



St John Fisher Weekly News



Friday 2nd May 2014 (Issue 30 ~ 2013/14)

Thank you

I am really pleased to be back following my recent enforced leave! I have really missed you all. The children have been so kind and it has been great catching up with all their news. I would like to recognise the hard work of all my colleagues and especially Mrs Evans. I would also like to thank you sincerely for your prayers and kind wishes, it really means a lot to me. I am certainly very lucky to be part of such a fantastic community.

Progress and Achievement

I have to report regularly on the progress we are making as a school. On Thursday I was joined by Mrs Ludlam (our Chair of Governors) and Mrs Evans to present information to our Diocesan sponsor and the local authority. I was delighted to be able to report that the pupil performance at Assessment Point 4 demonstrated that we are continuing to make strong progress this year.

As we approach the anniversary of our Ofsted inspection it is important for us all to reflect how much our school has improved and moved forward. We will not let our focus be diverted from what has to be done as we look to the future with confidence and determination.

Staff News

I am delighted to be able to share with you the news that **Mrs Evans** is expecting a baby and will go on maternity leave from September 2014. We have advertised for a high quality teacher to cover her maternity leave.

I am also very pleased to be able to share that **Ms Pendlebury**, our specialist music teacher, is also expecting a baby and will commence her maternity leave in the second week of Term 6.

Mrs Birch, who worked mornings in our office, and also as a Midday Supervisor and as a Playworker for SASH, has now been employed on a full-time basis in the office to support Mrs Battams with the increased workload that has come with our conversion to academy status. Mrs Birch will therefore, be the person to speak to for all the general enquiries such as dinners, milk, uniform, trips, after school activities, absences etc as Mrs Battams will be more involved in the budget, admissions and more complex administrative issues.

Mrs Johnson, one of our Kitchen Assistants, has left us to take up full time employment and **Mrs Wallace**, one of the Midday Supervisors has been appointed as her replacement. As both Mrs Birch and Mrs Wallace resigned from their Midday Supervisory posts we are pleased to inform you that **Mrs Wood** and **Mrs Grayson**, who have been helping us on a 'supply' basis, have been appointed to take their places. We are also in the process of recruiting a Senior Midday Supervisor to join our team from September 2014. If you are interested in finding out more please speak to Mrs Battams.

I am very sad to announce some teaching staff departures at the end of the school year:

- **Miss Kipling** will be leaving St John Fisher in July after many years of loyal service. She is an outstanding teacher who is utterly dedicated to the care of all her children. Since my appointment Miss Kipling has been one of my key people, and I am very grateful to her for the way she has managed improvements in English throughout school. She will be missed by us all deeply. Miss Kipling leaves us to take up a significant leadership role in a large school in the Derby area where she now lives.
- **Ms Farrow**, **Miss Rodgers** and **Miss Rybka** will also leave us at the end of the year. I am so grateful to them all for the way they have supported us since last summer. They joined us in difficult circumstances following our Ofsted inspection and have all contributed so much to our community since September. I am really grateful to them all for their hard work and dedication, and we wish them well for the future.

Mrs Evans and I have therefore been very focused on working with Governors and our Diocesan partners to secure high quality replacements. We designed a rigorous selection process and had a good response to our advertisements. Part of the selection process included visits to the candidates' schools to see them in action, look at their classrooms and the work produced by their children and to talk to some of their children and their Headteachers when possible. We were determined to get the high quality teachers our children and you deserve.

I am very pleased to announce that following this process **Mr Broadhead, Mrs Darken, Mrs Holloway** and **Miss Speed** were recruited and will join the teaching team from September, though I am arranging for them to join us for the special transition day to meet their new classes in the last week of this school year. They will also join colleagues for staff training so that they are ready to 'hit the ground running' when they start. They will also be available to meet you at the 'Welcome Meetings' at the very beginning of the next school year.

Obviously I have provisional plans for staffing next year but these cannot be confirmed or shared with you until after the half-term holiday, as that is the last resignation date for teachers. Please be assured however, that you will be told who your child(ren)'s teachers are as soon as everything is confirmed. Thank you.

Hallam News

Please look out for the next issue of the Hallam News which is available from all Catholic churches in the Diocese of Hallam and online. We have made the front page (and page 6)!

School Calendar 2014-15

This will be produced and sent home soon after half-term to give you plenty of notice of events in school in the next academic year.

Bug Club

Year 5 has now finished their trial of Bug Club e-books and the parents/carers and children have all completed evaluations. The responses have been very positive, with 100% of parents recommending that we continue with the scheme. As a result, we have decided to subscribe to the website for the whole school. Y5 are able to use their logins immediately and continue using the site, and the rest of the school will receive their details of how to log on and use the site over the next few weeks. While it is very important that children continue to experience 'real books' at home, we are sure that this additional resource will have a positive impact on the amount that children are reading.



Resurrection Mass

The children of Year 4 will be leading our Resurrection Mass next **Friday, 9th May at 2.00pm**. The Mass will take place in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and all are very welcome to join us for this joyful celebration.

Sunshine Playgroup

The Sunshine Playgroup, based in the Church Hall, is looking for a supervisor and a group of individuals to form a small committee to run the Mother & Toddler/Baby group on Friday mornings during term-time. The basic duties include the collection of the fees, serving refreshments, organising craft activities and setting up/putting away equipment before and after every session.

This is a great opportunity for a student training in childcare and will be advertised at college but would also suit parishioners or parents of our pupils. If you are interested or would like to find out more please see Rachel Oadley on any Friday (9.15-11.15am) in the Church Hall or email her on oadleyr3@googlemail.com.

Achievements Outside of School

From Monday 14th to Thursday 17th April four children, who attend 'Susan's Dance Studio' in Eckington, starred in 'A Dance Odyssey' at Sheffield University's Octagon Centre, with over 200 other dancers. **Bethany Croft, Hannah Moomba, Zarnetta Moomba** and **Tamzin Samba** danced wonderfully in various dances and looked fantastic in their costumes. Mrs Prentice was a backstage crew member at the show and said 'The children were very professional, never stopped smiling and were an absolute credit to the dance school and St John Fisher – well done girls!' We are all very proud of you!



Links Partnership Sports Stars of the Week

The children who were identified as Sports Stars this week were Lola Pardo-Figueroa, Alice Curtis, Julia Kepinska and William Oadley. Congratulations!

Golden Children

As Y6 had their 'mock' statutory tests (SATs) this week we could not have any assemblies or liturgies and so no children have added to the Golden Book. Everything will start again next week.

Curriculum Overviews

These will be emailed home on Tuesday.

Weekly Attendance Winners

For the week ending 02-05-14 the girls and boys of **Y6** were in joint first place with **100%** attendance and will be visited by Bobby Bear. In second place were the children of **Y4** with **98.1%** attendance and they will be visited by our Brenda Bear. In third place were the young people of **FS2** who were just behind with **98%** attendance and who will be visited by Elvis the Owl. Congratulations all of you! The average overall attendance for the week was **96.1%** which is just above our target. Thank you for your continued support.

From September our weekly attendance target will rise to 97% to meet increased government expectations.

Statement to Live By

Next week our statement to live by is: **"I know how to say I am sorry."**

Time to talk: Sometimes it is hard to say sorry when we do something wrong. Maybe this is because we are stubborn or embarrassed or ashamed. Jesus teaches us that saying sorry is a very important and special thing to do if it comes from the heart. We need to mean it to make it count. Why don't you talk about times when you've apologised for something you have done. Did it feel like better for it – like a load had been lifted?

Have a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend! See you on Tuesday.

Best wishes,

Mr Barratt