



St John Fisher Weekly News



Friday 24th January 2014 (Issue 18 ~ 2013/14)

The Visit of Bishop John

Last Monday we welcomed Bishop John to bless and open our new entrance/administration block and refurbished library. The School Council, supported by Mr Smith, had canvassed the children and staff in school about possible names for both areas. The winning names were "Reading Wonderland" for the library and "The Butterfly Wing" for the administration wing.

During his visit the Bishop had a tour of the school and met children and staff in most of the classes. He then led a special liturgy prepared by staff and children in which all the different aspects of the community were represented as they presented symbols of their service to the children. The children read and sang beautifully and I was really proud of them.

I would like to thank my dedicated colleagues who worked so hard to prepare the service, the children and the school for the Bishop's visit; I would like to thank Bishop John for leading the service; the parents and carers who were able to join us including the representatives of the PTFA and before and after-school clubs; Father Paul, the Governors, the architect, the main contractor and the Diocese and finally I would like to thank our incredible young people who are the reason we are here at all.

There was a photo and article in Wednesday's Sheffield Star (archived copies are accessible through the free app if you missed it) and there will be a further article in this week's 'Class Act' supplement to look out for.

Parking Around School

The parking situation around school is being considered currently by Sheffield City Council as a result of complaints made to them directly, to the police and to school and I will keep you informed of any developments. In the meantime I ask that you continue to consider the safety of pedestrians (especially our children) when you park. Thank you.

CBBC's 'Joke Machine'

On Wednesday a group of children from Years 5 and 6 took part in filming for an exciting new CBBC show called 'The Joke Machine'. Filming took place at Rainbow Forge Community Primary School and the children who were selected had their names drawn out of a hat. The children joined others from Rainbow Forge and Birley Spa Primary School. They had to come up with their funniest joke and also witty responses to the Joke Master's put downs and praise. The children had a great time and (most of) the jokes were very funny! Look out for the programme when it is broadcast on the CBBC channel around May/June time – we will let you have the exact date if we are notified.

New Inclusion Zone

If you are able and willing to help us transform the new inclusion area (the former school and Headteacher offices) please let Miss Kiernan or Mrs Asquith know as soon as possible. All offers of help – small or big – are welcomed as we seek to transform this new and important area of school into the bright and inspiring space our children so richly deserve. Sadly we are not in a position to employ decorators and so are really relying on people volunteering some of their time to help. Thank you.

Pupil Progress & Achievement

The latest reports were sent home with the children on Wednesday. If you would like to discuss any aspect of it please make an appointment to talk to the relevant teacher.

School Shoes

Please note that children should wear black shoes in school. It is fine to travel to and from school in wellingtons or other boots, but children must change into shoes once in school. Please note that children should not wear shoes with raised heels. Thank you for your support.

PE Kit

We ask that children have a tracksuit in school so that they can participate comfortably in PE when it is outside. We ask that children always have appropriate trainers to wear for PE in school. Thank you.

'Reading Allowed'

I would like to thank everyone who attended this morning's meeting which was led by the authors (and former teachers) Cid and Mo to talk about the importance of reading and provide tips for encouraging children to read at home. They also explained how the 'Reading Allowed' programme we are introducing will work. We were joined by approximately sixty parents, which was incredible. The programme, which will be coordinated by Mr Hawley, involves older called 'experts' being trained to read to younger children to encourage them to enjoy books. This isn't about improving levels of progress - it really is not an intervention in that way. The programme is about children encouraging and inspiring other children to simply love books and reading. The experts were trained by Cid and Mo earlier in the week and have met their younger partners. Everyone enjoyed the training and is looking forward to starting the programme. If your child is involved we would appreciate your feedback.

Homework Club

Since September Miss Hardman has run a club each lunchtime from 12.15pm to 12.45pm. Its purpose is to provide all children with an opportunity to complete homework or research they wish to do as part of a project. Very occasionally children who have not finished work in class are also asked to attend.

The club gives children an opportunity to get ahead by doing the homework in school time with a member of staff available there to support them if they find anything difficult. They have access to the school's resources – including IT – which can sometimes be difficult for families, and the school library. Older children also support and encourage the younger children.

All children are welcome, and the club has proved to be really popular with up to 30 children present each day. It is really great to see children of all ages taking responsibility for their own learning and organising themselves to attend the club. If you have any questions or feedback, please speak to Miss Hardman. Thank you.

New SJF 'Rainbows' Programme

Rainbows is the highly regarded and school-based programme designed to support children having a hard time in the lives for one reason or another that we are about to introduce here at St John Fisher. I would like to thank those who attended the meeting about it yesterday. If you were unable to attend and would like some information please speak to Mrs Asquith.

The Rainbows sessions for children will take place after school on a Monday evening 3.30pm – 4.30pm and are aimed at children who need time to reflect after a bereavement, separation or divorce or who are coming to terms with other big changes in their family life.

Supporting Parents and Carers

On Thursday 6th March from 9.15am to 11.15am we will be starting a new six week course for parents called 'Living with Children'. This course aims to help parents help their children's life skills such as:

- managing their own behaviour;
- listening more effectively to children;
- helping children to understand their own feelings and behaviour so that they can adapt to their ever changing social world; and
- learn skills of negotiation and compromise.

If you would be interested in taking part please let Mrs Asquith know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Maths Workshops for Parents and Carers

We will be holding the first of a series of workshops to show you how we teach mathematical skills to the children. We will start by focusing on calculation strategies. The workshop will be after school on **Wednesday 5th February 2014** and you are all welcome. We will supervise children so that you can attend. Please be assured that we are here to help you in any way that you need and there is no such thing as a silly question, so please ask away! If you require specific support yourself with mathematics then please let us know in confidence. Thank you.

Education Sunday 2014 – Going Above and Beyond

Education Sunday is a day of celebration for all those involved in the world of education. For over a century it has been part of an ecumenical celebration in which the Catholic Church participates. This year Education Sunday will take place on Sunday 16th February. We will be sending home a special edition of the 'Wednesday Word' to each family nearer the time which contains further information.



Links Partnership Sports Stars of the Week

The children identified as Sports Stars by our coaches last week were: Sam Jephson, Francis Needham, Evie Flint, John Genita, Patrick Lodge and Lydia Cartwright! Well done, we are all very proud of you!

Golden Children

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

• F 2	Evan Siner for trying really hard and for being kind to others!
• Year 1	Filip Dominiak for building a fantastic model out of meccano with Evie and for doing some wonderful writing on the whiteboard!
• Year 2	Jared ward for his new found love writing!
• Year 3	Ben Rogers for being more focused and independent in his learning! He has been a star!
• Year 4	Hannah Moomba for her fantastic contribution to the Bishop's liturgy last Monday. She wrote some beautiful words and then read them clearly!
• Year 5	Hubert Jaworski for really challenging himself in numeracy!
• Year 6	Winnie Saxton for making a real effort to progress her writing!

The Sheffield Parents' Survey Report and The Parents' Assembly

The last survey was carried out in 2012 and another is planned for later this year. The survey headlines are available via the following web address: www.sheffield.gov.uk/sps . The survey is one way in which Sheffield parents and carers can have their say, but another is the Parents' Assembly. This is a network of over 670 parents/carers from across the city and they are always looking for new parents/carers to get involved. You can follow the assembly on Twitter (@SheffParents / #parentsassembly) and like it on Facebook (www.facebook.com/parentsassembly). Thank you.

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Thank you to Miss Kipling, Mrs Evans and the young people of Year 4 for leading yesterday's liturgy. Next week's liturgy will be on **Thursday 30th January 2014** will be led by the children of **Year 3** and will start just after 9.00am in the school hall. The friends and family of our Year 3 pupils are very welcome to join us. Thank you.

House Points This Week

St Andrew	St David	St George	St Patrick
Smilies This week			
197	140	167	198

Weekly Attendance Winners

For the week ending 24-01-14 in first place were the girls and boys of **Y3** who achieved a **99.1%** attendance and will be visited by Bobby. In joint second place were the children of **FS2** and **Y1** with **98.7%**. They will be visited by Brenda and Elvis. Congratulations all of you! The average attendance was **96.8%** which is a dip on last week's total, but still above our target of 96%, thank you.

Achievements Outside School

- Jack Green in Year 3 has won the 2013 the 'Student of the Year' trophy in Wing Chun Kung Fu
- Sophie Tiree in Year 6 performed brilliantly to achieve her blue badge in archery. This is her third badge at the 10m distance. She had to achieve 191 points, but in fact managed a staggering 300!
- Corey Goodinson in Year 6 took part in the NER Diving Grand Prix for the second time and won a gold medal at the skills/novice level! He also won gold medal again at a higher level for the first leg on a 1m board making him the NER and South Yorkshire Champion in his age group! The next competition is in Leeds in March and there Corey will participate in the 3m competition. What amazing achievements Corey, we are all very, very proud of you!

Statement to Live By

Next week our statement to live by is: **I try to use words that make the world a better place. (Please, sorry, thank you).**

Time to talk: Why is it important to have good manners? What would our school and homes be like if everyone forgot about their manners? Why does using certain words make the world a better place?

Enjoy the weekend,
Mr Barratt