



St John Fisher News

Friday 18th January 2013 (Issue 17 2012/13)

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather such as heavy snowfall it will sometimes be necessary to alter the usual start and finish times or even close school. If there is extremely bad weather overnight a decision will be taken early in the morning to either close school completely or delay the start of lessons to 10.00am. Please note that if a decision is taken to delay the start of lessons your child(ren) will not be marked late as long as they arrive before 10.00am.

All parents and carers will receive a text message via 'Parent Mail' explaining what is happening. The announcements will also be made on Hallam FM and BBC Radio Sheffield.

You will also be able to get information from the following websites:

- Sheffield City Council
- Hallam FM
- BBC Radio Sheffield

Please note that if school is opening at the usual time you will not receive a message. So there is no need to contact school to confirm.

If there is a heavy snowfall during the school day it might be necessary to close school earlier than usual. Again parents and carers will be informed via a Parent Mail text message regarding the arrangements.

It is therefore imperative that our contact information is up-to-date, so if you have changed your mobile telephone number since you completed the 'Pupil Update Form' in September and have not informed school please notify Mrs Battams as soon as possible.

Playing in the Snow

Break times are important times for allowing our children to 'let off steam'. A breath of fresh air revitalises the children and helps them to be good learners in the lessons that follow. We only like to keep the children when it is totally necessary. It is our intention to give the children an opportunity to get out and play in the snow if it safe to do so – and if children are appropriately clothed. As long as a child comes to school appropriately dressed he/she will be given the opportunity to play in the snow if we decide to let the children play out at break time.

Children who do not have appropriate clothing or who would rather not go out will be supervised in the hall instead.

Come and See

Our new programme of Religious Education is called "Come and See". The programme was introduced in all the Catholic primary schools of the Diocese back in September. The programme replaces the 'Here I Am' scheme that was used previously. A newsletter entitled "Come and See at Home" will be sent to you via Parent Mail shortly. This will give you a breakdown of the RE topics being covered as well as a list of important dates.

Statement to Live By

Next week our statement to live by will be: ***'I know I belong to a community that includes my school'***.

Time to talk: Together you could talk about what a community is. You could list all the people who are part of our community and think about how they each make the community special; our families, our friends, our neighbours, our parish, our school etc. You could unpick why it feels special to be part of a community.

INSET Days

A reminder that school will be closed for staff training (INSET) on the following days:

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

Parent/Carer Meetings

A reminder that the next meetings will take place on the following days:

- Tuesday 12th February 2013 (2.30pm-5.30pm)
- Wednesday 13th February (6.00pm-8.00pm)

Please note the start time on 12-02-13 is earlier than the time stipulated in the calendar. Our new PTFA will be serving refreshments during both sessions. If you are able to help out please speak to Donna Murphy.

School Community Mass

Please note that the young people of Years 3 and 6 will be leading a celebration of Mass at the church of Our Lady of Grace on Friday 1st February 2013. All welcome.

Crucial Crew

Today the young people of Year 6 braved the cold weather to participate in this year's 'Crucial Crew' event. A report from one of the young people who attended will be in next week's newsletter.

Weekly Attendance Winners

The classes achieving the highest attendance for the week commencing 7 January were:

- In first place was Y4 with 100% attendance over the week – WOW!!
 - In second place was Y1 with 99.7% attendance over the week
- In third place was Y6 with 99.3% attendance over the week

Over the week our average pupil attendance was 96.8% which was above our target of 96%.

This means that Bobby will be visiting Y4, Bertie will be visiting Y1 and Elvis will be visiting Y6 next week.

Achievements Outside School

As a community we always seek to celebrate the successes of our children both in and out of school. If you have a child who has achieved something that he or she is proud of please notify us and I would be delighted to publish the details in the newsletter for everyone to see.

Faith School Transport

Earlier in the academic year I wrote to you about a local authority proposal to remove free bus passes from Catholic children who live more than three miles from their nearest Catholic secondary school. The proposal went further than similar moves in other local authorities because it will not be limited to just the children who will be in Year 7 next year, but will see passes also removed from children who already have a pass.

You will recall that we collected signatures for a petition that was sent to the authority along with other petitions from other Catholic schools in Sheffield. I also know a number of you contacted the local authority to voice your concerns directly.

From across the city there are many examples of Catholic families who will be hit hard by this change in policy. Some will be faced with a real dilemma about whether they can actually afford the fares so that their child(ren) can have a Catholic education that they desire.

Sadly, in spite of our efforts and objections the motion was adopted by authority's cabinet recently, but this decision is being challenged by Catholic schools and we are seeking a judicial review of the decision.

The Sheffield Family of Catholic Schools is looking for one Catholic family to build a case around to challenge this decision. The family must be on a lower income and be affected by the policy change. Crucially the children in the family must *not* be entitled to free schools meals. If this sounds like your family and you are content to be considered please get in touch with me. I have been asked to assure you that there would be no cost to you personally or your family if you are indeed selected for this crucial action.

Have a great weekend,

F. Barratt