



St John Fisher News

Monday 22nd April 2013 (Issue 27 2012/13)

Welcome Back!

It was wonderful to welcome back all the children and my colleagues back to school after the Easter break. The children have been excitedly sharing their news and it has been wonderful to hear about all the things they did during the holidays. I hope you all managed to find some time to rest and recuperate.

Resurrection Mass

Today the children of Years 6 and 2 led our Resurrection Mass – the culmination of our Easter celebration. As Father Paul was away the Mass was celebrated by Father David Stafford. As usual the children read beautifully in spite of the technical issues with the sound system. They also carried out their various roles excellently and were a credit to our community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Father Stafford saying Mass; Mr Burt for providing the music; my colleagues for preparing the liturgy and the children.

Staff News

Mrs Balfour has decided to retire after many years service to our school, and will leave us – officially - at the end of the month. Over the years Mrs Balfour has supported lots of children and got to know their families very well. I know that the kindness she showed to others has always been appreciated greatly. So we thank Mrs Balfour, sincerely, for her years of service to our community both as a member of staff and as a non-teaching staff Governor. We also wish her well for a very long and happy retirement.

Miss Doherty is unfortunately still on sick leave and we send her all our best wishes and prayers for a full and speedy recovery. Though this is a very challenging situation we are working very hard as a school to ensure that our youngest children receive as much continuity of care as is possible in the circumstances. I would like to thank the parents of our Foundation Stage 2 children for their support, patience and understanding.

Super Writer!

Ben Cartwright in Year 2 came to see me just before the Easter break with a poem he had written. Ben's poem is an acrostic poem, meaning that the first letter of each line also spells a word vertically. He was very proud of what he had written and delighted in showing me and telling me about all the 'power words' he had tried to include. When I read it I could see why he was so proud. I was staggered by the quality of his writing and when I asked Ben if he would like me to share it with all the mums and dads in the newsletter he said that he would love it! I hope you enjoy his poem as much as I did.

My Easter Poem by Ben Cartwright in Year 2
*E*xciting Easter is the best!
*A*mazing Easter is what I love!
*S*uper Easter Bunny – the best one ever!
*T*he day Jesus rose from the dead everyone was ecstatic!
*E*normous Easter eggs we all love!
*R*elaxing Easter is what I love!

Golden Children

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

• Foundation 2	Keira Ambrose for tidying up beautifully and for looking after other children so well!
• Year 1	Ricardo Mwale for great work in his Read Write Inc sessions!
• Year 2	Kimi Hardy for showing excellent progress in his mathematics assessments and class work!
• Year 3	Sara Mura for listening well in Mrs Cope's lessons and using the information well in her learning!
• Year 4	Thomas Wood for trying his best in <i>all</i> aspects of his learning, particularly mathematics!
• Year 5	Daniel Kandare for always trying his best in his learning and making great progress, particularly in mathematics!
• Year 6	Daniel Hoy for <i>always</i> being kind and helpful to other pupils and staff!

House Points

The house point scores for the week are as follows:

Clitherow = xx points	Kolbe = xx points	Schweitzer = xx points	Teresa = xx points
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Congratulations to all the children in Schweitzer who have earned Golden Time next term.

Foundation Stage 2 Assembly

Please note that the assembly arranged for Friday 3rd May has been postponed.

Holidays in Term Time

In recent weeks I have started to receive an increasing number of requests from parents/carers requesting authorisation to take their children out of school during term time for holidays and odd days etc. I do understand that sometimes there are very good reasons for such requests being made and I also appreciate that the cost of a family break during the school holidays can be significantly more than at other times. That said, I am very concerned at the number of requests that are being made. As every school day is important I appeal to you to keep requests to minimum and to make them only in exceptional circumstances. Thank you for your support.

Weekly Attendance Winners

The classes achieving the highest attendance for the week commencing 15 April were:

- In first place was Y5 with 97.4% attendance over the week
- In second place was Y4 with 96.5% attendance over the week
- In third place was Y3 with 96.2% attendance over the week

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

This means that Bobby will be visiting Y5 Bertie will be visiting Y4 and Elvis will be visiting Y3 next week.

Transport Subsidy

Today I have arranged for a letter to be emailed to each of you to update on the current situation regarding Sheffield city council's bid to remove the bus passes that Catholic children currently receive if they live more than three miles from their nearest Catholic school. As a result of pressure the council are issuing a second consultation which replaces the first. If you responded to the first it no longer counts and you need to resubmit. Whether this change impacts on you and your family directly or not I do urge you to support our challenge if you can as there are many children and families across that will be badly affected by this action. Thank you.

'Streets Ahead' Assembly

As you know from an earlier newsletter major road improvements are planned across Sheffield over a ten year period and the works will start in our area shortly. On Monday 29th April Millie Guthrie – a qualified teacher working with 'Streets Ahead' - will lead a whole school assembly which aims to inform our children about what is happening and to raise awareness about the potential dangers of playing in and around building sites etc. The assembly will be followed by a session aimed at our Year 6 children specifically.

Statement to Live By

Our statement to live by this week back is: **"I know when to ask for help and who to ask for help from."**

Time to talk: You could talk to each other about why it is important to ask for help when we need it. The key thing is that our children should never be afraid to ask for help. A community is where burdens are shared and help is offered unconditionally to those who need it. Understanding this can reduce the stress that difficulties bring – whatever they are. Learning is all about being challenged; being taken outside our 'comfort zone'. There are times when this is scary and we need the support of our friends, family and school staff to get through. You could talk about times when you have asked for help. What happened? You could share experiences when you have been able to help others too. God calls us to be there for each other in His name.

Best wishes for a fantastic week

F Barratt