



# St John Fisher Weekly News



Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013 (Issue 12 ~ 2013/14)

## Academy News

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December our school officially becomes an academy sponsored by the Diocese of Hallam. This means that we will be independent of the local authority and will work closely in partnership with the Diocese to ensure that our constant focus on improving standards is underpinned by a vibrant and visible Catholic ethos.

Since I was appointed, just over a year ago, I have worked closely with the local authority on many levels in order to address the issues in our school – and their support has been constant, so I therefore feel that it is very important that it is acknowledged. We will continue to work with the local authority as we adjust to our new status.

I would also like to acknowledge the huge support that we have received from the Diocese both in terms of support for improvement and also academy conversion. I would like to mention, specifically, Mr John Cape and Mrs Clare Thorpe who have made a huge contribution throughout and more latterly in supporting our sponsored status.

Lastly I would like to acknowledge the huge contribution made by Mrs Denise Battams, our Office Manager, who has effectively project managed the academy conversion process allowing me to focus on the other key school improvement issues. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that this lengthy – and at times challenging - process has run smoothly and we are all very grateful.

Our official name is now:

**Hallam Schools' Partnership Academy Trust T/A St John Fisher Primary ~ A Catholic Voluntary Academy**

## **Meet the Governors: Mr Peter Anyon**

Hello, I'm Peter Anyon. I have been a local authority Governor for over ten years and I am now the 'Community' Governor; with a particular interest in special needs.

I was born in Sheffield and remained here most of my life. Educated at St Wilfrid's school, I left school aged fifteen and started work as an electrical apprentice at Arthur Lee's steelworks in Attercliffe. When I was twenty one I left and started work at Davy United in Darnall. During these years I went to Rotherham Technical College for further education.

In 1963 I got married and remained so for 49 years until sadly my wife passed away last year. It was my wife who encouraged me to be a Governor.

To further my career I left Davy United and started work at Ambrose Shardlow Engineers however in 1981 I had another career change; this time to the oil and gas industry. I went to work in Saudi Arabia, on the Red Sea, in a place called Yanbu. This was indeed a culture shock! It was also the first time I'd been apart from my wife and family. At a time of recession it is a case of needs must, similar to the situation facing many people now.

In 1992 it was time to come home. By now our children had grown up and married and presented us with three grandchildren, two of whom attended St John Fisher school. I managed to find a job in Sheffield as a maintenance engineer in a shopping mall. This was a culture shock in reverse! From a land where women are rarely seen and never heard, my first day at Meadowhall was an eye opener! When I got home my wife laughed.

I'm now retired and hopefully, along with other Governors can help our school go forward, indeed it already is.



### St Andrew's Day

Tomorrow is the feast of St Andrew, the patron Saint of Scotland. To mark this special event all the children in **St Andrew's House** can wear blue on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** instead of their school uniform. This only applies to members of St Andrew's House and children in the other three Houses will be expected to wear full school uniform as normal. Thank you.

### Blessing of the Advent Wreaths

This afternoon we are holding our annual 'Blessing of the Advent Wreaths' liturgy in the school hall. This year the service is being led by the young people of Year 2. I would like to thank Miss McCann for all her hard work in coordinating the service and the children for all their hard work.

### PTFA: Bags2School

The PTFA would like to remind you that it is bags2school collection next Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December

### PTFA: Santa in School Day

The members of the PTFA thought it would be nice to invite Father Christmas to our school to meet all the children and staff so they have just written a letter to him. They will let us know as soon as they hear back from him. Let us keep our fingers crossed that he will be able to visit St John Fisher!



### New Rainbow Rooms

If you are having a 'Christmas clear out' of toys or items your children no longer use, Miss Kiernan and Mrs Asquith are looking for the following resources to improve the learning and sensory opportunities they can provide for our school community:

- Touchy, feely books
- Floor cushion/bean bag
- Musical instruments e.g. shakers, bells, tambourines
- Wooden blocks
- Dressing up clothes
- Baby toys (this is for the sensory room so that we can open it up to parents with young babies)
- Farm/zoo animals

Please contact us if you can help. Thank you.

### Rainbows Support Group

In January Mrs Asquith and Mrs Golland will be starting an after school 'Rainbows' group for any children who have experienced loss, perhaps through divorce and separation or grief after a bereavement. The Rainbows Programme fosters emotional healing at painful transition times in children's lives.

It will take place once a week in school and provides a safe setting in which children can talk through their feelings with their peers who are experiencing similar situations. Children are helped to articulate their feelings and build self-esteem and resilience. If you feel that your child might benefit from such a programme (which lasts between 12 to 14 weeks) or you just want further information please see Mrs Asquith.

### PTFA News

If you shop online please consider using the following link to access your preferred sites as this will generate money for school. All you have to do is use the link, find our school and then go to your preferred site.

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/>

Please sign the list in the new foyer if you can help with this year's first 'Santa in School Day' which takes place on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013. The PTFA desperately need more volunteers to make it a success. Thank you.

### Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Because the children and teachers of Year 1 will be very busy with two performances of the Key Stage 1 Nativity in the last week of term, **there will now be no liturgy on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December.** Weekly liturgies will start again with Year 6 in the first week back after Christmas.

### Parish News

The Christmas Bazaar at Our lady of Lourdes takes place tomorrow, all welcome. Our lady of Lourdes Carol Service takes place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and will start at 7.00pm. Afterwards there will be refreshments served in the hall and a voluntary collection will be taken in aid of the Gleadless Valley Foodbank. This year the service will involve our new SJF Choir. Everyone is welcome and Miss Pendlebury would like all choir members to be present if possible. Thank you.

## Golden Children

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

• F 2	<b>Isla Thompson</b> for joining in and enjoying singing our new songs!
• Year 1	<b>George Marsden</b> for doing some wonderful writing in Read Write Inc, and joining in with the activities. Keep it up George!
• Year 2	<b>Harry Parkin</b> for making a fantastic effort with his writing!
• Year 3	<b>William Oadley</b> for always being ready to learn and try his very best. He is a super role-model to others!
• Year 4	<b>Patrick Lodge</b> for showing loads of confidence and standing up in front of the whole school to lead singing! He is always a star!
• Year 5	<b>Reggie Pugh</b> for always showing enthusiasm in everything he does!
• Year 6	<b>Martina Mura</b> for showing herself what she is really capable of in her mathematics!



## Links Partnership Sport Stars of the Week

The following children have been identified by our sports coaches as stars this week: Ruben Jackson (again!), Arianne Alfonso and Oliver Ost. Well done children, we are all very proud of you!

## Writing Champions

Last week's Writing Champions' fantastic writing will be displayed in the hall for another week. Writing Champions are children who have really tried hard and made a personal leap forward as a result.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Filip Dominiak	Isabelle Walton-Hall	Ashleigh Hurst	Hannah Moomba	Alex Thompson	Ella Harpin

## Weekly Attendance Winners

For the week ending 22-11-13 in first place are the girls and boys of Year 6 who achieved a 98.7% attendance - and will be visited by Bobbie Bear. In second place were the children of Year 5 with 97.9% attendance. They will receive a visit from Bertie Bear. In third place were the young people of Year 4 who managed 97.8% attendance and will be visited by Elvis the Owl. Congratulations all of you!

The average attendance was 95.9% which is below our target of 96%, please help us improve next week.

## Achievements Outside School

- Rowan Lodge has passed his stage one in swimming and has moved up to stage two! Congratulations!
- Patrick Lodge in Year 4 achieved his badge and certificate for swimming 100m front crawl. Brody McConaghy in Year 4 achieved his 'Astronomer Badge' at cubs. Congratulations Brody, we are all very proud of you!
- Stella Avelino in Year 5 had a picture published recently in the 'Club Penguin' magazine. It was a drawing of a penguin casting spells. She is really proud as are we! Well done Stella!

## Statement to Live By

Next week our statement to live by is: **"I try to love others as I love myself"**

**Time to talk:** At the root of everything important in our lives is love. You cannot experience true kindness, generosity, joy, happiness and fulfilment unless it is underpinned by love. Jesus taught us that God is love, so God is present in us and in our relationships with others. How can we try to love to others in our daily lives?

Have a great weekend,

Mr Barratt