soon as the date is confirmed.

### Year 6 residential to Hollowford – June 2012

I would like to remind you that deposits are due if you would like your child to attend. If your child has free school meals please speak to Mrs Battams in confidence. We currently have twenty four places confirmed and we are still waiting for responses from the parents/carers of the rest of the children to confirm whether or not they would like their child to attend. If you were not able to attend the Hollowford briefing we held recently and would like more information please contact me. Thank you.

### Parents and Carers

I am very committed to developing strong links with all our parents and carers and involving you actively in the life of our school. Your involvement is key to our future development and success as a school. It is my hope that this link will grow and strengthen over time. As part of this process I will shortly be seeking your views via a questionnaire because I am interested in your ideas opinions regarding our school community. It is my hope that we will get a good response from our parents and carers. Thank you.

F Barratt  
Headteacher