



St John Fisher News

Friday 19th December 2014 (Issue 15 ~ 2014/15)



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Local Authority Rating

The local authority has regraded the school as a '2'. Our previous grade was a '5', which had been awarded to reflect our 'Special Measures' status. This is a hugely positive milestone in terms of our recovery. It is also recognition that the Local Authority are pleased and reassured by the improvements introduced, the progress we have made and our capacity to make and sustain future improvements.

Staff News

Mr Andrews, our Building Manager, is in hospital receiving treatment for pneumonia currently. He is responding well to medication but needs to rest. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

On Wednesday Mrs Evans and her children joined us for the Key Stage 1 Nativity play. It was really good to see them all. I know Mrs Evans enjoyed the performance and seeing all the children very much.

Telling Tales Awards Ceremony

As a conclusion to our highly successful 'Telling Tales' project the finalists from each school were invited to a special awards ceremony at Birley College along with staff and children from Charnock Hall, Rainbow Forge, Birley Community Primary and Birley Spa. The Key Stage winners for St John Fisher were Laurie Paige (Y2) and Anca Nicula (Y5). The other finalists were: William Denham, Mia Lovelock, Marisa Avelino, Chloe Msungi, Jacob Genita, Frederick Antwi (all in FS2), Sophie Ball (Y1), Isabelle Walton-Hall (Y3), Jack Waldron (Y4) and Cerys Pope (Y6). I would like to thank all of them and their families for supporting the event. I would also like to recognise the hard work of Mr Smith who coordinated the event in St John Fisher and worked with colleagues across the Birley Family of Schools to make it a reality.

Daily Advent Liturgies

Our daily Advent liturgies have been an important part of our preparations for Christmas. I would like to thank everyone who was able to join us for them. It is my intention to repeat them next year.

It's a Baby!

On Wednesday and Thursday the young people of Years 1 and 2 (Key Stage 1) performed their nativity play and it was fantastic! The children really enjoyed playing their part in the retelling of the Christmas story and the performance was all about them. I felt so proud of every single child who took part. I would like to thank my Key Stage 1 colleagues who prepared the children in a little over two weeks. It was really incredible!

KS2 Community Carol Service & Refreshments

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for this year's carol service. I want to thank Father Paul for allowing us to use the church and for his kind words to the children and staff at the end of the service. I would like to thank my colleagues who prepared the children so brilliantly. I particularly enjoyed Silent Night in the different languages. I would like to thank the children for their beautiful singing and reading and the PTFA for providing refreshments and all those cakes in the school hall afterwards. It was a fantastic social occasion, appreciated by everyone there.

Santa in School Day

Today we were visited by Santa for the second annual PTFA 'Santa in School Day'! It was a joyous way to end two very long and hard terms. Everyone had lots of fun – especially the children. It was fantastic to see how the buddies looked after each other. I would like to thank the PTFA committee members who have been planning this event for most of the year. They have worked tirelessly to make it a reality. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped on the day. I would like to thank the Reverend Chris Jevens from the Spa View Community Church for kindly agreeing to host this year's event at short notice.

It was a very special day that will mean different things to everyone involved – children and adults alike. For me it was just so great to see how everyone came together as a community to do something really amazing and memorable for the children. They were so happy, thank you everybody!



Questionnaire

Yesterday we sent home questionnaires for you to complete. I would be grateful if you could find some time to complete it. Please return the questionnaires by **Friday 9th January 2015**. Thank you.

Building Update

All work is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of Term 4 (23rd February). It includes:

- a new kitchen/servery adjacent to the hall
- refurbishment of the Y2 classroom with a new external door which will be used as a fire exit and access to the under-used area behind school
- refurbishment of the Y1 classroom with a relocated external door which will be used as a fire exit and access to the outdoor learning/play area we plan to develop
- a new fire alarm and sensors throughout school
- refurbishment of the corridor leading to FS2 and Key Stage 1 with new fitted cupboards replacing the open shelves, new flooring and decoration as well as a new external door which will be used as a fire exit and access to the under-used area behind school
- new internal fire doors throughout school
- a new car park at the front of school
- repairs to/replacement of front wall, gate and fence (which has been partially removed for site access)

During the classroom refurbishments it will be necessary to relocate the children elsewhere and I will let you know what the arrangements are closer to the time.

Bids are currently being prepared for the next round of capital funding and our focus in this next round will be the roof and the toilets throughout school. I am also keen to develop the outside areas for play time as well as learning and will be looking at grants that are available for this. I will let you know how we get on.

Opening up the Library

If you would like to volunteer to supervise the library at the beginning or end of a day for 30 minutes every so often so that it can be opened up for parents and carers to use with their children please speak to Mr Smith or contact us via the school email address (enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk). Thank you.

Citizen of the Week

This week's recipient is **Filip Dominiak** (Y2) who was chosen for remembering this week's statement to live by: 'We are happiest when we are united'. Filip has impressed Mrs Broadhead and others by the way he shares and involves others. He is a team player who does not like to leave others out. We are all so proud of him! Congratulations Filip!

Golden Children

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

| | |
|----------|--|
| • FS2 | The whole class for being absolutely wonderful in the amazing nativity play! |
| • Year 1 | Jia Robinson for making good choices and for making the grown-ups smile because she is trying so hard. She is always helpful and willing to do jobs! Well done superstar! |
| • Year 2 | Evie Ramsden for working hard to remember her lines and for speaking clearly in the nativity play with passion! |
| • Year 3 | James Fitzpatrick for excellent use of complex sentences! |
| • Year 4 | Emma Watters for working hard in all areas! Keep it up! |
| • Year 5 | Lily Mell for trying hard in her RE work about the sacrament of marriage! |
| • Year 6 | Anabelle Langley for demonstrating a positive attitude in everything she does. |

Top Table

Congratulations to the children in the Wren Family who were chosen by Mrs Bower and the lunchtime supervisors to sit on the Top Table today for having good table manners and for helping each other. Congratulations Ellie S, Annabelle L, Jack G, Joseph H, Phoebe K, Daisy P and Vilius B, you are all stars!

Links Partnership Sports Stars of the Week

This week's the stars chosen by the coaches were Ciara Brady and Kiera Beck! Well done!



Our Lady of Lourdes Carol Concert

The "Immaculata" Children's Group would like to invite everybody to come to a Christmas Carol Concert at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, which follows the 10.30am Advent children's Mass on 21st December.

Bronze Awards

The children who received Bronze Awards this term are:

- Jacob Nelson
- Erin Gent
- Phoebe Kilbride
- Amna Javid
- Jack Waldron
- Daphney Adebayo
- Nicole Mercado
- Daisy Green
- Hibah Javid
- James Hopkinson
- Poppy Walton
- Lucas Diaz
- Jasmine Green
- Libby Hurst
- Ethan Usher-Ashton
- Jia Robinson
- Filip Dominiak
- Kayla Osei-Badu
- Bitanga Kalyata
- Dominic Rolfe
- Abi Marchant
- Sophie Hemingway
- Tamzin Samba
- Charlie Ogden
- Saffron Kilbride
- Benjamin Cartwright
- Kiera Swift
- Sophie Robinson-Oates

Yesterday they enjoyed some 'Golden Time' as a reward. Congratulations children! Children who just missed out on the award this time around will have another opportunity in the new year.

Smiley House Points

The Term 2 scores are:

| St Andrew | St David | St George | St Patrick |
|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| 298 | 279 | 290 | 275 |

Congratulations to the children of St Andrew's House! You will be rewarded with extra play-time next term!

Attendance

| | FS2 | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Average |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------------|--------|--------|---------|
| This Week (W/C 15-12-15) | 98.9% | 96.7% | 92% | 99.3% | 99.3% | 96.2% | 95.7 | 96.8 |
| Term 2 | 97.8% | 96.5% | 92.6% | 95% | 97.9% | 95.2% | 94.4% | 95.5% |
| Start of the Year | 97.5% | 97.1% | 93% | 96.3% | 96.7% | 96.9% | 96% | 96.1% |

The **bold** figures show where the 97% target has been met or exceeded.

This week the girls and boys of **Y3** and **Y4** were joint-first and will be visited by both Bobby and Brenda Bear next term! In third place were the children of **FS2** and they will be visited by Elvis the Owl. Our average attendance this week was **96.8%** which is a big improvement on last week but still below our 97% target.

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

The next liturgy will therefore take place on **Thursday 15th January** and will be led by the young people of **Y5**. The family and friends of our **Y5** pupils are invited to join us in the school hall just after 9.00am.

Reading Awards

The term 2 awards will be given to the children in January.

New Year Mass

I would like to remind you that we will be having Mass at 2.00pm on Friday 9th January to pray for a happy and successful new year. You are all invited.

Statement to Live By

When we return in January our 'statement to live by' will be "**I try to follow our school and classroom rules**"

Time to talk: What are rules? Why do we have them? How do they help us feel happy, safe and loved? What our school be like without rules? Why should we always try to follow the rules?

Finally

I would like to thank all my colleagues for their hard work, dedication and commitment; I would like to thank the PTFA for all they have done to bring our community together and raise money for our children; I would like to thank you for your continuing support to school and wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 5th January 2015!

Kind regards,

Mr Barratt