



St John Fisher News

Friday 24th April 2015 (Issue 29 ~ 2014/15)



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★ Citizen of the Week

This week's recipient is **Saffron Kilbride** (Y3) who was chosen for remembering this week's statement to live by: **'I know when to ask for help and who to ask for help from'**. In the past there were times when Saffron did not always feel confident enough to say how she felt, particularly if she needed help with something. Not anymore! Saffron is now prepared to ask for help because she understands that this is what she should do. Just by doing this simple thing Saffron now feels more confident, self-assured and happy. Congratulations Saffron, you are a great example to others and we are all very proud of you!

Group Photographs

Please note that the school photographer will be with us on **Thursday 30th April 2015** from 9.00am.

St George's Art Day

The following article was written by Mr Smith about our special Art Day for the Sheffield Star:

"Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more!" was how the children at St John Fisher celebrated St George's Day and British values.

The children came off the normal curriculum timetable to undertake a day entirely dedicated to art and design: painting, drawing and sculpture. The focus for their work was based upon Paolo Uccello's Painting of "Saint George and the Dragon" painted in 1470. The children were to use this as a basis to understand the idea of heroes and produce art work of their own.

There was lots of discussion about the story of Saint George slaying the dragon before the children began their own works of art. Some of the older children



also experienced Shakespeare's "Cry God for Harry, England and St George" speech from Henry V as inspiration for their work. The children discussed heroes and their own ideas of what a hero is based upon their own lives and experiences. This also led to investigations and discussion about "Great Britons" as ambassadors for our country in such areas as: art, literature, science, politics and sport to name just a few.

Some really amazing and imaginative pieces of work have been generated by the children, in a day which highlighted the mythology of Saint George and the dragon and also allowed children to explore British values through people who have given so much to others and England in the spirit of Saint George.

Huge thanks must go to Mrs Darken who coordinated the whole day and supported colleagues with resources and ideas, but also led the event with such enthusiasm that it was impossible not to fully embrace and engage with the theme of the day. Both children and staff had a fantastic time which will definitely lead to many more events like these.

Currently the school is looking at ways to display the art work around the school, so all children and staff can appreciate each other's creativity and imagination. This was simply a fantastic day of learning experienced through lots of different methods and media.

The artwork will be exhibited in the school hall from **3.00pm** on **Monday 27th April** so that it can be viewed before the children are collected at the end of the school day. You are all very welcome.

St George's Feast Day

The members of St George's House came to school dressed in red yesterday and enjoyed a range of fun activities for part of the afternoon to mark their patron's feast day. I would like to thank Mr Hawley (Head of House) and Mrs Prentice for helping make everything so enjoyable for the pupils. Here are some photographs doing their challenges.



"I found it fun and exciting, especially the building part. This was my favourite last feast day ever!"

Stella Avelino (Y6)

Plants, Seeds & Soil Needed

Here is a message from Mrs Darken:

We are blessed in Foundation with a wonderful outdoor learning space and now the weather is getting better we would love to make the most of this area by planting a range of plants and seeds. We are hoping to build some raised beds to plant with vegetables and herbs and would like to fill some pots and borders with flowers.

We are looking for any donations of small plants, seeds, plant pots, tools or bags of compost or soil that could further this project. We really feel that the children can gain massive educational benefits from this project in addition to having loads of fun.

These will not only be used by Foundation Stage 2 but we are hoping that all the classes may have their own planters that they can tend to. In addition if there are any budding gardeners who would be willing to get involved with the gardening project we would love an extra pair of hands. Thank you in advance.

Mrs Darken

e-Safety

Please remember that useful advice is available via our website via this address/link:
<http://www.st-johnfisher.org/parents/esafety/> .

Exhibition

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No it's Foundation Stage 2!

The children in FS2 have been learning about superheroes and made their own superhero costumes, capes and masks, designed their own superhero and wrote a story about them. Here are some of the superheroes flying to the rescue!



This Week's Golden Children

● FS2	Olivia Wood for settling into St John Fisher in such a positive way. What an asset to our school!
● Year 1	Sami Hardy for making good choices this week and for sitting beautifully on the carpet. He has done some super writing too! Well done!
● Year 2	Laurie Paige for being an independent learner in Mathematics sessions and developing her own skills by helping others!
● Year 3	Lily Sanders for an excellent use of technique in her artwork. She took her time and worked very carefully to produce great results!
● Year 4	Jack Green for a positive attitude and excellent work in art lessons this week!
● Year 5	Luckie Msungi for working very hard on his hero picture. Well done Luckie, you were very careful!
● Year 6	Abigail Watters for giving her best effort in everything she does. This has meant her progress has been great this year!

The New Pupil Mini Reports

Yesterday the new mini reports were sent home giving information on where your child is in the new assessment system introduced to record progress in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. The results are from the assessments done just before the Easter holidays. The format of the report was redesigned with the support of Parent & Carer Focus Group and Governors and was shared at a workshop last term. I hope you find it informative and useful.

Writing Champions

The following children were chosen by their teachers to be this week's 'Writing Champions' because they have been enthusiastic and have worked really hard to improve and enjoy their writing.

FS2	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Emilia Rodgers	Sophie Ball	Cole Hague	Harry Parkin	Jack Green	Matthew Bond	Ciara Brady

Achievements Outside of School

- **Eleanor Checkley** in **FS2** made her Rainbow Guide promise on 20th April and was welcomed into the guiding family by the 142nd Frecheville Rainbow Unit. She has also achieved a Bronze Award for successfully attending the Children's University for 30 hours! Congratulations!
- **Kiera Swift** in **Y5** achieved distinctions in both of her first two keyboard exams! The exams involved questions, scale work, exercises and two solo performance pieces for each exam! Everyone is very proud of her for the hard work she has put in and the commitment that she has shown. Congratulations Kiera!

Please don't forget to let us know about your child's achievements. It does not matter if it is big or small; if it is important to your child we will share it and celebrate it just the same! Thank you.

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

I would like to thank the young people and staff of Year 1 for leading the liturgy this week. Please note that next week's liturgy, which is being led by the children of **FS2** will have to take place on **Wednesday 29th April** because the school photographer is in school on Thursday. As usual the family and friends of our FS2 children are invited to join us in the hall just after 9.00am. Thank you.

Attendance

This week the girls and boys of **Years 1 and 2** were joint first with an incredible **100%** attendance! They will each share visits from Bobby and Brenda Bear. In third place were the young people of **Y3** who managed an excellent **99.3%** attendance and they will receive a visit from Elvis. Our whole-school average attendance this week was **98.75%** which is above our 97% target. Thank you.

Punctuality

Please remember that being even just a few minutes late all adds up to lost learning time.

- 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- 15 minutes late is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.

Statement to Live By

When we return our 'statement to live by' will be **"I understand what trust means"**

Time to talk: "The one who trusts in himself, in his own richness or ideologies is destined for unhappiness. The one who trusts in the Lord, on the other hand, bears fruit even in time of drought." (Pope Francis)

This word 'trust' is used very often in conversations. Why don't you use a dictionary to find the meaning? Why is trust important in our families, in our school and communities and in our world? What happens when trust breaks down? The Indian writer, Munshi Premchand, wrote: "Trust is the first step to love."

Prayers Please

We continue to pray for Stephen Christian, a former pupil who is suffering with incurable bone cancer. I know that Stephen and his family would very much appreciate your prayers as they face the challenging days and weeks ahead. Thank you.

Staff News

Next week we welcome back Mrs Evans following her maternity leave. Mrs Drake will continue teaching in Y3 until the end of Term 5. I am extremely grateful to Mrs Drake for all her hard work and dedication.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Barratt