



St John Fisher Weekly News



Friday 18th July 2014 (Issue 38 ~ 2013/14)

End of Year Mass

This morning we came together as a school and parish community to join in the celebration of Mass in thanksgiving for the past year. I would like to thank Father Paul for leading the celebration and for all the children, especially our Y6 leavers who participated in the liturgy. It was a fitting way to end the school year and I would like to thank all the parents, carers and friends of the school who were able to attend and support us. Thank you also to the PTFA for providing refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Year 6 Leavers' Mass

Yesterday evening I attended the Y6 special leavers' Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes. It was a beautiful and moving service celebrated by Father Paul and led by the children of Y6. It was an opportunity for us all to come together in prayer in order to give thanks for all the children have brought to our community and to wish them well as they prepare to move on to their new schools. At the end of the service the children's names were read out one by one and they were presented with a special book mark and a gift paid for by the PTFA on behalf of the parent body. I would like to thank the PTFA for their generosity in providing these gifts. It was really poignant when, after receiving their gift and bookmark, the children returned to their families rather than to their places.

We bid a fond farewell to: Elizabeth Avelino, Travis Beresford, Norbert Boratyn, Lydia Cartwright, Bethany Croft, Sasha Dunks, Corey Goodinson, Ella Harpin, Olivia Harpin, Amelia, Jackson-Werchez, Ipanda Kalyata, Daniel Kandare, Libby Kilbride, Finn Lodge, Holly Longden, Lewis Mappin, Finlay Morris, Martina Mura, Gabriel Pinto, Winnie Saxton, David Sayers, Cheryl Sigauke, Joseph Stamford, Darcy Tirol, Sophie Tyree, Oliver Wallace, Charlotte Williamson, Sam Wilson, Grace Woolhouse and Olivia Worrall.

I want each of you to know that you are all immensely gifted and talented and that you have touched the lives of so many here at John Fisher in a positive, special and lasting way. As it is now time for you to step bravely in to the next exciting phase of your life, always be proud of who you are, and never be afraid or ashamed to let your light shine!

Farewell

We also bid a very fond farewell to Ms Farrow, Miss Kipling, Miss McCann, Miss Rodgers and Miss Rybka as they leave our community for new adventures. We thank them all for their hard work and dedication and they leave with all our prayers and best wishes for very happy, healthy and successful futures.

Good News!

I am pleased to inform you that our results in the end of Key Stage statutory assessments are really positive and build upon last year's improvements.

- **Y2 (End of KS1 statutory tests)** - 2013 national average is in brackets and 'L' means level
 - ✓ Reading: 100% at L2C+ (89%), 97% at L2B+ (79%) and 55% at L3+ (29%)
 - ✓ Writing: 83% at L2C+ (85%), 62% at L2B+ (67%) and 14% at L3+ (15%)
 - ✓ Mathematics: 100% at L2C+ (91%), 83% at L2B+ (78%) and 34% at L3+ (23%)
- **Y6 (End of KS2 statutory tests)** - 2013 national average is in brackets
 - ✓ Reading: 97% at L4+ (86%), 66% at L5+ (44%) and 0% at L6 (0%)
 - ✓ Writing: 100% at L4+ (83%), 50% at L5+ (30%) and 7% at L6 (2%)
 - ✓ Mathematics: 100% at L4+ (85%), 60% at L5+ (41%) and 10% at L6 (6%)
 - ✓ Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: 97% at L4+ (74%), 80% at L5+ (48%) and 3% at L6 (2%)
 - ✓ 50% exceeded their writing targets (the national figure in 2013 = 34%)
 - ✓ 50% exceeded their mathematics targets (the national figure in 2013 = 34%)

These results will be amongst the best in the city and build on last year's good results. I am delighted for the children and their families as well as all the dedicated staff who have contributed in small ways and big to supporting our children and inspiring them to achieve so well. As good as these results are it is important though that we remain true to our ethos and focused on our long-term objectives so we can continue to improve.

More Good News!

I am delighted to be able to inform you that, as well as the money secured for the new kitchen and car park at the front of school my appeal for additional funds to improve fire safety provisions throughout school was upheld by the Education Minister. This means that in the last two years we have secured £385k. It is hoped that work will begin in the Autumn. I will keep you informed of all developments.

Going for Gold

At St John Fisher we have set children's targets for progress and attainment above national expectations. The gold/yellow colour-coding on children's reports reflects where we are aiming for them to be, as achieving these ambitious targets will already mean that they have made more than government expected levels of progress. The green colour-coding is therefore reflective of truly exceptional progress.

Thank you to all those parents who have responded to our request for feedback on their child/ren's reports. This feedback has been mixed and has highlighted to us that there are some areas of the report which we need to think about, particularly in terms of presentation and explanation. I would therefore like to invite parents to contribute to a focus group discussion about how we go forward with the content and format of our end of year reports. This will take place in the autumn term next year and I will finalise and send out details when we return to school after the summer holiday. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to contribute to this focus group as your views and contributions are incredibly important to us.

Taster Day

Last Monday the children met their new teachers for a special taster day in their new classes. It was a really good day and there was a very positive buzz around school. The children – as expected – did a great job of making their new teachers feel very welcome.

Dates for your Diary

I hope you have received your new 2014-15 calendar. Please find a breakdown of the key dates at the beginning of the new school year.

● Monday 1 st September	✓ INSET – School Closed
● Tuesday 2 nd September	✓ INSET – School Closed
● Wednesday 3 rd September	✓ Start of school for Years 1-6 only ✓ Home visits to FS2 children and families ✓ Review & Target-Setting meetings (1.00pm – 4.30pm)
● Thursday 4 th September	✓ Review & Target-Setting meetings (1.00pm – 4.30pm)

Review & Target-Setting Meetings

On Friday 11th July appointment request slips were sent home to every family to make an appointment for a one-to-one meeting with your child(ren)'s new teacher to review progress and set targets. An email was also sent to let you know that the forms were coming home. Yesterday the appointment times were sent home for the meetings that will take place on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th September 2014. Unlike last year, the meetings will take place in the school hall rather than the Parish Centre. Your children are invited to attend with you and you can take them home afterwards or they can return to class.

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

I would like to remind you that the first liturgy of the Word will take place on **Thursday 11th September**. It will be led by the children of our new **Y6** class and the family and friends of our new Y6 children are invited to join us just after 9.00am in the hall. Thank you.

Exhibition

Yesterday we held our whole-school exhibition to celebrate all the learning that has occurred during our latest 'Goal' theme. It was a fantastically positive occasion made all the more special by the fact that so many parents, carers, family members and friends were able to attend. Each class had their own area of the hall in which the products of their learning were displayed. Children from the different classes acted as curators excitedly sharing information with visitors about the exhibits and what they had learned. Visitors were very impressed with the enthusiasm of our young people and the quality of the work produced. I felt immensely proud of our children.

I would like to thank the PTFA for organising refreshments; everyone who attended; my colleagues who worked so hard to bring the event together and finally the children themselves – who were amazing as always!

Achievements Outside of School

- **Corey Goodinson** in Y5 competed in the British National Age Group Diving Championship at the weekend. He had a very successful time, winning one silver medal and achieving two personal best scores. Well done Corey!
- **Sam Orbell** in Y2 has been awarded his 100m swimming award! Well done Sam – keep up the good work!
- **Sophie Tyree** in Y6 has received a 7 year award for attendance at Stagecoach! She also passed her Musical Theatre Level 1 award. We are all very proud of you Sophie!

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
Isla Atkinson	Finlay Jones	Isaac Patterson	The whole class for their wonderful versions of the 'Kapok Tree'	Ruben Jackson	The whole class for their wonderful progress and attainment in writing	The whole class for their wonderful progress and attainment in writing
Amelia Denham	George Marsden					
Freya Jones	Laurie Paige					
Maksymilian Jasinski	Millie Taylor					
Daisy Parkin						

Golden Children

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

● F 2	Daisy Parkin for always trying really hard!
● Year 2	The Whole of Y2 for their wonderful progress this year and brilliant behaviour!
● Year 3	Kayleigh Collins for doing really well in her writing and being imaginative! Jensen Gough for improving his learning behaviour!
● Year 4	Lilly Cox for really thinking about her writing and an excellent result in her recent Reading assessment. Well done Lilly!
● Year 5	The whole of Y5 for working really hard and for having such a great year!
● Year 6	The whole of Y6 for being amazing!

Attendance

The following children managed 100% attendance this academic and were awarded a certificate and a prize after Mass this morning. **Bethany Beatson, Mitchell Clayton, Sam Mappin, Reuben Hastings-Quainoo, Calum Hardy, Poppy Walton, Brody McConaghy, Noora Moshtael, Ipanda Kalyata, Travis Beresford, Finlay Morris, Winnie Saxton, David Sayers and Olivia Worrall.**

Our average attendance for this last week was **96.9%** which is above our target of 96%. Thank you. The weekly winning class was Year 6 with 99.7% attendance over the year. In second place was Year 5 with 99.3% and in third place was Y2 with 98.6% attendance. Well done everybody.

Over the year our attendance was 96.7% which is above our target of 96%. Thank you. The winning class for 2013-14 was Year 6 with 97.9% attendance. In joint second place were Years 2 and 5 with 97.3% and in third place was FS2 with 97.1% attendance. Well done everybody.

Finally...

Thank you for your support this year. I would like to add a huge thank you to my colleagues for all their hard work and dedication this year. They are an inspirational group of people who have worked so hard and cared for our children. I would also like to thank the PTFA for all they have done this year. I wish you all a very happy holiday. God bless. F Barratt