



# St John Fisher News

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 (Issue 28 2012/13)

## 'Streets Ahead' Assembly

The children will participate in a special assembly on Monday which will be led by Millie Guthrie from the 'Streets Ahead' project. The first purpose of the assembly is to share general information with the children about the forthcoming developments and the second is to raise awareness about the potential hazards and the dangers of playing in or near building sites. The assembly will be followed by a session aimed at our Year 6 children specifically.

## Library

A key priority of mine is to drive up literacy standards and we have been doing a number of things to support this, for example introducing Read Write Inc. As part of this we are aiming to develop the environment to ensure that it is more "literacy-rich" throughout school, and particularly in the library. Up until recently the library was set up and used almost exclusively as a classroom which meant that, in reality, we did not have a suitable library to inspire our children and encourage a fascination with and love of books and reading. Many of our books are also old or in a poor state of repair and therefore need replacing, which will prove expensive. We have a project in school currently to develop our library and make it an exciting learning space where our children want to be. This important project is being led by Mrs Cope and Mrs Golland, and I am very grateful to them both for the sterling work. I am also very thankful to our PTFA who are supporting this project in order to make it a reality for our children.

The vision is for our library to be a bright and vibrant space offering everything a public library does, including a choice of books that appeal to a wide range of ages, abilities and interests. We also want to offer internet access and DVDs. If you would like to support the PTFA in helping us create a library worthy of our fantastic young people please get in touch. If you have contacts and connections or information on obtaining grants/funding etc we would also like to hear from you as budgets are tight to say the least. Lastly in the future we will be looking for donations of high quality (and appropriate) new and nearly books and 'U' and 'PG' certified DVDs, so if you have some that you would like to donate please put them to one side until we get in touch. Thank you for your support.

## Golden Children

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

• Foundation 2	<b>Rafal Baratyn</b> for being eager to learn and for asking lots of super questions!
• Year 1	<b>Joel Broadhead</b> for completing an amazing piece of independent writing which he was then able to read back on his own!
• Year 2	<b>Kayliegh Collins</b> for making excellent progress in her writing!
• Year 3	<b>Jack Harwood</b> for working hard in his 'Big Maths' team for Mrs Asquith!
• Year 4	<b>Libby Hurst</b> for excellent work in her mathematics and for trying her best to achieve her goals without ever giving up!
• Year 5	<b>Finn Lodge</b> for making fantastic progress in mathematics. He is a great independent learner who always challenges himself!
• Year 6	<b>Princess Musngi</b> for always giving of her best and for growing in confidence in her own abilities

## Faith School Transport Subsidy

I would like to remind you that you have an opportunity to respond to the new local authority consultation on their proposal to withdraw the transport subsidy that many families across Sheffield rely on to ensure that their children can attend their nearest Catholic secondary school. Without the subsidy many children will struggle to attend a Catholic school. I urge you to support us whether your family is affected directly or not. If you responded to the first consultation you need to respond again as the responses to the first consultation have been scrapped. The local authority has tried to claim that the relatively low number of responses to the first consultation was an indication that Catholic families are not that concerned about the change, so this really is an important opportunity for us to show that we are concerned and want to stop this proposal. The address is: Inclusion and Learning Services, Floor 3, Howden House, Union Street, Sheffield. S1. 2SH.

## Gardens & Outside Spaces

I have contacted the Probation Service to arrange for a team of unpaid workers, as part of their Community Payback programme, to tidy up our outdoor spaces and smarten up benches and planters etc. The aim is for them to work in school on Saturdays (when the children are not in school). They would be supervised by a member of the Probation Service team. I am also looking for volunteers to help us design, develop and maintain our gardens, allotments and outdoor spaces. If you (or someone you know) has an interest in gardening, useful connections and/or some spare time I would really like to hear from you (or them). All volunteers will, of course, be subject to the necessary child protection security checks. Thank you.

## Super Writer!

At St John Fisher we celebrate all achievement and recognise the efforts our wonderful young people make. This week we have two more super writers; CJ Pinto and John Genita who are both in Year 3. CJ has been trying really hard to use more ambitious words in his writing lately. Mr Hawley, his Read Write Inc tutor, has noticed the huge effort that CJ is making. Below is a piece of independent writing that CJ did which exemplifies this. Well done CJ!

John is really enjoying learning through our Read Write Inc programme and is gaining in confidence in his independent work. To the right is a piece of work John completed independently that he wanted me to share and celebrate with you. Well done John, your determination is really paying off!



## The Holy Spirit Comes

(by CJ Pinto in Year 3)

*When the Holy Spirit came to the disciples they were frightened. The disciples were all together in one room feeling glum. All of a sudden the disciples got the holy Spirit and then they heard a noise. The noise was like a strong wind and there were people from all different countries.*

## Foundation Stage 2

Earlier in the week I sent an invitation to the parents and carers of our children in F2 to discuss the current situation. We are working very hard here at St John Fisher to provide continuity to our children whilst Miss Doherty is on long-term sick leave and now that Mrs Balfour has decided to retire. It was an important opportunity for me to reassure parents and ensure that they were fully aware of all that is being done to make the best of this difficult situation. It was also important for parents to have an opportunity to ask questions, share concerns and their perspective on the situation - as well as their ideas. At the end of the meeting parents/carers went up to have a look at the refurbished Foundation 2 environment and were very positive about what we doing. I would like to thank everyone who attended. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via our email address: [enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk).

## Weekly Attendance Winners

The classes achieving the highest attendance for the week commencing 22 April were:

- In first place was Y6 with 100% attendance over the week
- In second place was Y2 with 99.7% attendance over the week
- In third place was Y4 with 98.6% attendance over the week

Over the week our average pupil attendance was 98.3% which is above our target of 96%.

This means that Bobby will be visiting Y6 Bertie will be visiting Y2 and Elvis will be visiting Y4 next week.

## Weekly Word

As you know, for seven weeks a copy of the 'Wednesday Word' came home up to Easter. The purpose of the leaflet was to share the Gospel each week in a way that would engage the children. I would be very grateful if you would contact via our email address: [enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk) to share your views. Thank you.

### **Achievements Outside School**

Don't forget to share any achievements you child(ren) have outside school.

### **Statement to Live By**

Our statement to live by this week back is: **"I can recognise comfortable and uncomfortable feelings."**

**Time to talk:** You could explore how you feel and start talking about good feelings and bad feelings. What makes us feel good? What makes us feel anxious? What are the signs? How can we help our friends if we are feeling good and they are feeling bad? Who can help us if we have uncomfortable feelings?

Best wishes for a great weekend,

F Barratt