



St John Fisher Weekly News



Friday 17th January 2014 (Issue 17 ~ 2013/14)

Please accept my apologies for the delay in sending out last week's newsletter. Today we welcome Bishop John Rawsthorne as we come together as a community to celebrate the blessing and formal opening of our new library and administration block. You are *all* invited to join us for this and a simple reception in the hall afterwards with refreshments provided by our PTFA. Thank you.

Parking Around School

School, police and the city council have received a number of complaints from parents and local residents about the parking around school at the beginning and end of the school day.

I know it is a huge challenge that can prove very frustrating for parents/carers who use their cars. That said the fact is that the safety and well-being of our children; the adults bringing them to school or taking them home from school as well as the local residents is more important.

I know that both the police and local authority are looking seriously at ways of addressing the situation and minimising the very real risks posed by parked cars to children and other pedestrians.

I appeal to everyone who uses a car to bring children to or from school to be aware of the needs of young children and other pedestrians using footpaths or attempting to cross the road between parked cars which obscure their view.

I would be interested to hear from anyone interested in helping me set up a 'Walking Bus' as a way of alleviating the pressure in the immediate vicinity of school. I would also really like to hear from anyone who has any new ideas to improve the current situation. Thank you.

Year 6 visit to the Crucial Crew by Olivia Harpin

Last week our class went to Crucial Crew. We learnt all about being safe, which was very exciting as the set makes it seem like real life! The best part for me was the court, as I was the legal advisor for a crime that had been committed for stealing from a local shop and hitting a random person in the street. Luckily for us, he was punished!

New Inclusion Zone

Miss Kiernan and Mrs Asquith would like to thank all those parents who donated items for our new sensory room. We now have enough resources to begin activities as soon as the room is decorated - which is our next job! If anyone thinks that they might be able to spare some time and are 'nifty' with a paintbrush or polyfilla please let Mrs Asquith know as she will be starting to prepare for the decoration of the room next week. Thank you.

New SJF 'Rainbows' Programme

Rainbows is the highly regarded and school-based programme designed to support children having a hard time in the lives for one reason or another that we are about to introduce here at St John Fisher.

There will be an information meeting for any parents who have expressed an interest in their child attending the Rainbows sessions on Thursday 23rd January 3.00pm in the Library. The Rainbows sessions for children will take place after school on a Monday evening 3.30pm – 4.30pm and are aimed at children who need time to reflect after a bereavement, separation or divorce or who are coming to terms with other big changes in their family life.

If you would like to know more or are not sure whether this may be something which would help you and your child please, come along to the meeting and bring any questions or ideas with you.

Pupil Progress & Achievement

The second pupil achievement report will now be sent out this week. If you want to discuss any aspect of it please make arrange to meet your child's teacher.

Supporting Parents and Carers

On Thursday 6th March from 9.15am to 11.15am we will be starting a new 6 week course for parents called 'Living with Children'. This course helps parents to develop their children's life skills such as:

- helping children to manage their own behaviour;
- suggesting ways parents can listen more effectively to their children;
- helping children to understand their own feelings and behaviour so that they can adapt to their ever changing social world; and
- learn skills of negotiation and compromise.

If you would be interested in taking part please let Mrs Asquith know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Education Sunday 2014 – Going Above and Beyond

Education Sunday is a day of celebration for all those involved in the world of education. For over a century it has been part of an ecumenical celebration in which the Catholic Church participates. This year Education Sunday will take place on Sunday 16th February. We will be sending home a special edition of the 'Wednesday Word' to each family nearer the time which contains further information.

Maths Workshops for Parents and Carers

We will be holding the first of a series of workshops to show you how we teach mathematical skills to the children. We will start by focusing on calculation strategies. The workshop will be after school on **Wednesday 5th February 2014** and you are all welcome. We will supervise children so that you can attend. Please be assured that we are here to help you in any way that you need and there is no such thing as a silly question, so please ask away! If you require specific support yourself with mathematics then please let us know in confidence. Thank you.

Adverse Weather Conditions

An important letter was sent home yesterday about what will happen if weather conditions mean that school needs to start later/finish earlier or even close. Nothing has changed from last year. This means that in the event of severe weather we will notify the local radio stations (who will make announcements and post the information on their websites) and text parents/carers. Please ensure that we have your correct mobile phone numbers. Thank you.

Miss Kiernan's 'Drop-In'

I am available every Friday from 3.00pm in the library to chat about anything 'inclusion' related concerning your child(ren). This could involve any issues relating to their academic, developmental or emotional query or anything else to do with your child(ren) at school, home or elsewhere. Please feel free to drop in for a chat and I will help all I can!

Miss Kiernan

Golden Children

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

• F 2	Sami Hardy for trying really hard to listen, settle and learn!
• Year 1	George Cranston for trying really hard with his work, doing a wonderful picture of his mum!
• Year 2	Jack Stacey for working independently in mathematics and really challenging himself!
• Year 3	Ellie Cheetham for showing excellent learning behaviours and for working really hard!
• Year 4	Faye Curtis for great independent learning, well done!
• Year 5	Mia Pardo-Figueroa for taking responsibility for her own learning by really trying hard to achieve all her targets!
• Year 6	Holly Longden for really making a great effort to improve her writing! Congratulations!



Links Partnership Sports Stars of the Week

The children identified as Sports Stars by our coaches last week were: Asia Robinson, William Oadley, Joseph Holmshaw, James Williamson and Natasha Sanders. Congratulations all of you!

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Thank you to Miss Kipling and the young people of Year 5 for leading the last weekly liturgy. Thank you also to everyone who was able to join us. This week's liturgy will be on **Thursday 23rd January 2014** will be led by the children of **Year 4** and will start just after 9.00am in the school hall. The friends and family of our Year 4 pupils are very welcome to join us. Thank you.

House Points this Term

St Andrew	St David	St George	St Patrick
Smilies This week			
178	140	160	184

Writing Champions

Last week's Writing Champions' fantastic writing will be displayed in the hall for another week. Writing Champions are children who have really tried hard and made a personal leap forward as a result.

FS2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Vilius Bagdonas	Rowan Lodge	Ruby Haywood	Ashleigh Hurst	Jack Harwood	Reggie Pugh	Grace Woolhouse

Weekly Attendance Winners

I would like to introduce Brenda who now visits the class with the second highest attendance of the week. She replaces Bertie who is currently having a super time travelling the world. He sends his best wishes to everyone by the way. For the week ending 06-01-13 in joint first place are the girls and boys of **FS2 and Y1** who both achieved a **99%** attendance - and will be visited by Bobby and Brenda. In third place were the children of **Y2** with **98.7%** who will be visited by Elvis the Owl. Congratulations all of you! The average attendance was **97.8%** which is above our target of 96%, thank you.

Achievements Outside School

- Willis Stoeman in Y1 passed Stage 2 of the ASA 'Learn to Swim Awards'! What a great achievement Willis, well done!

Statement to Live By

Next week our statement to live by is: **"I co-operate with others in work and play"**.

Time to talk: What does the word 'cooperate' mean? Use a dictionary to find the word and its meaning? Try to explain what it means to someone else using your own words. Why is it important to cooperate with each other when we are working and playing? What could happen if we don't cooperate? List some of the ways our work or our games would be better if we choose to cooperate.

Have a great weekend,
Mr Barratt