



# St John Fisher News

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (Issue 19 ~ 2014/15)



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

## Bad Weather

The decision to open, open late or close is always a difficult one to make – especially when the weather is so changeable. We will always try to make a firm decision as early as possible so that you have time to make alternative arrangements if necessary. This week has presented us with all sorts of challenges because of the bad weather, and I would like to thank you for your patience, understanding and support.

## Building Work Update

Work continues in the Y1 classroom. The wall has been rebuilt and the new windows are due to go in next week which will make the room weatherproof. The new fire exit that will also provide access to the outdoor play/learning area has also been knocked through. The Y2 classroom has been stripped out in readiness for its refurbishment. The new fitted cupboards that will replace the open shelves are being built along the FS2/KS1 corridor. More internal doors have been replaced with new fire doors and you will not be surprised to learn that almost all the doors and frames are different sizes! Work on the installation of the new alarms/sensors also continues. The wall between the new kitchen servery and the hall has been knocked through and the steels have been added above what will become the new serving hatch and doorway. The joists have also been installed in readiness for work to start on the servery roof next week.

FS2 is currently accessible by the external entrance whilst work continues in the corridor. It is inevitable that different areas of school will be completely closed off to children and staff whilst work is carried out in them. This is because the safety of children, staff and contractors is of prime concern at all times.

## Focus Group

Last Wednesday a focus group made up of some parents and staff met to discuss the current mini-report format and homework. It was a really positive meeting in which lots of opinions and ideas were shared. As a result a number of actions emerged including:

- ✓ the production a new format for the mini-report which is shared after each assessment point
- ✓ the addition of an explanation on the report so that parents/carers understand it – including the judgments on aspects of attitude
- ✓ a commitment to run workshops to:
  - a) explain the revised report format and give parents/carers an opportunity to ask questions
  - b) explain our new assessment system following the Government's decision to drop the familiar 'Levels'
- ✓ a commitment to add an explanation to the website so that parent/carers can access it any time
- ✓ a commitment to produce a parent/carer guide regarding homework that sets out clearly our view of its purpose and role in supporting pupils' new knowledge and understanding
- ✓ the organisation of further parent/carer workshops on:
  - a) the addition, subtraction, multiplication and division calculation strategies taught in school
  - b) the teaching and learning of phonics
  - c) how to support writing development
- ✓ a commitment to include parents/carer help guides for calculation strategies on the website

We will also be sharing ideas for a revised annual report format as part of this process. I would like to thank the parents, carers and colleagues who gave so generously of their time in order to get involved and help us. We are now working on our actions and commitments and Focus Group members will be consulted throughout. It is not too late to get involved, please email us on [enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk).

## Citizen of the Week

This week's recipient is **Evan Siner** (Y1) who was chosen for remembering this week's statement to live by: '**cooperate with others in work and play**'. Evan has impressed Miss Speed and all the staff by his increasing willingness to be actively involved in what is going on both in work and play. This wonderful development is rooted in a growing self-confidence and appreciation of the thoughts and feelings of others. This is what we want to see in all our pupils, but it is particularly special when they are so evident in young children like Evan. Evan, you are a super young man and a positive role-model to others and we are all incredibly proud of you!

## School Council

This week the children have been involved in electioneering and voting for the School Council. The last of the class elections are due to take place next week and the final results will be announced in next week's newsletter. This process is very important – especially in an election year – because our children need to start developing an understanding of how democracy can work for the betterment of our society. The best way of doing this is to experience it first-hand in our own school community. I would like to thank all the children for getting involved and engaging with the process so enthusiastically - especially all the candidates.

## After School Sports

One of the things parents/carers were concerned about when I first started at St John Fisher was the lack of extra-curricular sports opportunities for children – especially for the younger children. This is why, in the 2013-14 academic year, I engaged in a partnership with 'Sheffield Links' to provide a wider range of activities for children from Year 1 through to Y6 each week. Initially the response was great and many groups were oversubscribed, but since then attendance has steadily declined. I had subsidised the clubs quite heavily in order to keep the subs down and promote engagement, however, this is not sustainable indefinitely.

Mrs Broadhead, who is now responsible for PE (including after-school sports clubs), has been seeking feedback – including from the children - about what we can do to increase participation. We are happy to look at everything, including the range of competitive and non-competitive activities on offer. If you have an opinion or idea to share please get in touch if you have not already done so. It would be a huge shame to cancel the clubs or limit opportunities, but that might become the reality, sadly, if the demand is not there.

## Golden Children

The class teachers added the names of the following children to our Golden Book this week, though not all the children have received a golden badge at assembly because the poor weather led to a number of later starts and even a closure day, All the children will be presented with their badge next week:

● FS2	<b>Alhamzah Al-Rammahi</b> for being a fantastic new member of the class!
● Year 1	<b>Maya De'Sousa</b> for being a good role-model to her friends and for always trying to be her best!
● Year 2	<b>Finlay Jones</b> for cooperating with other in work and play!
● Year 3	<b>Harry Parkin</b> for showing a really positive attitude to work; for taking his time to reflect on what he's doing; and for trying hard with his writing!
● Year 4	<b>Lucas Diaz</b> for having a fantastic term so far! He is working really hard and show good learning behaviours!
● Year 5	<b>Nicole Mercardo</b> for working hard converting different units in mathematics!
● Year 6	<b>Natasha Sanders</b> for always giving 100% in everything she does! A super role-model to others!

## Weekly Liturgy of the Word

The children of **Y3** will lead the liturgy (postponed from this week) on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**. The family and friends of our **Y3** pupils are invited to join us in the school hall just after 9.00am. On **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January** the liturgy will be led by the young people of **Y2**. The family and friends of our **Y2** pupils are invited to join us in the school hall just after 9.00am.

## Writing Champions

The following children have been chosen by their teachers to be Writing Champions this week because they have enjoyed writing and made a big effort.

Foundation 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Daisy Green	Macksymillian Jasinski	Keira Ambrose	Dadiso Bandawa	Vinny Ambrose	Lily Mell	Sam Jephson

## Links Sports Stars

The following children were chosen by the coaches to be sports stars this week because they have been attentive, tried hard and have been an example to others. Congratulations to Jack Stacey, Joseph Hurst, Faye Curtis, Ellie Cheetham, John Genita, Luke McKernan, Emmie Foster, Macksymillian Jasinski and Odette Paige.



## Achievements Outside of School

If you would like to share something that your child has achieved please email us their achievement and we will gladly publish it in the newsletter. Big or small, it does not matter what the achievement is, as long as it is special to your child. The email address is: [enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk). Thank you.

## Attendance

This week the girls and boys of **Y1** were first with an excellent **100%** attendance! They will receive a visit from Bobby Bear. In second place were the young people of **Y3** with **98.3%** attendance and they will be visited by Brenda. In third place were the children of **FS2** with an attendance rate of average 96.4% and they will be visited by Elvis the Owl! Our whole-school average attendance this week was **96.3%** which is an improvement but still below our 97% target.

## Parish News

### *Healing Mass*

There will be a special Healing Mass on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February (the world day for the sick and Solemnity of Our Lady of Lourdes). This will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 7.00pm. You are invited to place your special petitions in basket that will be presented to the Our Lady of Lourdes statue along with a special prayer for the sick.

### *Children's Mass*

The next Children's Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes will be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am. Everybody very welcome.

### *Immaculata Children's Group*

Please pick up a copy of February issue of "Hallam News" which contains an article about our "Immaculata" Children's Group.

## Statement to Live By

Next week our 'statement to live by' will be **"I try to use words that make the world a better place"**

**Time to talk:** Words can be used to help and heal but also to hurt. When we show somebody good manners, by using words like 'please', 'sorry' and 'thank you' we also saying to them that they matter – that they are important. Using words to affirm and value each other for being just who we are – with all our strengths and in spite of our weaknesses – is what makes our community special. It means that God is present in our school and visible in our relationships and conversations.

Sometimes an action, a look or smile says more than words ever could - about how you feel about someone, or whether they are important to you.

What was the last thing you did or said that made someone else feel valued and special? How can words be used to help or hurt others? Who was the last person to make you feel special? What did he/she do or say?

I hope you have a great weekend,

Mr Barratt