



St John Fisher Weekly News



Friday 20th December 2013 (Issue 15 ~ 2013/14)

Performance Tables

Performance tables for primary schools based on the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) tests done last May, before our Ofsted inspection, have been published.

They are just one of the ways in which schools are judged. Clearly a performance table is a blunt measure as we know that building a successful learning community with strong relationships and a solid Christian foundation takes so much more than securing a good position on a league table. However it does reflect one aspect of the hard work we have been doing to secure the necessary improvements over the past year and a bit.

There are 141 primary schools in the city and we managed a big jump to 20th from our 2012 position. This is based on the proportion of children who achieved Level 4+ in reading, writing and mathematics. If you look at our results using a different Ofsted key measure called 'Average Points Score' (or APS) we were 16th!

We have a strong vision to build a community focused on excellence – not just in terms of securing the important academic outcomes but also in developing a proud and vibrant faith community where every child is known and loved and where parents and carers are welcomed and respected as full partners.

The Visit of Bishop John: New Date

I would like to remind you that Bishop John Rawsthorne will visit us on **Monday 20th January 2014**.

He will arrive around 1.30pm and will be shown around the school so that he can visit every classroom and meet the children. At 2.30pm Bishop John will lead a simple liturgy of thanksgiving which will include a blessing and formal opening of our new library and administration block. You are all invited to join us for the liturgy along with other guests who are playing a part in renewal, including Father Paul, Governors, our partners from the Diocese of Hallam, representatives of AEDAS and Carnam as well as the PTFA.

Following the liturgy the children will return to class and you will be invited to remain in the hall for some refreshments and an opportunity to meet with Bishop John and our other guests until the end of the day.

Today's Key Stage 2 Community Carol Service

I would like to remind you that our Key Stage 2 Community Carol Service takes place this afternoon from 2.00pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. You are all invited to join us at the service and then back at school for refreshments and cakes laid on by members of the PTFA. The PTFA would be grateful for any donations of cakes and buns. Thank you. I would like to thank the children and my colleagues in advance.

Golden Children

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

• F 2	Scarlet Cook for being confident enough to stand on stage and sing all the nativity songs!
• Year 1	Marcus McKernan for doing really well in his mathematics assessment and for making a real effort!
• Year 2	Alex Ludlam for trying really hard in all areas of the curriculum!
• Year 3	Jack Waldron for presenting his work neatly and acting on the teacher's comments!
• Year 4	Jasmine Green for making excellent progress in mathematics this term. She has worked really hard!
• Year 5	Oliver Peters for making excellent progress in mathematics and for always challenging himself!
• Year 6	Travis Beresford for having an excellent attitude to all his work this term!



Links Partnership Sport Stars of the Week

I would like to pay tribute to our 'Ultimate Frisbee' squad who participated in an interschool tournament recently. They played really well and only just missed out in each match. Importantly, they had a great time and worked well together as a team. Well done to: Sasha Dunks, Libby Kilbride, Joseph Stamford, Finn Lodge, Finlay Morris, Leighton Gough and Thomas Wood, and thank you to Miss Kipling for transporting them and to our PE coaches for preparing them.



PTFA: Santa in School Day

Father Christmas had a wonderful time visiting our school yesterday - right from the moment he landed and waved to the children from the library roof before school.

All the children from the very youngest to the very oldest had a fantastic time visiting Santa and buying little gifts and treats at the Christmas Fair. The children enjoyed the experience with their buddies and I was so impressed with how the older children behaved as they looked after their younger buddies.

I would like to thank Santa for taking time out of his hectic schedule to be with us and to help make the day so memorable for our young people as well as our PTFA members – including all the new volunteers - for giving up their precious time to make the day so special for the children. They all looked resplendent in their elf costumes! They have been preparing for this event for most of the year, and their hard work paid off, giving us all a special day to remember!



WANTED WANTED WANTED!

Foundation 2 and Years 1 and 2 desperately need all your empty boxes and packaging to use in class for the new theme "marvellous Machines" next term. All your Christmas present boxes - large and small - as well as empty plastic bottles (pop, washing liquid etc), plastic bottle tops, cardboard tubes (not toilet rolls), bubble wrap. We would appreciate it if the plastic items are washed and clean. Thank you!

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

The next liturgy is on **Thursday 9th January 2014** will be led by the young people of **Year 6** and start just after 9.00am in the school hall. The family and friends of our Year 6 pupils are very welcome to join us. Thank you.

Weekly Attendance Winners

For the week ending 06-12-13 in first place are the girls and boys of FS2 who achieved a 99.7% attendance - and will be visited by Bobby Bear. In second place were the children of Year 4 with 99.1% attendance and they will receive a visit from Brenda Bear (Bertie has emigrated)! In third place were the young people of Year 3 who managed 98.1% attendance and will be visited by Elvis the Owl. Congratulations all of you!

The average attendance was **98%** which is back above our target of 96%, thank you.

Achievements Outside School

- Rowan Lodge in Year 1 achieved his 10m back stroke badge. Congratulations Rowan!
- Poppy Walton in Year 2 received an amazing certificate after securing a yellow belt in karate! Fantastic!
- Sam Orbell in Year 2 achieved his Stage 2 swimming award! What a fantastic achievement, well done!
- Ola Dominiak achieved her 5m front crawl certificate! Wow Ola, we are all very proud of you!
- Daphney Adebayo in Year 4 came first in a 400m race at the EIS and was awarded a special certificate!
- Patrick Lodge in Year 4 passed his stage 5 in swimming. What an amazing achievement! Well done!

Statement to Live By

Next week our statement to live by is: "**I know we are happiest when we are united.**"

Time to talk: being united is about being together. Our school community is stronger when we are together. What sorts of things keep a community united?

Mission Together

Thank you for your donations. We managed to raise £106.28 for this important charity.

Finally

The last two terms have really whizzed by and September now seems like a distant memory! Much has been done to take the school forward during this time and I would like to recognise the hard work and dedication of my colleagues for the part they have played in ensuring that our children not only enjoy but achieve.

I would also like to thank Sarah Ludlam and the Governors for all their hard work as well as our partners from the Diocese of Hallam; Mr John Cape, Mrs Clare Thorpe, Mr Ed Whittaker and Mr Tom Garrud in particular.

Finally I would like to thank you for your continuing support and our special children who make our school the great community it is! I hope you all have a joyful Christmas and peaceful new year!

God bless,
Mr Barratt