



# St John Fisher Weekly News



Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014 (Issue 3 ~ 2014/15)

## Welcome Meetings

On Tuesday we had the last of our Welcome Meetings, which was for the parents/carers of children in Years 1 and 2. Thank you to everyone who attended. If you have any questions about any of the information that was shared please get in touch and we will be very happy to listen and to help.

## PTFA Cheese & Wine

I would like to thank the PTFA committee for organising a Cheese & Wine information event last night to talk about the PTFA and share information about all the things they have done for our community in the last eighteen months.

The PTFA Committee was formed from a group of parents who did not know each other before getting involved. Through their involvement they are now firm friends and welcome anyone interested in getting involved in any way to join them.



At the meeting we were reminded of the different events they had organised which included two 'Big Lunch' family events, discos, dress-down days, table-top and car boot sales, cake sales, refreshments at parent/carer meetings, concerts and at school curriculum exhibitions and of course the great 'Santa in School' event last December.

Through their efforts – and with the support of you, our families - a staggering £6000 was raised, which is incredible! For a small school like St John Fisher, budgets are always incredibly tight as we have many of the same overheads as much bigger two-form entry schools but about half their income. So the money raised helps us provide those special extras that would otherwise be difficult to afford.

I would like to thank the PTFA and you for supporting the different events they organise. Sadly, apart from PTFA members and school staff only one parent was able to make it last night. We have therefore put the PTFA display up in the corridor next to the main entrance for you to look at.

If you can spare a little time or have a good idea to share, the PTFA really would like to hear from you. Your involvement need not be huge and would *always* be appreciated. It is also a great way to make new friends and get involved in a group that is making a huge difference to our school community. Thank you.

## The Building Fund

As you know one of my core aims is to improve the buildings and the physical environment so that our building is fresh, bright, modern and appealing to both the children and my colleagues who work hard to inspire them every day. There is *much* to do before this will be achieved, but I am determined.

To achieve this I:

- work with Governors to ensure that our modest and stretched budget is fully utilised
- work with our strategic partners AHR (formally Aedas) to secure/implement Government capital grants
- work with the PTFA to raise money to improve different areas of school for our children e.g. the library
- work with the Probation Service's Community Payback scheme to do small jobs around the school

At the beginning of Term 2 work starts on the new kitchen, car park and improving fire safety provision throughout school. You will recall that we decided to delay starting work on the kitchen until after our appeal to the secretary of State was heard - which thankfully was successful. This means that the two grants and projects can be merged by AHR which is better for ensuring value for money.

Another important way to raise money is through '**The Building Fund**'. This is raised by a £20 donation from each family. This is a voluntary contribution but key if we are going to continue making those important improvements to the building that our children deserve. I really do need your support so we can do things like refurbish all the classrooms and the toilets. A letter from the Governing Body will be sent home soon and I would be really grateful if you would think seriously about supporting us by making a contribution.

**Thank you.**

### Parish News

This Sunday (21<sup>st</sup> September) is the first children's Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes of the school year. Please come and join us at 10.30am. You are all very welcome. Thank you.

### Golden Children

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

• F 2	<b>Daisy Green</b> for trying really hard in class and for being kind!
• Year 1	<b>Evan Siner</b> for being helpful and for always sitting beautifully on the carpet!
• Year 2	<b>Alex Jasinski</b> for his mature attitude to learning and for trying his best!
• Year 3	<b>James Fitzpatrick</b> for having an excellent attitude! He is always happy to contribute to lessons!
• Year 4	<b>Isabella Ramsden</b> for having the right attitude ALL the time!
• Year 5	<b>Noora Moshtael</b> for having the right attitude to learning. she always tries her best and really wants to do well in lessons. Keep it up Noora!
• Year 6	<b>Libby Hurst</b> for having a fantastic attitude to learning which is helping to grow her confidence!



### Links Partnership Sports Stars of the Week

Joseph Holmeshaw and Noora Moshtael were chosen as this week's stars for making a huge effort. Well done children, we are all very proud of you both!

### 'Smiley' House Points

We now have new Smilies which look like coins. When children receive them it is recorded on their personal record and then deposited in the new Perspex container in the hall. At the end of each term the coins will be counted by the House captains and the winning House for that term will be rewarded with 'Golden Time' and an opportunity to dress in their House colour on the last day of term (or another day if there is Mass on the last day). We will no longer provide a total until the points are counted at the end of term.

### Top Table

This week the 'family' invited to sit at the 'Top Table' by Mrs Bower and her team of midday supervisors was the Nightingale family. The members of the Nightingale family are: Nicole Mercado, Jack Waldron, Nadia Kepinska, Ava Jones, Hibah Javid, Daniel Hill, Mike Masuka and Ethan Usher-Aston. Congratulations children, we are all very proud of you! Though for the last two weeks lunchtime families receiving the 'Top table' treatment have had hot dinners the award can also be given to 'families' who have packed lunches.

### Focus Group

Following feedback about the report format we are looking to review it and we want to get it right. I would therefore like to involve as many parents and carers as possible in this process. If you would like to share comments, ideas and concerns about the report format – especially if you provided us with feedback in the summer - please contact Mr Smith via his email address ([i.smith@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk](mailto:i.smith@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk)). Thank you for your support.



### Weekly Liturgy of the Word

I would like to thank Mrs Holloway and the young people of Y5 for leading the liturgy yesterday. Next week our liturgy will be led by the children of Y4 and we invite the family and friends of our Y4 pupils to join us in the school hall just after 9.00am.

### 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
Ethan Usher-Ashton	Emily Cowlinshaw	Cole Hague	William Ludlam	Vinny Ambrose	Sam Devoti	David Crosby-Griffin

### **Parenting Puzzle Course**

A key part of Mrs Asquith's role is to develop a supportive partnership with parents and carers. This course supports families seeking to get the best out of family life by looking at how parents nurture children and also themselves. The programme provides simple and effective tools that will help parents enable children to:

- understand and manage their feelings and behaviour
- improve relationships at home and in school
- improve emotional health and wellbeing
- develop self-confidence and self-esteem (crucial for effective learning)

The course aims to do this by:

- building on pre-existing parenting skills
- using positive behaviour management
- looking at the emotional needs of parents.

The six-week course will take place in the library on Tuesday evenings from 7.00pm to 9.00pm starting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October and lasting until Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November (with no session during the half-term holiday).

A letter will be sent out shortly and I urge you to sign up if you feel that it would benefit you. Thank you.

### **Achievements Outside School**

- **Partrick Lodge** in Y5 passed his Stage 2 swimming this week! A fantastic achievement, well don Rowan!

Please let us know if your child has an achievement to share so we can celebrate it!

### **Weekly Attendance Winners**

This week the girls and boys of **Y5** were in first place with **100%** attendance and they will be visited by Bobby Bear! In second place were the children of **Y2** also with **99.7%** but they had less pupils arriving on time. In third place were the young people of **FS2** who managed **99.5%** attendance and will be visited by Elvis the Owl. Congratulations all of you! The average overall attendance for the week was **97.9%** which is above our target of 97%, thank you.

### **Statement to Live By**

Next week our statement to live by is: "**I can say how I feel!**"

**Time to talk:** Together Together you could explore why it is important to feel that you can say how you feel, especially if something does not seem quite right. Who can you turn to at home and at school if you need to tell?

Have a great weekend,  
F Barratt