



St John Fisher Weekly News



Friday 27th September 2013 (Issue 4 ~ 2013/14)

Meet the Governors: Mr David Lodge

My name is David Lodge, one of the recently appointed Foundation Governors. I am a former pupil of St John Fisher (left in 1975 – do the maths!) and now a parent of Rowan (Y1), Finn (Y6) and Patrick (Y4) and married to Samantha from Galway. I studied as an Environmental Archaeologist in London but after 22 years working in the University sector (in Student Unions and latterly as a director of an educational charity for International Students) we decided to move out of London and now live in Owlthorpe. I found work as the Business Manager of St Michaels C & C of E High in Barnsley and have managed to close this school – only to replace it with a £25M new through school (Holy Trinity) which opened in September 2012. I have almost 10 years of experience as a Governor in the Diocese of Hallam and I am looking forward to being part of the journey to return St John Fisher to an outstanding school all around. In my spare time I like to take the boys out to walk in Derbyshire, visit historical sites, play and watch football (Sheffield Wednesday) and work on my allotment. Working 25miles away you will not see me very often in the playground I am afraid.



Visit of the HMI

Last Tuesday we were visited by the HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) assigned to our school whilst we are judged as requiring 'Special Measures'. His name is Mr Amraz Ali. It was a great opportunity for him to meet the children, my colleagues, Governors, the local authority and Mr Cape from the Diocese of Hallam. He also had a tour of our school and asked lots of questions about all the things we are (and have been) doing in order to recover and get back to 'Good' quickly. He deemed our action plan and that of the local authority to be 'fit for purpose' and will confirm all his findings in a letter which should be sent to school and published on the OFSTED website next week.

Pupil Premium & Free School Meals

Last week I wrote about how important it is for eligible parents and carers to claim free school meals for their children. Hopefully I reassured you that the school systems we have in place mean that children who receive free school meals are treated exactly the same as those who do not and as a consequence they are not identifiable to other children.

Children entitled to free school meals also receive the 'Pupil Premium' which is given to schools so that additional help and support can be targeted where needed to ensure that all children have the same opportunities to make or exceed expected progress. No child should be disadvantaged by circumstances beyond their control. This fund, and the support that comes with it, is all about levelling the playing field and ensuring that every child has a fair chance. If you would like to find out more please contact us.

Golden Children

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

• F 2	Emily Cowlshaw for being honest and truthful!
• Year 1	Aleksander Jasinski for using the library very sensibly on Year 1's first visit. He read a book quietly with his friends!
• Year 2	Saffron Kilbride for always listening to instructions, getting on quietly with her work and for always smiling!
• Year 3	Jenson Pugh for working hard on developing his learning behaviour, for example, joining in with discussions and writing some fabulous descriptive sentences!
• Year 4	Anca Nicula for creating really powerful images in her descriptive writing!
• Year 5	Ciara Brady is in the Golden Book for an unprecedented second consecutive week for being a great example of a good learner!
• Year 6	Gabriel Pinto for fantastic efforts in his writing. He has made a real difference!

Earrings & PE

Children are only permitted to wear small, plain and simple silver or gold studs to school if their ears are pierced BUT they must be able to remove them themselves for PE lessons. Children are **not** permitted to wear brightly coloured plastic studs or earrings or anything with diamante etc. I do appreciate your support in regards to this matter.

Weekly Attendance Winners

For the week ending 27-09-13 the girls and boys of F2 and Year 2 both achieved a magnificent 100% attendance! Bobby Bear will visit F2 and Bertie will visit Year 2 next week. In third place place were the young people of Year 4 who managed 99.4% attendance and will be visited by Elvis the Owl. Congratulations all of you!

The average attendance was 98.4% which beats our target of 96%. Well done everybody!

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Next Thursday our simple liturgy will be led by the boys and girls of Year 1. The liturgy will begin at 9.00am and the parents and carers of children in Year 1 are most welcome to join us. Please note that this is a change from the calendar.

House Points

St Andrew	St David	St George	St Patrick
Smilies This week			
149	51	123	166
Term 1 Running Total			
393	314	387	427



Links Partnership Sport Stars of the Week

The following children have been identified by our coaches as stars this week: Elizabeth Avelino, Joseph Stamford, Corey Goodinson, Olivia King, Sara Mura, Alex Ludlum and Fraser Owens! Congratulations all of you!

Achievements Outside School

- Thames Alexis in Year 1 achieved his Stage 2 'Learn to Swim' award! Congratulations Thames!

We are aware that there were a number of achievements emailed to school, however due to problems beyond our control the email system has not been working, meaning that we have not been able to access them. My apologies to you and your children. We will publish all achievements outside school next week.

Writing Champions

Improving writing standards is a huge priority for our school and celebrating any step forward that one of our children takes is something we are trying to do in order to affirm and encourage them to want to do better and better. In the hall is our 'Writing Champions' display, where work is displayed for the week before being placed in or outside the respective classrooms. Writing Champions will also be announced in the weekly newsletter.

Two children making big strides forward are Assiah Ruty-Gordon and Joshua Mercer in Year 4. This week they have been focusing on trying to use techniques in their writing that create powerful imagery. They came to share their success with me and I was astounded not just by the quality of their writing (which you will see is excellent), but by their enthusiasm too. Well done lads, we are all very proud of you both!

As the children approached the fair they could smell the cheesy burgers and the mustardy, salty hot dogs. They could hear the children laughing screaming. "This is soooo great! I wish I could come here everyday!"

They saw the cloudy pink cotton candy and the doughnuts had frosting with shiny sprinkles like diamonds!

"Cool toffee apples!" said Ravi. They could see the melted toffee on the sweet juicy apple.

Assiah Ruty-Gordon

As Ravi, Taj and Chandra zoomed past the gate they were shocked like lightning! They had a lot to go through. Straightaway they skated upside down on the rollercoaster. "Wahoo! This epic!"

Whoosh! Zap! Zam! Zoom! They went straight onto the bumper cars. After they went to the nearest food shop where they were drooling like dogs. Ravi bought a corn dog, Taj had a burger and Chandra got a hot dog.

"Ravi, look! Look! That rollercoaster goes under water and it goes into the clouds!"

"It does everything!" said Taj.

Joshua Mercer

Year 3 and 4 Viking day

The children of Years 3 and 4 will now be having their Viking Day on **Wednesday 2nd October**. As this is a special day the children of Y3 and Y4 are invited to come dressed as Vikings. Please note that it is not a non-uniform day and children not wishing to dress as a Viking can wear school uniform if they choose. Please be mindful of the weather conditions and temperature when putting together a costume. Thank you.

Paying for Dinners, Milk, Trips, Sports Activities etc

Please can I remind everyone that all payments should be sent into school in an envelope clearly named with your child's name, class and what the money is for. These envelopes should be given to your child for them to put into the 'Office box' which every class has. There are an increasing number of parents/carers coming to the office in the morning 'just to hand in an envelope' and we are still receiving cheques (without envelopes) and money in an envelope but without details on the front. Thank you.

Statement to Live By

Next week our statement to live by is: **"I can laugh and have fun!"**

Time to talk: Together you could remember some of the special times when you have laughed a lot and had fun as a family. What was special about each occasion? Why is it important to laugh and have fun at home and at school with our friends and families?

Have a great weekend,

Best wishes,
Mr Barratt