



# St John Fisher News

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013 (Issue 18 2012/13)

The newsletter has been sent out today, rather than Friday, because of the two training days last week.

## Maths Adventure

For the last nine weeks or so a group of our young people from Years 5 and 6 joined peers from other Catholic primary schools to participate in weekly 'maths Adventure' sessions at All Saints Catholic High School. All the children have really enjoyed the sessions and liked being challenged as they applied their mathematical knowledge and developed new skills in order to tackle a range of fun activities and challenges. I am very grateful to the staff of All Saints, especially Mr Sawyer for running Active Maths and Mrs Grant who liaises with the primary schools to make important and special events like this happen. I would also like to recognise the important role parents/carers had in supporting their children.

The children who represented our school were Anna Jaworska, Jake Lazenby, Isabelle Rolfe, Jack Jephson and Humayl Yunis from Y6, and Lydia Cartwright, Libby Kilbride and Finn Lodge from Y5. They were all fantastic and really engaged with the process positively. I am very proud of each of them.

On the last night the children had to prepare and deliver special presentations to show some of the things they had learned. They were awesome, and at this point I will leave it to some of them to tell you more in their own words:

*The maths adventure sessions were an amazing experience – like a journey to a different planet! When I first walked into that room I thought, its not going to be any different from normal maths, and then it came out to be 1000 times better!*

*When I was doing the presentation I was so frightened especially because when it turned out that we were last. So I sat in my seat waiting for our turn. When I was face to face with the audience it became easier and I began to enjoy it. The best news was our school won the trophy for the best school – for the second year in a row! And made maths a lot better!*

By Anna Jaworska. Y6

## PTFA News

Here is a message from our new PTFA Committee:

*Due to inclement weather and the two inset days last week the PTFA logo competition has been extended to Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January. Please can you send your entries in a separate envelope marked clearly:*

### **FAO PTFA LOGO COMPETITION**

*The prize for the winning entry will be four tickets for Cineworld. Can we please also make a plea to parents for donations of any unwanted spare Christmas wrapping paper, Christmas decorations etc as we are in the early stages of organising our massive Christmas event for this year. We will be holding a "Santa in School Day" which promises to be fun and exciting for the children and all involved. Donna Murphy will be in the playground each morning and evening to collect donations or answer any questions you may have.*

***Our next meeting will be in school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February in Y6 classroom at 3.30. All welcome. Thank you.***

## Important Information

I have been asked to inform you that as part of the 25 year 'Streets Ahead Project' to upgrade and maintain the highway network in Sheffield, there will be over 100 major highway improvement schemes across Sheffield in the next 5 years with a focus on then maintaining the Sheffield highway network to the improved standard for the remaining 20 years. Inevitably there will be times when the works will make travelling times to and from school and work longer.

As part of this city-wide initiative work will be starting shortly in the Mosborough, Birley and Beighton areas. Work is scheduled to take place between February and July 2013 so improvements can be made to: street lighting, drainage improvement sites, structural works, pavement resurfacing/kerbing and road resurfacing and white-lining.

Any changes to regular bus services or diversion routes will be publicised by South Yorkshire Passenger Transport (SYPT). Please keep checking [www.travelsouthyorkshire.com](http://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com) for the latest updates. You can also call Traveline on (01709) 515151 or follow @TravelSYorks on Twitter.

Further information on these and other improvement schemes is available via the 'Streets Ahead' web pages at [www.sheffield.gov.uk/streetsahead](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/streetsahead). There are maps in the 'Works Schedule' section of the website detailing the roads affected by the essential highway improvement works. You can also contact the 'Streets Ahead' team on (0114) 273 4567 or email [streetsahead@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:streetsahead@sheffield.gov.uk).

### **School Community Mass**

Please note that the young people of Years 3 and 6 will be leading a celebration of Mass at the parish church of Our Lady of Lourdes on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013. All welcome.

### **Driving Around School**

We have been notified of a complaint that has been made to police about alleged inconsiderate and dangerous driving around school at the beginning and end of the school day. The complaint is that some vehicles are driving too fast, overtaking dangerously and even, on occasions, mounting the kerbs. Clearly there are lots of children and toddlers on the pavements and crossing roads at the beginning and end of the day, and so there is a greater potential for accidents to occur. Please drive considerately and safely and ask any grandparents or carers to do the same. Thank you.

### **Timetable Changes**

Since September we have been planning a number of improvements to address key issues in school. Inevitably this will lead to changes being made to the way we do some things currently. The introduction of mixed age 'Big Maths'; the 'Read Write Inc' literacy system and a renewed approach to collective worship will require some alterations being made to the current timetable for example. One impact will be that 'Wake and Shake' will now be done *before* school starts, in the playground, when the weather permits. It will continue to be led by our older children and all pupils (as well as any enthusiastic parents/carers) will be invited to take part. We will give you more in due course.

For information, we will be holding a parent/carer workshop about the new Read Write Inc system in the coming weeks, so that you understand how the system works to support literacy development in our young people. I will give you more information as soon as the date is fixed. Thanks you.

### **Statement to Live By**

This week our statement to live by is: ***'I know we are happiest when we are united'***.

**Time to talk:** This week's statement links closely with the last one about community. You could think about why it is better for people in a community to be united – together. You could list some of the great things that have been achieved by groups of people who work together effectively in order to make great things happen against the odds.

You could find out about the GB cycling team who achieved such great success at the London Olympics in the face of stiff opposition. You could think about the attitude displayed by Bradford City, Leeds and Oldham teams who were so united in their belief that they each managed to win against bigger and supposedly better teams. You could find out about paralympian teams in which individuals have had to overcome so much in order to achieve big goals – for example, the lady who lost her legs in the 7/7 terrorist attacks in London who went on to participate in the successful GB paralympian volleyball team for example. You could even investigate the great things achieved in very poor but determined communities around the world. What is it about these groups of people that make them unstoppable even though there are so many difficult challenges? How could the attitude displayed by these groups of people who were united in their determination to achieve great things help in our classes, school, parish and local area?

### **Crucial Crew**

*Recently Y6 went on a trip to Crucial Crew. We went inside a building, which had a mimic street and learnt a lot of safety tips. Inside the street there was a court, the class were all given different roles and we acted out a court service.*

*We learnt many different topics about health and safety, our first subject being about fire, where we watched a video showing how fast it can spread and what safety precautions can be taken.*

*We moved into another large room (with a few other schools) and watched another video about fake phone calls, and the serious consequences of emergency services called out to fake incidents whilst unable to attend real ones.*

*We also discussed some first aid, including how to stop someone from losing too much blood from a wound and all about placing an unconscious person in the recovery position.*

*Overall, I think it was an incredible trip, great experience and have learnt many things from my visit.*

By Caitlin Goss Y6

*I really enjoyed the trip to crucial crew. It explained a lot of life saving information and tips for future. I think everyone enjoyed the day out and would love to visit again! An obvious choice, I would recommend this place not only to my family but to friends too.*

*All of it was brilliant but I thought the sessions about running away from home and shop lifting were the best lessons for the future. I did not expect an amazing trip like this, it was better than I thought! And it was worth the day out of school!*

By Anna Jaworska Y6

I would just like to thank Mrs McGreal, Mr Hawley and Mrs Asquith who went along and supported the children with the event.

### **Weekly Attendance Winners**

The classes achieving the highest attendance for the week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> January were:

- In first place was Y1 with 99.3% attendance over the week – WOW!!
  - In second place was Y2 with 97.3% attendance over the week
- In third place was Y4 with 97.2% attendance over the week

Over the week our average pupil attendance was 96.9% which was above our target of 96%.

This means that Bobby will be visiting Y1, Bertie will be visiting Y2 and Elvis will be visiting Y4 next week.

### **Achievements Outside School**

Dominic Rolfe in Year 3 achieved his 25m Distance Swimming Award! What a fantastic achievement Dominic, we are all very proud of you, well done!

### **Faith School Transport**

I would like to remind you that the City council's decision to remove *all* faith school travel subsidies is being challenged. Across the city there are so many families who will be adversely affected by this decision. Some families who want a Catholic education for their children might not now be able to afford the fares to their nearest Catholic school.

The Sheffield Family of Catholic Schools is looking for one Catholic family to build a case around. The family will be on a lower income but above the threshold for claiming free school meals. If you would like your family to be considered for this crucial action please get in touch with me. There would be no cost to you personally if your family is selected.

### **SJF Art Competition**

The children are invited to participate in an art competition. The children can decide what their picture or design will be and asked to be as imaginative as possible. Please pass all entries to Mrs Cooper by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

Have a fantastic week,

F. Barratt