



St John Fisher News

Friday 3rd March 2017 (Issue 21 - 2016/17)



www.st-johnfisher.org
www.ourladyoflourdesheffield.org.uk

Citizen of the Week

This week's recipient is **Fraser Owens** in **Y4** who knows that the way we use words can make the world a better place. He understands that words have the power to build bridges, and destroy them; to build people up or knock them right down. Fraser is always very encouraging and supportive of others. He tells the truth and uses words carefully to make others feel good about themselves. This is something that seems to come naturally to him. He does it almost without thinking, and not for reward. In doing this he sets a fantastic example to others, and for this we are all very proud of him! Congratulations Fraser!

Lent 2017

On Wednesday our community came together for a special Mass to mark Ash Wednesday, which is the start of Lent. It was a very special service during which the children presented their personal Lenten promises. I would like to thank Fr Paul for celebrating Mass; my colleagues for organising the liturgy and preparing the children so well; the children themselves who behaved superbly and all the family, friends and parishioners who were able to join us.



What does it all mean?

During the Ash Wednesday service everyone receives a Sign of the Cross on their forehead made with ashes from the burned palms of the previous year, mixed with a little water. The Sign of the Cross, which is made with ashes, is a mark that reminds us of Jesus' great love for each of us, exemplified by his willingness die a painful death on the cross so that we can all live with him forever in heaven.

The ashes on the forehead is a symbol of our wish to repent and love God by facing up to – and turning away from - our faults and mistakes. Lent is all about making a fresh start so that we can grow closer to God.

Lent lasts for forty days, which does not include Sundays. It is forty days because Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted (Matthew 4:1-11). It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends officially on Holy Thursday. Purple is the colour used to mark Lent (just as it is used to mark Advent, which is the season of preparation for Christmas). In school our prayer corners and tables are adorned with purple cloths.

During Lent we can demonstrate our desire to make a fresh start through acts of **omission** or **commission**.

Omission is when we give things up. Some people choose to do this through fasting which means going without food or eating less. It can also mean giving up a specific foods or treats. Catholics are expected to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. During Lent, Catholics are also encouraged to do abstinence. This means not eating meat on Fridays during Lent and on Ash Wednesday.

Commission is when we do something extra. We might try to pray more, attend extra Masses or go to church for Stations of the Cross, Rosary and Benediction. Catholics are especially encouraged to go to Confession. We might also volunteer to help a neighbour or in a soup kitchen or do something to raise money for charity e.g. a sponsored event. We might donate items to a Food Bank or simply just support the school's Lenten 'Good Shepherd Appeal'. Children are encouraged to do extra things during Lent like help around the house.

At the end of Lent we have Holy Week. There are some key events which recall the last week of Jesus' human existence. The week starts with Palm Sunday which recalls Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We have Maundy Thursday which recalls The Last Supper and includes the washing of the feet, Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane as he thinks about what is going to happen to him; his betrayal, arrest and trial; and Peter's denial of him. Then we have Good Friday, when Jesus was questioned by Pontius Pilate, scourged ferociously, abused, humiliated and made to wear a 'crown' of sharp thorns. He was then made to carry a cross to his place of execution as many in the crowds that lined the route mocked him. At Golgotha he was crucified with two others. Christians attend a special service on Good Friday afternoon which commemorates the moment of Jesus' death. During this service we venerate a cross as a mark of respect for Jesus' sacrifice.

On Easter Sunday, the third day, we attend Mass to recall the fact that Jesus has risen from the dead. It is a joyous day – in fact it is the most special and happy day in the Church year. Catholics can also attend Mass on the Saturday evening, which is known as the vigil Mass. Traditionally this was at midnight but is now often celebrated earlier in the evening. Often people who have just undergone preparation to become a Catholic are received into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil service.

If you want Lent and Easter 2017 to be really special for you and your family please check out the parish website: www.ourladyoflourdessheffield.org.uk for information and details about confessions, Masses and other services taking places throughout Lent and Holy Week at Our Lady of Lourdes or St Anthony's, Gleadless.

Term 4 Smiley Scores So Far...

St Andrew's House  66	St David's House  80	St Patrick's House  84	St George's House  54
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St David's House Celebrations

Today the children of St David's House came together for 'Yellow Day' in order to mark the feast of their patron. They had the opportunity to dress in something yellow, rather normal school uniform, and enjoy an afternoon of special activities organised by Mrs Asquith, the Head of House. Mrs Asquith incorporated the 'Golden Time' earned for achieving the most House Points in Term 3, so everyone had lots of fun.

After-School Clubs

The clubs start next week. Please note that there are spaces still available for Boccia/Curling (Wednesdays) and in Cheerleading (Thursdays) so please contact the School Office if you would like your children to sign up for any of these. Both activities are run by LINKS coaches. We also have our arts and crafts club and football club as well as Study Hub, Chess and Art at lunchtimes.

Class Emails

Thank you for emailing all the 'Extreme Reading' photographs. Whilst it was not possible for colleagues to respond individually to all of the emailed photographs we were all very grateful and pleased with the fantastic response. It is not too late to send them in if you want to! Thank you for your support.

Curriculum Overviews

The Term 4 overviews will be sent out shortly. These aim to give you an overview of what your children will be learning up to Easter along with tips and ideas for supporting them at home. If you need any support in order to help your child(ren) please let us know in confidence, and we will do all we can to help you.

Our Catholic Life

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Our next Liturgy of the Word will be led by the children of **Y3** on **Thursday 9th March 2017**. The family and friends of our **Y3** children are invited to join us in the School Hall just after 9.00am on the day.

Celebration Assembly

We invite the family and friends of our **Y1** children to join us for our Celebration Assembly next **Friday 10th March 2017** in the School Hall at 2.55pm.

Parish News

Please note that important information about services and events in our parish of Our Lady of Lourdes is available via the website: www.ourladyoflourdessheffield.org.uk.

Parent Advice and Support – Drop-in Sessions

Please remember that all parents and carers can access advice and support from the MAST Parent Support Team. There are weekly drop in sessions in the school library from **8.30am on Thursday mornings** which are open to everyone.

Advice can be on a widerange of issues, from general information about services available to Sheffield parents/carers to more personal and specific advice on parenting, housing, debt-management and coping with addiction etc. If you would like an appointment please speak to Mrs Asquith. Thank you.

Advice and support
for children and
families



Contact MAST when
your family needs
some extra help

Big Sing at Notre Dame High School

On the Friday before half term the children of Y6 travelled to Notre Dame Catholic High School to take part in the annual 'Big Sing' event along with Y6 children from all the Catholic primary schools in Sheffield. Everyone really enjoyed themselves and contributed enthusiastically to the production of an amazing joint liturgy at the end of the day. The children learned lots of new songs and some of our pupils also did some readings. Two children even did a special dance during the liturgy. Well done Year 6 you did yourselves and SJF proud!



Writing Champions

FS2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Emily Wood	Azaan Javid	Oscar Diaz	Maks Jasinski	Ruben Hastings-Quainoo	Finley Mappin	Joe Hurst

Golden Children

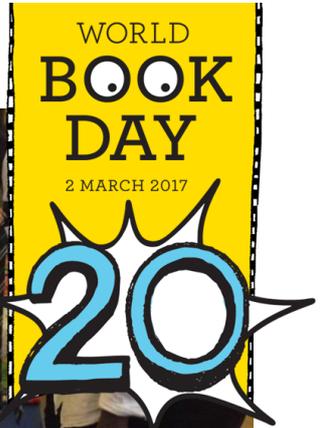
FS2	Lily Reaney for always being amazing and for being excellent across the curriculum!
Year 1	Maya Ptucha for working really well with her buddy searching for bugs!
Year 2	Daisy Green for being a super Y2 pupil, particularly in Mathematics where she has shown great perseverance and success!
Year 3	Phoebe Asumadu for her conscientious attitude and always doing her best in EVERYTHING!
Year 4	Aleksander Jasinski for setting a good example to his foundation stage buddy in Mass and having a positive attitude in class!
Year 5	May Woodhouse for being very creative during book week and creating an amazing world and plot for her story!
Year 6	Evie Stamford for working really hard and supporting others in their learning!

World Book Day 2017

We had a great day on Thursday!



The Book Swap was fantastic!



In the morning the children in every class paraded in front of the school community!





The den building with family was a big hit!



Mrs Ramsden and Mrs Watters from the PTFA organised fantastic refreshments for everyone because building dens is thirsty work! They even prepared indulgent slow-cooked hot chocolate. Thanks to everyone who helped



PTFA Jubilee Logo Competition

The PTFA has extended the deadline for those who would like to enter their competition to design a logo for our 60th anniversary. Pupils now have until the 10th March to design and hand in a fantastic logo design. Anyone needing a new entry form can pick one up from the low table in the school reception foyer. Thanks

Achievements Outside of School

Don't forget to let us know about your children's achievements outside of school so that we can publish the details and celebrate! Please do not think that the achievements have to be big. If they are important to the children, then they are important to us and we will celebrate them all the same!

Attendance This Week			
FS2		97.7%	
Year 1		95.4%	
Year 2		98.1%	
Year 3		100%	Bobby and Brenda Bear will each visit next week
Year 4		95.7%	
Year 5		98.1%	Elvis the Owl will visit next week
Year 6		100%	Bobby and Brenda Bear will each visit next week
Weekly Target	97%	This week's Average Attendance	97.9%

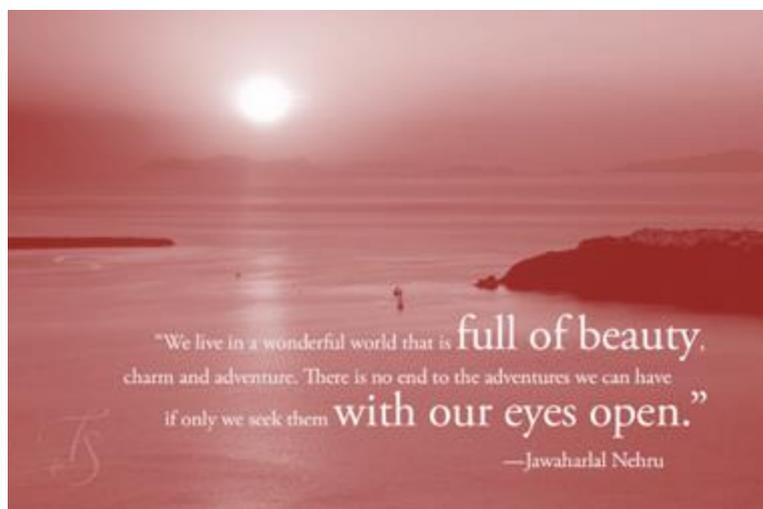
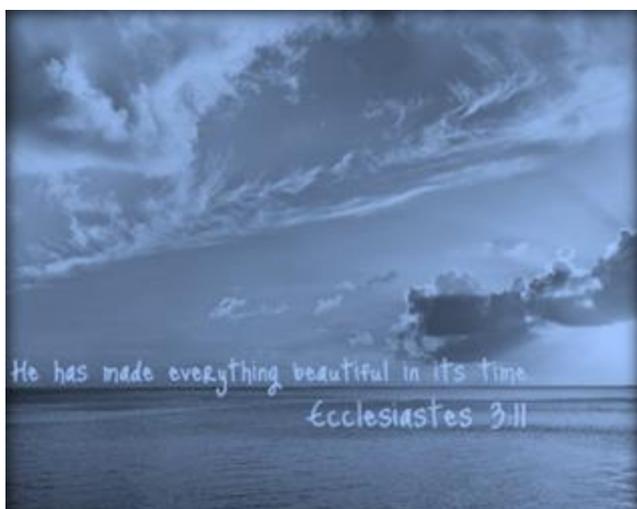
It is great that the overall school average is above our target.

Let us see if every class can achieve 97%+ attendance next week.

Statement to Live By

Next week our 'statement to live by' is **'I try to appreciate the beauty and wonder in the world around me'**

Time to talk: Why not take time to be still and silent in your garden, in the park, in the woods or in the countryside? What can you hear? What can you see? What can you smell? How do you feel? Can you take photographs or draw pictures of things you come across close up? Leaves, sticks, stones, flowers? What places are special to you? Why? Where would you go if you could travel to anywhere in the world? Why do we have to look after our world?



Have a fantastic weekend,
Mr Barratt