



# St John Fisher News

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 (Issue 12 ~ 2014/15)



[www.st-johnfisher.org](http://www.st-johnfisher.org)

## Advent

I would like to thank everybody who joined us this afternoon for the blessing of our Advent Wreaths. Advent is a very important season of the liturgical year. It is a time of preparation; of getting ready for the birth of Jesus. To help us prepare the children will be saying Psalm 25 and the Act of contrition in our collective worship from 1<sup>st</sup> December to the end of term.

### Psalm 25

Show me your ways, Lord,  
teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Saviour,  
And my hope is in you all day long.

### Act of Contrition

O my God, because you are so good,  
I am very sorry that I have sinned against you,  
And by the help of your grace I will not sin again.



## Blessing of the Wreaths

This afternoon we had our annual blessing of the Advent Wreaths liturgy in the school hall. I would like to thank the young people of Years 2 and 6 for leading the liturgy. I would also like to thank my colleagues who prepared them and Father Paul for conducting the service.

## Daily Advent Liturgies

At 3.10pm each day of Advent the children and staff will take part in a simple Advent liturgy in each classroom. Candles will be lit and the children will share prayers they have written as part of our preparations for Christmas.

**Parents, friends and family of the children are invited to be part of the daily liturgies. We are limiting numbers to two per class per day. If you would like to secure a place for an advent liturgy in your child's class, kindly contact the school office for availability. Please do not enquire through your child's teacher as the office are making all the bookings, thank you.**

## The Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent. It is a circular candle holder that typically holds five candles. During the season of Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday until all of the candles, including the fifth candle, are lit on Christmas Day. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Most Advent wreaths use three colours of candles – purple, pink, and white.

**1st CANDLE** – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. "And again, Isaiah says, 'The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

**2nd CANDLE** – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome you, O God! "As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: 'A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.'

**3rd CANDLE** – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of joy! *"...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'"*

**4th CANDLE** – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*

**5th CANDLE** – (white) **"CHRIST CANDLE"** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless Lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"*

### **School Calendar Changes**

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Santa in School organised by our PTFA cannot now go ahead as planned on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December. This means that we have had to make changes to the calendar.

#### **Key Stage 2 Community Carol Service**

This will now take place on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December** at **2.00pm** in Our Lady of Lourdes church. The PTFA will then provide refreshments in the school hall afterwards as usual.

#### **Santa in School day**

This will now take place on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**. As it is a special day the children will not have to wear school uniform. Santa will be landing at school at 8.55am and so you are asked to be on the playground (in front of the library) ready to greet him for when he makes an appearance on the roof.

The children will now meet Santa at the Spa Lane Community Church with their buddies and will be escorted to and from the church by staff and volunteers. If you are able to help us escort the children on the day please contact my colleagues in the School Office. If you would like to help the PTFA please speak to a member of the committee. Thank you.

### **Open Morning**

Last Saturday morning we held our first open morning. The whole community came together to ensure that prospective pupils, parents and carers received a warm welcome. A number of children, dressed smartly in school uniform, took part in different curriculum activities in the different classrooms. Some of the older ones also acted as guides to escort visitors around school, answering questions along the way. Visitors commented on how smart, polite and assured our children seemed and I felt really proud of them all.

I would like to thank all the children who took part (and their parents/carers for allowing them to); my colleagues, the Governors, the PTFA Committee and KIDZONE staff for all their hard work in making this first open morning such a success.

### **Citizen of the Week**

This week's recipient is **Isabelle Walton-Hall** (Y3) who was chosen for remembering this week's statement to live by: 'I can work, rest and pray'. Isabelle is such a good role-model to others and we are all very proud of her! Congratulations!

## Anti-Bullying Week 2014

Last week the children in every class took some time to think about bullying and what it means to them. They explored different forms of bullying and reflected on what the impact of bullying could be.



**FS2** - The children thought about what makes them happy and what they can do to help others feel happy.

**Y1** - The children focused on the things that make each of them special.

**Y2** - The children thought about what makes them unique and the different ways they can make others feel good about themselves. They also thought about the things that they can do to support each other.

**Y3** - The children took time to reflect on the things that make them different and special.

**Y4** - The children thought carefully about the things they can do to help others.

**Y5** - The children thought about the fact that that they were each created by God to be just the people they are so they are each special and unique.

**Y6** - The children thought about invisible disabilities and how they can impact on behaviour and self-esteem

## Blue Day

For the children who are in St Andrew's House next Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 is 'Blue Day', to mark his feast day. The children in St Andrew's House do not have to come to school wearing uniform, but can, instead, dress in something blue. All other children are expected to wear full school uniform, as they will have their chance later in the school year.

## Curriculum Exhibition

A reminder that our next exhibition will take place on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014** in the school hall from 9.00am to 10.15am. Please come along and join in this important celebration of our children's learning!

## Homework Club

Every child can access the daily lunchtime homework club which is run by Miss Hardman. The children can do homework or further research linked to whatever they are learning in class at the time. Children can also access Bug Club or read their reading books. Miss Hardman and older children are on hand to support any child who needs additional help.

## Golden Children

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

● FS2	<b>Mia Lovelock</b> for having lots of 'wow' moments at home and in school; for having such a positive attitude to school life; and for welcoming and looking after a visiting child so kindly!
● Year 1	<b>Freya Jones</b> for being a good role-model and for always doing the right thing!
● Year 2	<b>Oliver Ost</b> for making good choices in class and for setting a great example in singing!
● Year 3	<b>Isabelle Walton-Hall</b> for having a brilliant attitude to her work and school in general!
● Year 4	<b>Hannah Downes</b> for working really hard to catch up with her classmates after her recent illness!
● Year 5	<b>Dominic Rolfe</b> for trying really hard in class and for taking lots of care over the presentation of his work! Keep it up Dominic!
● Year 6	<b>Stella Avelino</b> for always giving 100% effort in everything she does! Well done!

## Top Table

Congratulations to the children in the Buzzard Family who were chosen by Mrs Bower and the midday supervisors to sit on the Top Table today for having good table manners and for helping each other. The members are: Caitlin G, John G, Asia R, Jack S, Willis S, Jack S, Amelia D and Erin G. Congratulations!

## Links Partnership Sports Stars of the Week

This week's the stars chosen by the coaches were Jack Stacey, Dadiso Bandawa, Joseph Hurst, Zarnetta Moomba, Ruben Jackson, Sophie Robinson-Oates and David Crosby-Griffin. Well done children!



### Writing Champions

These are our champions this week:

FS2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Caitlin Hardy	Xiomara Gregory	Christian Adusei	Sam Orbell	Jenson Pugh	Oliver Nelson	Abi Marchant

### Our Lady of Lourdes Carol Concert

The "Immaculata" Children's Group would like to invite everybody to come to their Christmas Carol Concert at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, which takes place after the Advent Children's Mass on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2014 at 10.30am.

### Forthcoming Events

Please see calendar which is also available on the website: [www.st-johnfisher.org](http://www.st-johnfisher.org)

• Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2014	✓ Blue Day (for pupils in St Andrew's House only) ✓ Pupil Assessments (Assessment Point 2)
• Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2014	✓ Year 3 and 4 visit to the Jorvik Centre
• Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	✓ Exhibition (School Hall at 9.00am)
• Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	✓ Foundation Stage 2 Christmas Concert (School Hall at 2.30pm)
• Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	✓ KS2 (Years 3-6) Community Carol Service at Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 2.00pm followed by refreshments in the school hall provided by the PTFA. All welcome.
• Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	✓ KS1 (Years 1 and 2) Nativity Play (School Hall at 2.15pm)
• Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	✓ PTFA Santa in School Day (non-Uniform)

### Achievements Outside School

- **Poppy Walton** in **Y3** was awarded an A+ in the 'State of Mind Karate and Kickboxing assessment she undertook recently! Congratulations Poppy!

### Attendance Winners

This week the girls and boys of **Y1** were in first place with **100%** attendance and will be visited by Bobby Bear! In second place were the children of **FS2** with **98.9%** who will be visited by Brenda Bear. In joint third place with **97.9%** were the young people of Years 4 and 5 who will share a visit from Elvis the Owl.

Our overall attendance for the week was **96.6%** which is an improvement on last week but still below our 97% target.

### Weekly Liturgy of the Word

I would like to thank Mrs Drake and the children of Y3 for leading this week's liturgy so beautifully. The next liturgy will therefore take place on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December** and will be led by the young people of **Y2**. We would like to invite the family and friends of our **Y2** pupils to join us in the school hall just after 9.00am.

### Statement to Live By

Next week is the first week of Advent and our 'statement to live by' is "**Simple things make me happy**"

**Time to talk:** As it is Advent you could list the things that really do bring us happiness. Is it really material things? Who are the people in your lives who make you happy? Can you remember a special time with family and friends? What made it special?

Have a really good weekend,

Mr Barratt