

Dear Parents and Carers,

Advent Service

Today our Year 3 children led a beautiful service to mark the beginning of Advent. I would like to thank them for all their hard work in guiding us to reflect on the true meaning of Advent. I am also grateful to Miss McCann for organising the service and for preparing the children. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us in order to support this special event.

PTFA

Last Wednesday a group of parents/carers joined me for a second planning meeting. We were joined by Tracey McPake and Amanda Maltby who are parents at St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Chesterfield and who help run their successful PTFA. They came over in order to give advice on setting up the PTFA in terms of registering with the Charity Commission etc. They also shared different ideas for bringing the community together in order to raise funds for our school. The meeting was very positive and Tracey and Amanda said that they would be very happy to offer further support in the future. Mrs Ludlum, who is also one of our school Governors, will attend their next meeting in January as a result.

In order to make it easier for parents/carers to attend, it was decided that in future some of our meetings would be straight after school (with children of parents/carers attending being supervised in a separate room) and others would be later in the evening. At the next meeting, which will be held on 19 December 2012 at 3.30pm, a committee will be elected to begin the process of registering our brand new PTFA as a charity and to start planning events for the remainder of the academic year. I would like to thank, sincerely, everyone who attended the meeting. I would also like to extend an invitation to you all to attend the next meeting – even if you only wish to get involved in small ways. All ideas and contributions, however big and small, are important and welcome.

Year 3 Tudor Day

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Year 3 Tudor Day will now have to take place on Monday 17th December 2012. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Christmas Craft Event for Parents & Carers

I would like to thank Mrs Holmshaw and Mrs Watters who led our 'Christmas Craft' session last week. It was excellent and everyone managed to go home with very professional looking cakes and tree decorations. I would also like to thank Mrs Asquith for all her hard work and dedication in arranging these sessions.

Statement to Live By

For the first week back after the school holiday our statement to live by will be: ***"I try to love others as I love myself"***.

Time to talk: Together you could look at this statement and talk about what it means to each of you. Why is it important to treat others like we want to be treated ourselves? Why is it important to be kind to others and show them love? Think of some of the different things we could do for our families and friends?

Attendance

The classes with the best attendance for week ending 23rd November were:

1. In first place was **Y3** - with a **100%** attendance (full SJF attendance)
2. In second place was **Y5** with a **100 %** attendance (1 child at authorised sporting activity)
3. In third place was **Y2** with **96.7 %** attendance

This week, at last, Bobby will visit the girls and boys of Year 3; Bertie will visit the children of Year 5 and Elvis will have fun learning with children of Year 2. Congratulations to you all! For the week ending 23rd November the average attendance was **95.7 %** which is just below our target of 96%. Thank you.

Achievements Outside School

- Névé Mae McKernan in Year 6 recently danced at the North-West Irish dancing Qualifiers in Oldham and qualified for the World Irish Dancing Championships which take place in Boston, USA in March 2013. What a fantastic achievement Névé, we will all be rooting for you in March! Well done!
- Stella Avelino in Year 4 was presented with her first degree black belt last Sunday. What a staggering achievement for someone so young! We are all very proud of you Stella!
- Joy Wieteska in Year 6 achieved her Grade 1 piano certificate (awarded by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) with 6 credits. Congratulations Joy, you are a star!
- Will and Alex Ludlam in Year 1 helped their mum, Sarah, raise a very impressive £500 for Cancer research by walking an amazing 14 miles around south-east Sheffield. Well done to both of you (and your mum) for doing something so incredible to help others. We are all very proud of you.
- Ellie Cope in Year 1 achieved her Stage 2 award for swimming and is already working towards achieving her Stage 3. Congratulations Ellie, what a star you are!
- Cerys and Isobel in Year 6 raised a very impressive £29.61 in support of Children in Need. They did this very kind thing on their own without any help by knitting lots of beautiful friendship bracelets which they then sold for 10p to St John Fisher pupils and parishioners of St Theresa's. Not only that but both girls used their pocket money to buy the wool in the first place! Since then they have also gone on to raise a further £7.00 for others. Everyone at St John Fisher is proud of both of you girls, thank you and well done.
- Dominic Rolfe in Y3 has passed Stage 1 and Stage 2 Swimming awards. Well Done Dominic!
- May Woodhouse in Y1 has achieved her Gold Swimstars badge and can now swim without armbands. Congratulations May!

Rags-R-Us

A very impressive 150kg was collected which raised £82.50 for school! Thank you to everyone who supported us by donating items.

Replies for the School Office

Could everyone please ensure that they have returned all reply slips for Dinners, Milk, Concerts, Carol Service and Christmas Dinner no later than Tuesday morning, next week. These should have been in school today but we appreciate that a few children have been off ill.

I hope the weather is kind and that you all manage to have a great weekend.

F Barratt
Headteacher