



St John Fisher News

Friday 15th February 2013 (Issue 21 2012/13)

School Dinners: Red Meat Concerns

As you know there have been a number reports in the media recently regarding concerns over the exact content of red meat products. This has led to the withdrawal of certain products and an ongoing criminal investigation. Understandably we have received several enquiries from parents concerned about our school dinners. Our lunches are prepared by All Saints Catholic High School and we have been given firm assurances by the catering manager there that all meat used in our school lunches, including red meat, comes from reputable suppliers which have been checked. As a consequence there is no need to change the current menu.

Medication

If your child is prescribed with life-saving medication which we need to store in school, for example asthma inhalers or epi-pens, it is the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure that there is sufficient, that items such as inhalers function correctly and that medication is not out of date. Thank you

Ash Wednesday Community Mass

Our Mass for Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of Lent was a very special occasion that brought our school and parish community. It was wonderful that we were joined by so many parents and friends from the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes. I would like to thank Father Paul for leading the celebration; Mr Burt for the music – which really was exceptional; the children who did the Powerpoint; our altar servers; the readers who were so clear and confident; the children involved in the Offertory Procession and all the other children, who were wonderful. I would also like to thank Miss Doherty for preparing the liturgy with Fr Paul.

Year 4 Assembly

I would like to thank the special young people of Year 4 and their teacher Miss Hardman for preparing today's wonderful assembly in which they shared their learning. They were all wonderful! Well done!

Collective Worship

After the holiday Collective worship will be slightly different. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we will come together as a community each morning and share psalm and formal prayer taken from Mass. Both will be relevant to the season and will change each month. The aim is to build the children's understanding of our formal prayers and their relevance to our lives as Christians and people of faith. There will also be a global dimension and a focus for our prayers on different areas of the world. Each Thursday we will have a Liturgy of the Word at which the readings from the following Sunday will be shared. This simple service will be led by a different class each week.

Y2 Liturgy

The Year 2 liturgy planned for Tuesday 5th March at 10.00am will have to be rescheduled and we will inform you of the details at a later date.

Changes

After the holiday a new timetable will be introduced. As you have just read there will be a simple act of worship each day apart from Friday. There will also be a daily 'Read Write Inc' session for children throughout school to address gaps and develop ability and confidence in reading and writing. This will be supported by daily handwriting sessions and our approach to the teaching and learning of spellings will also be reviewed so that it links more consistently with what we are doing in literacy. This dynamic approach will see children grouped on ability and assessed every six weeks. Where appropriate the children will be moved to different groups for the following cycle. Once the children have reached a certain standard they will come off the programme will have English lessons as usual, but still supported by a traditional handwriting practise each day. On top of this, children who require additional support will work one-to-one with a member of staff three times per week in school time. The parents and carers of children on the programme will be invited to a workshop to explain the process fully in due course. We are also having a big push to make the learning environments more literacy-rich and this will include an updating of our library area and provision. In order to promote a love of books we have also timetabled story time at the end of the day.

We are also seeking to make school a more mathematics-rich environment. All children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) who have significant gaps in their understanding will have a 'Guardian Angel' – a member of staff who will work with them on a one-to-one or small group basis twice a week in order to build their mathematical confidence and help them overcome any barriers that are holding them back.

Parent/Carer Meetings

The rescheduled meetings will take place on Wednesday 6th March 2013 (the second week back). All appointments will be at the same time.

Services of Reconciliation

Lent is a special time of preparing for Holy Week and Easter. During this time we are encouraged to think about the way we live our lives and reflect on how we can make the necessary changes to stay close to God. As part of this journey the children of Years 4, 5 and 6 will have their own simple class-based Service of Reconciliation on Thursday 28th February. Each Service will be led by Father Paul supported by some colleague priests. During their service all eligible Catholic children will have an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confession. All other children will be given the opportunity to feel fully part of the reflection. I would like to thank Father Paul and Mrs Humphries for organising the Services.

INSET Day

I would like to remind you that Monday 25th February is an INSET Day and school will be closed.

Citizenship Award

The School Council has awarded the Citizenship Award to Niamh McGreal in Year 6. Niamh has impressed the Council with the way she conducts herself around school and particularly her good manners and consideration for the feelings of others. Whilst in Year 6 Niamh has made and sold friendship bracelets and book marks in order to raise money for good causes – including our Red Day to support our new PTFA. Congratulations Niamh!

Message from our PTFA

Here is a message from our PTFA Committee.

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who donated buns for our 'red' non-uniform day. It was a huge success. We would also like to say a very big thank you to Niamh McGreal in Year 6 who donated the proceeds of the book marks that she had made and sold on the day. It was very thoughtful and very much appreciated. We will let you know how much was raised in our first newsletter!

*We would also like to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets from us on Tuesday at parents evening, the draw will now take place on **Wednesday 6th March** (after the rescheduled parents evening). Winners will be notified soon after.*

*We have also arranged for 'Rags R Us' to visit school on **Monday 4th March**, so if you are planning a clear out very soon we would be very grateful if you would put your items to one side and bring them to school on the collection morning. A reminder will be sent out after the holidays.*

The PTFA will be selling tea/coffee, juice and biscuits during parents evening for just 50p. You will be able to find us at the servery just up the main stairs and around the corner. Please come and support us.

Don't forget your donations of Christmas wrapping paper, decorations etc for our Santa in School 2013. Thank you

We have lots of upcoming events which we will tell you about in our new newsletter that is due for publication very soon. Thank you for your continued support.

I would just like to add that I very much appreciate all that the PTFA are doing for school. If you are interested in supporting them please let us know. All help is welcomed and would be appreciated.

Year 6 Residential Autumn 2013 – Current Y5 children

A reminder that there will be a presentation and meeting about the proposed residential trip to the Hollowford Centre, Castleton, for the Autumn term 2013. The meeting will take place at 3.45pm on Wednesday 27th February in Mr Smith's classroom.

Statement to Live By

On our return our statement to live by will be: "I try to use words that make the world a better place."

Time to talk: You could explore why it is important to have good manners and use words like please, sorry, thank you. Why is it important to have good manners? What sorts of things could we say to others to make their day happier?

Achievements Outside of School

Abi Marchant is an accomplished dancer in Year 4 who achieved her Primary Modern Jazz certificate and was highly commended for efforts. She received a fantastic certificate and trophy> Congratulations Abi, we are all very proud of you!

Please could we remind everyone not to send certificates/trophies into school but please either e-mail the details of your child's achievements (enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk) or send a note into school containing the information no later than Thursday afternoon for that weeks' Newsletter. Thank you

Weekly Attendance Winners

The classes achieving the highest attendance for the week commencing 8 February were:

- In first place was Y5 with 95.2% attendance over the week
- In second place was Y1 with 94.3% attendance over the week
- In third place was Y2 with 94.4% attendance over the week

Over the week our average pupil attendance was 91.2% which was well below our target of 96%.

This means that Bobby will be visiting Y5 again, Bertie will be visiting Y1 and Elvis will be visiting Y2 next week.

All Saints Maths Adventure



Our SJF winners of this year's Maths Adventure receiving the trophy from Mr Sawyer, Headteacher of All Saints Catholic High School.

Best wishes to you all for a very relaxing holiday,
F Barratt

Just a few notes from the school office

Please could you ensure that money for any PTFA fundraising events is given to your child in a separate envelope FAO PTFA so that it can be put into the designated box in class and not just handed in at the school office or mixed in with dinner money, milk money, trip money etc ALL MONIES (Dinners, Milk, Trip, SASH etc) coming into school should be sent in with your child in the morning so that they can place it in the office box in the classroom enabling all money to be brought safely to the office by the monitor for the day.

LATENESS

The number of children arriving LATE in school (after 9.50am) has increased tremendously over the last few weeks. This will be monitored closely over the next half term – please remember that the Local Authority withdraw attendance information from the school database every week. Please try to set a good example to your child and arrive at school early enough for them to join their class in the playground before the bell each morning.

If your child does arrive late, the child or parents must report to the school office as soon as they arrive in order for the registers to be amended. PLEASE NOTE: Parents/Carers **must not** take their child to the classroom – a member of staff will take the younger children to class, KS2 children are able to make their own way to class.

DINNERS & MILK

After the half term holiday all parents will receive the usual Dinner Menus and Milk Letters for the Summer Term, which starts AFTER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS. As we have deadlines to meet for ordering of meals and milk PLEASE ensure that replies are returned to school by the date on the letters. Even if your child is not having dinners or milk WE STILL NEED the reply slip for our records.

Thank you for your co-operation