



St John Fisher Weekly News



School Server

Friday 14th February 2014 (Issue 21 ~ 2013/14)

Our two new servers have been built, installed with all the data recovered successfully from the old one. We are now able to receive and send emails. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Focus Group

We would like to invite all existing members of our Parent Focus Group (and any other parents/carers interested in getting involved) to a meeting at 6.00pm on **Tuesday 4th March**. Initially we will focus on completing our work on developing the school's Behaviour Policy before moving on to other issues. I am grateful to Miss Kiernan who will now coordinate the group on our behalf. Thank you all for your support.

Weekly Attendance

For the week ending 14-02-14 in first place were the girls and boys of **Y5** who achieved a **100%** attendance and will be visited by Bobby. In second place were the children of **Y2** who achieved a total of **97.7%** and they will be visited by Brenda. In third place were the young people of Y6 who managed a total of 96.7% and they will be visited by Elvis.

The average attendance across school was just **94.4%**, which is well below our 96% target. The breakdown is as follows:

FS2: 91%	Y1: 86.7%	Y2: 97.7%	Y3: 95.3%	Y4: 93.8%	Y5: 100%	Y6: 96.7%
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I do understand that there has been a great deal of pupil sickness however these figures do represent a serious dip in our attendance - with only three of the seven classes above the minimum 96% target.

Until very recently our attendance was the best in the south-east of Sheffield. As a recovering school every level of our performance – including attendance – is monitored and scrutinised closely. Please help us improve these figures for next week.

If there is a problem or something we can do to support you to ensure that your child attends school then please contact us in confidence and we will do all we can to help. Thank you.

Pupil Progress & Achievement

A reminder that we have parent/carer evenings next week on the following days:

- Tuesday 18th February 2014 (2.30pm – 5.00pm)
- Wednesday 19th February (6.00pm – 8.00pm)

Children are encouraged to take part in all or part of the meetings however if you would prefer your child not to be present then please let his/her teacher know when you meet with them.

I am very grateful to the PTFA who will again be providing refreshments. Your children will be able to watch a DVD whilst you wait and there will be an opportunity for you to tell Ofsted what you think about us by filling out the online Parent View questionnaire. I will also be available to speak to if you would like to. If your appointment is on Tuesday 18th February (and *before* the end of the school day) you have the option to take your child(ren) home straight after your appointment(s) rather than wait until the end of the day.

Maths Workshops for Parents and Carers

Our calculation workshop will take place on **Thursday 13th March 2014** and focus on subtraction and addition strategies. Everyone is welcome. The demonstrations will last for 30 minutes before being repeated. This means that you will be able to see two different demonstrations if you have children in different year groups. Please contact us in confidence if you require any additional support. Thank you.

The Big Sing

Today our Year 6 children joined others from Catholic primary schools across Sheffield in order to take part in the 'Big Sing'. I would like to thank our friends from All Saints Catholic High School for hosting the event this year. Next week's newsletter will include an article from the children describing their experience.

Parish News

The next children's Mass at our parish church of Our Lady of Lourdes will take place this Sunday (16th February) at 10.30am. All parents, carers and children are most welcome to attend. Thank you.

Golden Children

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

• F 2	Amelia Denham for persevering with reading and for being helpful at tidying the classroom!
• Year 1	George Cranston for working hard and for trying hard to have a good 'friendship' week!
• Year 2	Kai Taylor for his improved writing!
• Year 3	Asia Robinson for knowing where she is with her learning and for trying really hard to move it on!
• Year 4	Nicole Mercado for always doing her best in everything she does. She is a fantastic role-model!
• Year 5	David Crosby-Griffin for really working hard on his concentration and making good progress in his reading as a result!
• Year 6	Lydia Cartwright for really pushing her writing skills as far she can to produce some really amazing pieces of writing!



Links Partnership Sports Stars of the Week

The children who were identified as Sports Stars this week were Abi Marchant, Ipanda Kalyata, David Crosby-Griffin and Cerys Pope. Congratulations all of you!

Building Improvements

Bids have been submitted to the Department for Education by our partners at AEDAS for two significant capital building projects. The first is to enhance fire safety with improvements like a new fire alarm and other adaptations to the building and the second is for a new kitchen/servery to be located right next to the hall with easier access for deliveries etc. I will keep you updated on how they go.

PTFA News

• *World Book Day*

The children and staff will be invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character on **Thursday 6th March**. All we ask is for a small donation of £1. On the day the PTFA are hoping to set up a second hand book stall and are looking for donations of suitable books that are in a good condition. There will be further information nearer the event about how, where and when books can be donated. Thank you

• *World Book Day Costumes*

If you have quality dressing up clothes and costumes that you would like to donate to the PTFA please bring them into school and the PTFA will sell them for a small fee which will be used to support PTFA projects.



Weekly Liturgy of the Word

I would like to thank Ms Farrow, Mrs Asquith and Mrs Golland for supporting the Year 1 children as they led this week's Liturgy of the Word. I was really proud of the girls and boys. The next liturgy on **Thursday 20th February 2014** will be led by our very youngest children in **Foundation Stage 2 (FS2)**. As usual it will start just after 9.00am in the school hall and all friends and family members of our FS2 pupils are very welcome to join us. The simple format will be slightly different than usual to take account of their young age. Thank you.

Achievements Outside School

- **Aron Toth** in Year 3 achieved his 200m swimming earlier in the month! We are all very proud of your amazing achievement Aron!
- **Sophie Ball** in FS2 achieved her 'Stanley 4' badge at swimming. She also learned a song and speech for a drama audition and was selected for the part of the cowardly lion as a result. She will appear in the summer production of 'The Wizard of Oz' which is being put on by 'Noodle Performance Arts' it was the part she wanted so she was delighted. Congratulations Sophie!
- A slip of paper was submitted without a name that relates to the impressive achievement of an under 14s 'weapons' award and an under 10s open hand kata medal and trophy. Please contact us with a name of the child and we will make sure it goes back in next week's newsletter. Thank you.

Writing Champions

The children who have been named as champions this week for being enthusiastic and for making (or sustaining) improvements in their writing are:

Foundation 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Calista Owusu Asumadu	Christian Adusi	Ben Forgo	Ben Cartwright & Lucille Owens	Lilly Cox	Sam Jephson	Lydia Cartwright

Statement to Live By

Next week our statement to live by is: **"I can learn from my mistakes and failures."**

Time to talk: Life is all about growing and learning. We never stop, but that doesn't mean it is easy. Sometimes everything does 'click' into place and we understand straightaway. However most of the time learning takes time, effort and perseverance and there will be plenty of mistakes along the way before we achieve our goals.

You could list the things that you have found easy to learn and then compare them with the things that you have found harder. What makes someone climb back on the bicycle when they fall off whilst learning to ride it? Who can we turn to for help and support if we struggle at home or at school? What does it feel like to finally achieve something when we have persevered and refused to give up?

Have a great weekend,
Mr Barratt