

Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies!

I would firstly like to apologise for the delay in sending out the newsletter. I have been away attending a national conference for new Headteacher and was not able to get it out in time.

School Development

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School is a very special community. You can sense this from the moment you enter school. Good behaviour and outstanding levels of attendance indicate that our children enjoy coming to school. Children feel cared for and respected. The important liturgical aspects of Catholic school life are strong and I am a grateful to Fr Paul who is a welcome and regular visitor to school. Our school is also very well supported by our Chair of Governors and governing body who are also committed to working with me and my colleagues in order to raise standards and develop as a faith community with values rooted deeply and proudly in the gospel values.

Since September I have been working to better understand our school – our many strength and our key development areas. I have restructured the Senior Leadership Team into the Leadership Group with senior colleagues in roles that reflect our key needs and which take account of the four key areas that OFSTED will focus on when they visit next.

School development, ultimately is about raising standards – responding to and then meeting all our children's needs. Though there is some great practice here at St John Fisher, we need to constantly look to the next step to ensure that all children have the opportunities and experiences they need in order to fulfil their unique potential.

For your information colleagues will be accountable for the following areas:

• The overall quality of teaching and learning	Mr Barratt
• RE & Catholicity	Miss Doherty
• Positive Pupil behaviour	Mr Barratt/Mrs Humphries
• Inclusion (vulnerable children and children with special educational needs)	Miss Kiernan/Mrs Asquith
• Pupil Achievement	Miss McCann
• Raising standards in Literacy and Language	Miss Kipling
• Raising standards in Mathematics	Mr Smith
• Raising standards through the integration of Information Technology (IT)	Mr Smith
• Raising standards through Science	Miss Hardman
• Raising standards through Art & Design Technology	Mrs Cooper
• Raising standards through History	Mrs Buckley
• Raising standards through Music	Mrs Buckley
• Raising standards through PSHCE	Mrs Humphries
• Raising standards through Geography	Mrs Cope
• Raising standards through PE	Mrs Kipling

INSET Days

Another reminder that the INSET days will be on the following dates:

- Thursday 24th January
- Friday 25th January
- Monday 25th February

PTFA

There will be a meeting for all those interested in setting up our PTFA on Wednesday 28th November 2012 at 6.00pm. The meeting will take place in Mr Smith's Year 6 classroom. We will be joined by representatives of a successful PTFA who will share some important information, ideas and tips on developing our own PTFA. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested in getting involved in small ways or big - you are *all* very welcome.

New Contact Information

A reminder that our new email address for general enquiries is: enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk

Anti-Bullying Week

This week is 'Anti-Bullying Week' across the country. In it began with a special whole school assembly in which we affirmed every child's right to feel happy, safe and loved. We also explored what bully was and the forms it can take and shared ideas about the kind of school we want St John Fisher to be. I asked the children to think about the impact of name calling and we agreed that a focus this week would be on not calling people unkind names. This Friday the children will gather in their mixed age pastoral groups to explore this further. Behaviour is good at St John Fisher, but from time to time there are instances which need to be followed up. All of our children are special and we aim to be proactive in supporting them all to ensure that any behaviour issues that arise are addressed sensitively, positively and effectively.

Statement to Live By

For the first week back after the school holiday our statement to live by will be: **"I can work, rest, play and pray each day"**.

Time to talk: Together you could explore why it is important to find time to work, rest, play and pray every day. Share ideas about what could happen if we left one thing out everyday? Why are these things important and how do they help us to grow and develop as people?

As it is anti-bullying week you might also like to talk about what make us feel happy, safe and loved and what doesn't. You could discuss with your child(ren) what they should do if someone is unkind to them or if they someone being unkind to someone else.

Mission Together

Mrs Dunphy from Mission Together has just informed us that we raised contacted us to let us know that as a community we raised £144 in support of this important Catholic charity.

Children Need

Sadly I was not in school for this special day, but I have heard lots of great things about it and seen some photographs too. The children looked fantastic in their spots and had a wonderful day. Thank you to everyone who supported the cake sale, and as a result of your generosity a total of £200 was raised in support of the BBC Children in Need appeal. Thank you.

Attendance

The classes with the best attendance for week ending 9 November were:

1. In first place was **Y5** - with a **98.7%** attendance
2. In second place was **Y1** with a **98.3%** attendance
3. In third place was **F2** with **97.3%** attendance

This week Bobby will pay a return visit to the girls and boys of Year 5; Bertie will visit the superstars of Year 1 and Elvis will enjoy learning with children of Foundation 2. Congratulations to you all! Unfortunately for the week ending 9 November the average attendance was 95.7% which is below our target of 96%. Please help us beat out target next week.

Achievements Outside School

- Matthew Ford in Year 1 achieved his 10m swimming certificate on 24th 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 29th October at Eckington Swimming Baths. What a wonderful achievement Charlotte, we are all very proud of you!
- Finlay Morris in Year 5 came 4th 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!

Year 6 & Year 5 Residential Visits – Summer 2012

I am delighted to say that we 100% of our children will be attending the residential trips this summer. We appreciate that these opportunities are not cheap and that funding them can be challenging, so the support of parents and carers is appreciated greatly. This year has been complicated by the change to two new providers along with move from the summer to the autumn. In future the aim will be to give you a year's notice to plan and budget for residential visits. For the upcoming visits parents and carers can pay as they choose – in small regular instalments, in periodic lump sums or in one go, just as long as the total amount has been paid by the given date. Thank you for your support.

F Barratt
Headteacher