

Dear Parents and Carers,

Staff News

Today we bade farewell to Mrs Jones who has covered Mrs Humphries' Year 2 class since the beginning of this school year. During her time at St John Fisher she has immersed herself in the life of our community and has worked hard to ensure that our Year 2 children have settled in well. I am so grateful to her for the wonderful contribution she has made, and we will be sad to see her go. Today the children and staff came together to thank her and present her with a small token of our appreciation. On Monday we welcome Mrs Stuart-Harris, an experienced teacher who will cover the Year 2 class until Mrs Humphries returns.

Parking

I have received some complaints from local residents regarding parking around school at the beginning and end of the school day. Apparently this has led to driveways and paths being blocked and cars being left on yellow lines. I understand that the parking situation around school is difficult, but I also appreciate the frustrations of local residents and therefore ask that you park considerately. Thank you for your support.

IT News

I am delighted to inform you that we have a new server in school! This means that children and colleagues are now able to make full use of our IT. An immediate priority of mine is also to set up a website, following information received from the Department for Education. There is a firm expectation from the DfE and OFSTED that all schools will have a website, but an attractive and accessible website is a great tool for engaging everyone in school life. In future important information about the school will be available via our website including the prospectus, newsletters, calendars, information about school events etc. The School Council are in the process of consulting their peers as to what sort of website they would like. I would like to acknowledge the great work of Mr Smith in making the server and website a reality.

Bluebell Wood

Today our Year 6 School Councillors joined Ms Golland in planting the bulbs in support of the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice. We were informed by one of our parents, Mrs Collins, that her daughter, Abigael, who is in Year 3 actually knew the first child to use the 'Forget-Me-Not Room', and has raised money to support the great work of the hospice herself. What a special young lady you are Abigael! Thank you to everyone who contributed towards this appeal, we managed to raise £60 in the end which will be sent off shortly.

ParentMail Information

In the future it is our intention to forward this newsletter via email, but before we do, we need to make sure that our 'ParentMail' information is up-to-date. We are still waiting for a number of updates. Please make sure that you have registered your current contact details, particularly mobile phone numbers and email addresses as soon as possible, so that you we can contact you in an emergency and make sure that you don't miss out on important updates and information. Thank you.

Partnership

I would like to thank everyone who attended yesterday's parent partnership meeting with Mrs Asquith. If you are interested in getting involved in any or all of the sessions, please contact school – you would be very welcome. I would like to thank Mrs Asquith for all her hard work to support this important initiative.

SJF PTFA

A reminder that there will be a meeting at 3.30pm on Thursday 4th October 2012 for anyone interested in sharing ideas for the setting up of our new PTFA. It would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible. It would be useful to know how many are coming, so please pass your details to the office. Thank you.

Statement to Live By

For next week our statement to live by is: ***'I know what to do if I see anyone being hurt'***.

Time to talk: Together you could explore this statement and what it means. What would you do if you saw someone being hurt? Who would you tell? Why is it important to act and not ignore? You could reflect on how it might feel to be the one who is being hurt. How would it feel if someone saw and did nothing to help you? What sort of community do we want our school to be?

Attendance

Thank you for all you do to support us in keeping our attendance above the magic 96% mark. The classes with the best attendance for week ending 21 September were:

1. In joint first place were **Y5** (again!), **Y3** and **Y2** - all with a **100%** attendance
2. In second place was **F2** with a **98.7%** attendance
3. In third place was **Y1** with **98.6%** attendance

The results were so good that I had to call on my friend Elvis the Owl to help us out. Bobby will stay with Y5 for the third week, Bertie will visit Y1 and Elvis will visit F2. Well done to you all. Who will win next week?

For the week ending 21-09-12 the average attendance was 98.7% which is above our target of 96%.

Mission Together

I would like to thank you for supporting this year's Mission Together appeal. I would be grateful if the collection boxes could be returned to school before Friday 19 October. Every penny collected will be put to good use by this important charity. Thank you for your support.

Achievements Outside of School

Isabelle Rolfe in Year 6 took part in the 'Race for Life' during the summer. She ran the 3 mile race in 35 minutes. Well done Isabelle!

KS1 Reading

Thank you for all your support with the new reading system in KS1. It is great to see so many children sharing their reading at home. For those of you still unsure of the system please see the sample Reading Record on the Parent Information board in the playground.

Our Lady of Lourdes Mother & Toddler Group

The Mother & Toddler group meets every Friday 9.00am – 11.00am during school term time in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome - just turn up to find out more.

Researcher's Night at Sheffield University – Friday 28 September

This evening is "**Researchers' Night**" at the University of Sheffield. The laboratories and lecture theatres will be open to the public for, an annual European wide celebration of research. Researchers' Night is set to happen simultaneously at 800 institutions across 32 European Countries and the University of Sheffield will be one of only a handful of UK institutions to take part. **Between 6pm and 9pm** the University will be open for visitors to wander around the University's historic buildings, taking part in experiments, lectures and debates as thousands of others do the same across the continent. In the 'pop in' lectures you can find out a how to build a quantum computer, learn about what the Romans ate, or quiz a panel of astronomers. Why not bring an object to scan in our MRI scanner, extract some DNA from strawberries or test your heart and lungs in our physiology lab?

Younger visitors can put on a lab coat and join in the fun at our kids' lab; and science demonstrators will freeze everyday objects to destruction in liquid nitrogen and turn marmite white. The little known Denny Museum will be open to the public for the first time in four decades displaying an amazing collection of zoological artefacts, including the enormous skull of an extinct man-size eagle and tiny fossilized dinosaurs.

If you're interested in the history of words and the Sheffield dialect, want find out if you have criminal ancestors through the Old Bailey online records, or see our collection archaeological artefacts then come along to Researchers night.

HELP WANTED!!

Y5/Y6 INTER-HOUSE SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS COMPETITION – Thursday 18 October 2012

After the huge success of last year's event we have decided to organise another for this year. The event will take place in the school hall between 2.00pm – 3.25pm and we are looking for some willing volunteers, who hold a current CRB disclosure, to help score the events. It is very easy – just measuring distances, counting how many jumps etc. Please let Miss Kipling know if you can help **BEFORE** Monday 8th October so that she can organise the events. Thank you.

Have a restful weekend,

F Barratt
Headteacher