



St John Fisher News

Friday 20th November 2015 (Issue 11 ~ 2015/16)



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Citizen of the Week

This week's recipient is **Isabelle Walton-Hall** (Y4) for understanding how to look after herself in line with this week's 'Statement to Live By'. Isabelle has been through so much over the past few months and has had to endure a lot of pain as she has undergone difficult treatment on her legs. She has also had to put up with the frustration of being confined to a wheelchair for much of the time – which has been hard for such an active young lady. She is very brave though and has somehow managed to carry on with such cheerfulness and fortitude. Never complaining and always positive, even when the pain has almost been too much, Isabelle has shown herself to be a wonderful example and an absolute credit to her family. I would like to also mention her friends, classmates and my colleagues who are supporting her - especially Ruby Hayward. As Isabelle prepares for her operation next week our thoughts and prayers are with her.

The SJF Sunshine Chaplaincy Team

Yesterday our new Chaplaincy Team took part in a special team-building day led by the 'In Reality' Diocesan Youth Team. During a special fun-packed day they chose a new name and took part in a range of activities building up to a fantastic whole-school liturgy which they led with support from the 'In Reality' group. In next week's newsletter there will be photos and a report from our new chaplains. I would like to thank the 'In Reality' team, Mrs Asquith and Mrs Holloway for planning the day as well as all the children who took part for being so enthusiastic and an absolute credit to themselves and our community.

Here is a message from Mrs Holloway about the Chaplaincy Team's project for Christmas: Mary's Meals

Mary's meals is a no-frills charity with a simple idea that works: to provide one good meal in a place of learning in countries that are less developed than our own.

Mary's Meals is named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty. They aim to reach out to people of all faiths and no faith. Their vision is that every child should receive one daily meal in their place of education. Just £12.20 will feed a child for one whole year!



*Up until the end of December 2015, the government will match every £1 raised. So that means, for every £12.20 we raise, **two** children will be fed for one whole year rather than just one!*

We would like to support this charity in two ways:

- 1. In place of the 50p Friday on Friday 18th December, we will be having a 'wear-a-Christmas-jumper-day' with Christmas film in the afternoon. Children will be asked to make a donation of £1.*
- 2. We are joining the Mary's Meals Backpack Project. Each backpack that is filled will be given to children to help them get the most out of their education.*

Suggestions for items to go into the backpack include: clothes, stationery, a spoon (plastic), toiletries such as a toothbrush, toothpaste and a bar of soap, a small ball and a towel. The charity asks that we do not include liquids, sweets and toys as it causes problems at customs.

If you would like to help you can choose to donate an item or two which will be added to a backpack or if you would prefer you can donate a full backpack. If this is what you want to do please label it clearly as a boy's backpack or a girl's.

There will be a box outside the Year5 classroom for donations to be put in. The Chaplaincy team will be organising the backpacks for the children.

House News



St Andrew's Feast Day

Please remember that **Monday 30th November** is BLUE DAY to mark the feast of St Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland. Members of St Andrew's House can wear something blue instead of school uniform, whilst the children in other Houses must wear normal school uniform as usual. Thank you.

School Dinners

2015 School Christmas Dinner

The school Christmas dinner will, this year, be served Tuesday 8th December 2015. Details will be sent out shortly by my colleagues in the School Office. If you would like your child to have a school Christmas dinner please make sure that you read the information and respond in time. Thank you.

Changes

Today a letter was sent home detailing important changes that are being made to the way school dinners will be ordered and paid for from January 2016 when we move to a cashless system called 'ParentPay'. If you have not seen the letter, please check your child's school bag. I have also arranged for it to be emailed too.

From January you will be able to order your meals on a weekly basis. Children will therefore be able to change their choices week-to-week. The children will also be able to swap between school dinners and packed lunches if this is what they would prefer to do. We are also introducing an additional daily jacket potato-plus-topping choice to the menu.

The changes to the lunchtime routine that were introduced this week appear to have had the desired effect and have been popular with the children. We will continue to monitor it closely.

A key driver for all this change to school dinners has been an effort to respond positively to feedback, especially where we have been asked to provide greater flexibility and more choice. I would be interested to know whether the changes are working as intended. Please let me know about issues/problems as well as the positives and things that you like so that we can keep doing what is good and put right what is not.

Menu

I have been informed that an unexpected change was made to the menu this week which caused concern to some of you. The late change to the menu sent out before half-term was made by Taylor-Shaw. It meant that not all the children received the meal they had expected - and I am sorry for this. I would like to advise you that the next time this meal will be served is 7th December. By the time it is due to be served for a third time we will be operating to the new weekly system with the additional daily jacket potato option.

As stated at the school dinner presentation/food-tasting event last summer, all food produced by Taylor Shaw for our meals is nut-free. So whilst one of the choices was unfortunately changed this week it was at least safe for all children who have nut allergies.

Again I would like to apologise for this late and unexpected change and for the concern and upset that it has caused. Unfortunately changes may occur from time-to-time for a range of reasons including supply issues. Sometimes it might be a one-off change and sometimes it might have to be a longer-term change. I am advised that it happened with our previous provider occasionally as well. We will do all we can to avoid any late changes and where this is not possible we will aim to let you know, so that you are at least aware.

November Remembrance

The Royal British Legion wrote to thank us for raising money by selling poppies in the weeks leading up to Armistice Day. In total we raised £115.62 in order to help them in their vital work of providing lifelong support for the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, Reservists, veterans and their families. Thank you for your support.

Please remember that this month we pray for special people who have died. If you have a photo of someone you would like us to pray for please send it in with their name and your child's name on the back. We will pray for them during our November assemblies and will return the photos at the end of November.



Parish News

You are all invited to the Christmas Fair at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall on Saturday 21st November 2015 between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. There is free entry for children and for adults the cost is just 50p which includes free entry into the prize draw. There will even be an opportunity to meet Father Christmas! All are welcome!

Achievements Outside of School

- **Ola Dominiak** in **Y4** achieved her brown belt in Freestyle Karate last Sunday and this week she received a special certificate for swimming 100m! Congratulations Ola, what fantastic achievements!
- **Eesaa Dinn** in **Y3** has achieved the STA Octopus 3 certificate, the final award in the Octopus series. To achieve this he had to successfully complete a number of different swimming-related challenges! He is now ready to progress on to Goldfish series. Congratulations Eesaa, a wonderful achievement!
- **Ellie Cheetham** in **Y4** has achieved a number of different ice-skating awards and now skates to a very high standard! What fantastic achievements Ellie, we are all very proud of you!
- **Owen Pack** in **Y4** has received a number of awards recently for his football skills and performances for his team. He is extremely proud to have been named 'Man of the Match' recently! What fantastic achievements, well done!

Global Entrepreneurship Event

A letter was sent home recently about this special opportunity. There was also an assembly led by Mrs Darken. If your child would like to get involved there is still time.

Golden Children

This week's Golden Children are:

FS2	Max Oadley for increased confidence and for always joining in at music time, especially in rehearsals for the nativity play!
Year 1	Marisa Avelino for remembering so much about the Baptism topic and for having the confidence to share this information with the class!
Year 2	Phoebe Kilbride for working hard and trying her best and for excellent behaviour! Phoebe can always be relied upon to do the right thing!
Year 3	Alice Curtis for having a fantastic attitude to learning all week! Keep it up please!
Year 4	Harry Parkin for showing a wonderful attitude and understanding in his Mathematics!
Year 5	Francis Needham for creating a fantastic PowerPoint presentation about what he wants to be when he is an adult as part of the Global Entrepreneurship Challenge! Well done!
Year 6	Luckie Msungi for producing fantastic RE work this week!

Assemblies

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Next **Thursday 26th November** the liturgy will be led by the young people of **Y3** and the family and friends of our Y3 children are invited to join us in the school hall just after 9.00am.

Blessing of the Advent Wreaths

We are delighted to welcome Father Paul to officiate at the blessing of this year's Advent Wreaths in a simple liturgy that will be led by the children of **Y4** to mark the start of the Season of Advent. It takes place at **2.30pm** on **Friday 27th November 2015** in the school hall and all are welcome!

Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to all the children mentioned in today's assembly. Thank you also to everyone who joined us, it was really nice to see you. There will be **no** celebration assembly next week (Friday 27th November) because of the Blessing of the Advent Wreaths so the next Celebration Assembly will be on **Friday 4th December** and the parents, carers, family and friends of our **FS2** pupils are invited to join us at 2.50pm in the school hall.

Writing Champions

FS2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Lexi Gascoigne	Daniel Hill	Evan Siner	Kacper Smiechowski	Joel Broadhead	Jack Waldron	Daphney Adebayo

Please look out for their fantastic work in the school hall

University of Sheffield Visit

On Monday 16th November, Year 5 took part in a 'Discovery Science' day at the University of Sheffield. Everyone had a fantastic time and their manners and behaviour were a real credit to our school. In fact many members of the public on the tram even commented on their wonderful manners.

The children took part in many different science activities and had a tour around the university too. We won't say too much more as the Year 6 children will be taking part in the same day in December and we will report back after that!



We are the Champions!

I am delighted to inform you that our Ultimate Frisbee team came first in an inter-school competition organised by our partners from Links today!

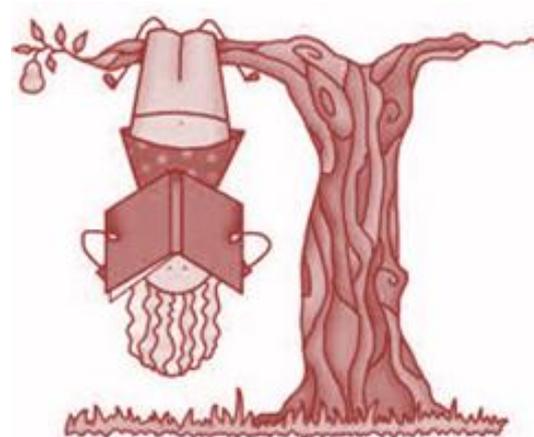
Congratulations children, we are all very proud of you!

EXTREME Reading

Are you an extreme reader? Books don't need electricity or a comfy chair. We can read them **anywhere** and **everywhere!**

We are inviting you ALL (including everyone in your family) to take part in the St John Fisher Extreme Reading Challenge! It is all about finding different, exciting, fun and **safe** places to enjoy a book. Somewhere a bit different and unusual!

Take your book with you wherever you go and snap a quick picture or create an illustration of the moment to show where you have been reading - any *extreme* place!



Bring your pictures into school, with your name on the back and give it to your teacher. Email them too (enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk) and we might post them on the website! All pictures will be displayed alongside other extreme readers – pupils, their family members and staff! Why not go for it?

Top Table

Today Mrs Bower and her team of lunchtime supervisors chose the Eagle family to sit on the Top Table today. Congratulations to: Sophie, Hibah, Xiomara, Ethan, Alhamzah, Kessy, Polly, Isobel and Maya, we are all very proud of you!

Daily Advent Class Reflections

From Monday 30th November we will start our daily Advent reflections in each class. There will be three reflections in each class per week. There will not be Advent reflections on PE days and Fridays. As in previous years parents, carers, family and friends are welcome to join us but spaces are limited and should be booked on the day you wish to attend through the School Office. Thank you.



Attendance This Week

FS2	90.8%	
Year 1	96.4%	Elvis the Owl will visit next week!
Year 2	95.0%	
Year 3	98.1%	Bobby will visit next week!
Year 4	93.1%	
Year 5	94.7%	
Year 6	97.3%	Brenda Bear will visit next week!
Weekly Target	97%	This week's Average Attendance
		95.1%

Unfortunately we have been hit hard by the various bugs and infections that are going around at the moment.

Statement to Live By

Next week our 'statement to live by' is **"I think before I make choices that affect my health"**

Time to talk: Together you could think about what it means to be healthy. What sorts of things help us to be healthy? What sorts of things will make us unhealthy? How can making healthy choices help us to be happy?



Have a good weekend,
Mr Barratt