



# St John Fisher News

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014 (Issue 14 ~ 2014/15)



[www.st-johnfisher.org](http://www.st-johnfisher.org)

## Daily Advent Liturgies

If you would like to join a class for their simple Advent liturgy at 3.10pm please speak to Mrs Birch or Mrs Battams in the office. Thank you.

## Newsletters

I would like to remind you that every weekly newsletter produced since I started in September 2012, including the most current ones, are available on our website: [www.st-johnfisher.org](http://www.st-johnfisher.org).

## Wriggly Nativity

This afternoon I had the privilege of watching our very youngest children from FS2 perform their nativity play. It was amazing! I was so proud of the children and how confident they were, given their ages and the fact that they were performing in front of a large crowd of family and friends. I was blown away by their confidence. It is testament to the dedication of my colleagues who have worked so hard to ensure that our children have the best possible start at St John Fisher. I would also like to thank everyone who was able to come along to support their children this afternoon.

## School League Tables

The league tables have been published on the Department for Education website showing that we are in joint first place in Sheffield. According to today's Sheffield Star, four of the top six are Catholic primary schools or academies. I know that a good league position - in itself - certainly does *not* mean that a school is outstanding, but it is recognition that the sharp focus we have had on raising academic standards is having a positive impact, as part of a wider improvement drive. The hard work will, of course, never stop and your ongoing support remains absolutely key to our future success.

## Curriculum Exhibition

On Tuesday we had our end of theme exhibition. It was a real celebration of learning and the children really enjoyed being curators and seeing their work displayed. I would like to thank everyone who was able to join us. I would also like to thank the PTFA for laying on refreshments and the children themselves who were an absolute credit - especially when they had an opportunity to view the exhibition with their buddies afterwards.

## Forthcoming Events

Please see calendar which is also available on the website: [www.st-johnfisher.org](http://www.st-johnfisher.org)

• Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	✓ KS2 (Years 3-6) Community Carol Service at Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 2.00pm followed by refreshments in the school hall provided by the PTFA. All welcome.
• Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	✓ KS1 (Years 1 and 2) Nativity Play (School Hall at 2.15pm)
• Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	✓ KS1 (Years 1 and 2) Nativity Play (School Hall at 2.15pm)
• Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	✓ PTFA Santa in School Day (non-Uniform)

## Opening up the Library

If you would like to volunteer to supervise the library at the beginning or end of a day for 30 minutes so that we can open it up for parents and carers to use please speak to Mr Smith or contact us via the school email address ([enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk)). Thank you.

## KS2 Community Carol Service & Refreshments

You are invited to join us for our carol service over at Our Lady of Lourdes on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014, starting 2.00pm. You are then welcome to return to school where the PTFA will be selling refreshments and cakes. The PTFA would really appreciate any donations of mince pies and cakes, so if you can help please see Donna Murphy or one of the committee members. Thank you.

### Santa in School Day

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December is Santa in School Day! Please be on the playground (in front of the library window) at 8.50am to wave to Santa after he has landed his sleigh. Please hand in any outstanding money and entries for the colouring competition by next Wednesday. Thank you.

### Dress Down

As it is a special day the children do not have to wear school uniform. They can wear party clothes or a Christmas jumper if they choose, but they do not have to. There is no charge for dressing down.

### Food Share

There will be a simple food share in each class during the course of Santa in School day. However to keep it simple the children will be in pairs and small groups and they will decide what they and their partners or the others in their group will bring in. So if your child is in a group of four he or she might decide to bring in buns. You would then provide just four small buns, instead of worrying about catering for the whole class. This makes it simpler and cheaper for parents/carers and also cuts down on waste. If your child has an allergy please speak to his/her teacher. You can also send in something for your child specifically.

### Christmas Hamper Winner

The winner of the PTFA raffle for the Christmas hamper was **Mr Eric Moakes**. Congratulations!

### Citizen of the Week

This week's recipient is **Phoebe Kilbride** (FS2) who was chosen for remembering this week's statement to live by: 'I try to love others as I love myself'. Phoebe has impressed Miss Speed and others by the way she cares for others especially when they are feeling sad or upset. We are so proud of her! Congratulations Phoebe!

### Golden Children

The class teachers added the names of the following children to our Golden Book this week:

• FS2	<b>Marisa Avelino</b> for always being helpful and polite and for being so wonderful in the nativity rehearsals!
• Year 1	<b>Daisy Parkin</b> for always being a superstar and great role-model to others!
• Year 2	<b>Christian Adusei</b> for caring about others in his class and for supporting other children in his Mathematics group!
• Year 3	<b>Saffron Kilbride</b> for fantastic handwriting! She was the first to be allowed to use a handwriting pen!
• Year 4	<b>William Oadley</b> for being a model pupil who always sets a fantastic example to others!
• Year 5	<b>Matthew Bond</b> for having a much more positive attitude to learning! Well done! Keep it up!
• Year 6	<b>Jacob Croft</b> for being a conscientious and hardworking student who gives his 'all' to everything he does!

### Top Table

Congratulations to the children in the Starling Family who were chosen by Mrs Bower and the midday supervisors to sit on the Top Table today for having good table manners and for helping each other. The members are: Evie F, Jasmine G, Hannah M, Eden H, William O, Ben F and Owen P

### Our Lady of Lourdes Carol Concert

The "Immaculata" Children's Group would like to invite everybody to come to their Christmas Carol Concert at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, which takes place after the Advent Children's Mass on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2014 at 10.30am.

### Writing Champions

These are our champions this week:

FS2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Jacob Genita	Sami Hardy	Marcus McKernan	Sam Orbell	Ben Cartwright	Nicole Mercardo	Cerys Pope

On the next page is a piece of writing crafted carefully by Cerys Pope in Y6. She has worked hard to perfect and impressed me not just because of the quality of writing but also because of the positive attitude and resilience that she also demonstrated.

### **The Frightful Forest**

*The trees are covered in a thick blanket of mist. The branches are entwined together like wool in a million knots. Bony-like figures dance to the driving wind. Red and yellow leaves are scattered all over the emerald green grass. Then a bird screeched it was so high pitched I am surprised the windows didn't smash on a house a million miles away. Then a slender man appeared trudging through the thorns; he had a tuxedo covered in blood, an axe dripping with fresh blood, drip...drip... What is he going to do?*

*He dragged her lifeless body to the abandoned unwelcoming house. A chill crept quietly down her bony spine. She woke. A white figure glided across the squeaky rotten wood. She screamed. Then silence. Nothing but the rusty tap dripping water drip...drip. Is she going to escape?*

*She squirmed and wriggled until he couldn't grasp her anymore. She ran to the door. It was locked. Ghostly figures circled her head like a shark circling a rubber dingy. He struck. Grabbed her by the neck and throttled her and ripped her to shreds. She was never found nor was the man. Will he strike again?*

**Cerys Pope**

### **Achievements Outside School**

- **Stella Avelino, Abi Marchant, Evie Flint, Ellie Scott, Charlotte Cope** and **Cerys Pope** made their 'promise' as Guides, last Monday. They are now - officially – members of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Sheffield (Frechville) Guides. Congratulations ladies, we are all very proud of you!

### **Attendance**

This week school attendance has really been affected by all the bugs going around. It happens and cannot be helped. Schools are places where germs spread quickly. I have lost count of the number of children who have had to go home during day throughout the week because they felt so poorly.

This week the girls and boys of **FS2** were in first place with **97.4%** attendance and so will be visited by Bobby Bear! In second place were the children of **Y4** with **95.9%** and they will be visited by Brenda. In third place with **94%** were the young people of **Y1** who will be visited by Elvis the Owl.

Unsurprisingly our overall attendance for the week was down to just **91.7%** which is still well below our 97% target however I am hopeful that it will improve as more children are able to return to school after being ill.

### **Weekly Liturgy of the Word**

The next liturgy will therefore take place on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January** and will be led by the young people of **Y5**. We would like to invite the family and friends of our **Y5** pupils to join us on that day in the school hall just after 9.00am.

### **Mission Together**

Thanks to your generosity £80.18 was raised to support this important charity. Thank you.

### **Statement to Live By**

Next week is the first week of Advent and our 'statement to live by' is **"I know we are happiest when we are united"**

**Time to talk:** Advent is a time for appreciating others as we prepare for Christmas. It is a time for us to see the good in others; to respect and applaud the things that make them special and unique. It is also about recognising all the things that we have in common – the things that unite us. Feeling that we belong; that we are part of something is so important for our own well-being. We are happiest when we can be ourselves but within a community where we are known and respected for being true to ourselves – a community where we can feel happy, safe and loved every day. What does this mean for you?

Have a fantastic weekend,

Mr Barratt