



# St John Fisher Weekly News



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014 (Issue 1 ~ 2014/15)

## Welcome Back!

On behalf of our Governors I would like to welcome you all back for the start of the new academic year. It has been really great to see the children again and catch up with all their news – and especially hear all about their holiday adventures.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all the new children and families who have joined along with staff members and especially our new colleagues: Mrs Darken (FS2), Miss Speed (Y1), Mrs Broadhead and Miss May (Y2), Mrs Drake (Y3), Mr Broadhead (Y4) and Mrs Holloway (Y5).

This is the beginning of another really big year in the life of our community as we continue improving strongly on the back of some very strong results in last year's statutory assessments. We look forward with confidence and a strong sense of purpose.

## Emergency Contact Information

Please ensure that we have up-to-date contact information, including the main address at which your child resides (or addresses if custody is shared between parents no longer living together). We also require up-to-date landline and mobile phone numbers and email addresses.

In the event of an emergency involving your child or an unexpected event like a school closure I know that you would expect to be informed immediately. We also email letters, newsletters and other information and it makes it very difficult to keep you up-to-date if we do not have your correct details. Thank you.

## New Website

Please note that our new website address is:

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

On the site you will find lots of information including term dates, calendar, uniform, the prospectus, Ofsted, league tables, PTFA and KIDZONE information plus lots more. We are in the process of updating and adding new parts including photographs. You can also get copies of all previous newsletters. Please take a look!

## Calendar (2014-15)

At the end of last year we sent home a calendar of events and information for this new academic year. Please keep this safe and refer to it. A key reason for sending out was to give you lots of notice regarding forthcoming events so that you can make arrangements to attend any you wished to. The calendar is also available on the new school website [www.st-johnfisher.org](http://www.st-johnfisher.org) in the section entitled 'Parents'.

## 2014-15 Welcome Meetings

You will see from the calendar that Welcome Meetings are scheduled for every year group next week. Due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to change two meetings and apologise for any inconvenience that this might cause you. The meetings are now as follows:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ✓ Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2014     | <b>Y5 AND Y6</b> joint meeting in the Year 5 classroom |
| ✓ Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2014    | <b>No meeting</b>                                      |
| ✓ Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2014 | <b>Y4</b> meeting in the new Year 4 classroom          |
| ✓ Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2014  | <b>Y3</b> meeting in the new Year 3 classroom          |
| ✓ Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2014    | <b>No meeting</b>                                      |
| ✓ Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2014   | <b>Y1 AND Y2</b> joint meeting in the Year 2 classroom |

## Earrings

A reminder that children are **not** permitted to wear earrings (or any other form of piercing) to school. I very much appreciate your support in complying with this change.

### **Permission to Take/Publish Photographs**

Currently our records show no parents/carer object to photograph appearing in newspapers or on the website etc. If you do not want images of your child(ren)'s image to be used please notify us in writing.

Typically images may appear in pictures around school, on the website, in the new prospectus and occasionally in articles that appear in the press. Children's names may or may not appear with the image depending on why the photograph is being use in that instance.

If you object please notify us in writing or via email ([enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk)). If you do not contact us we will assume that you are happy for us to take and use images of your child(ren) for legitimate school purposes. Your decision – whatever it is - can be changed at any point by simply letting us know what your wishes are in writing or via email. Thank you.

### **Pupil Achievement Consultations**

We have received lots of positive feedback about review & target-setting meetings held on Wednesday and Thursday. Parents/carers really appreciated the opportunity to meet the teachers, hear about progress over the last academic year and know what the targets are for the coming weeks.

The meetings are important and a clear indication of my firm intention to again 'hit the ground running' to ensure that every child makes the necessary progress in order realise his/her potential.

### **PTFA News**

#### *Cheese & Wine*

The PTFA committee would like to invite you to attend an informal cheese and wine evening on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September in the school hall starting at 7.00pm. It will be an opportunity for you to meet the members and other parents and carers. The PTFA is such a big part of school life and the committee members would be really happy to welcome more new members. It is a great way of meeting new people, especially if you are new to our community. All help is really appreciated, so if you can please get involved. Please see the PTFA page on the website.



#### *Tea Towels*

The PTFA would like to thank those who supported the portrait tea towel sale at the end of the last academic year. Whilst many have sent in payment there are still some that have not been paid for or returned. If you still have a tea towel **and would like to keep it** please in the £5 payment to the School Office in an envelope marked clearly for the attention of the PTFA. If you do not want the towel just return it as soon as possible. Thank you.

### **Buddies**

Every child has at least one buddy and I know the children love being a buddy. The Y4 children are particularly excited as they will have a new buddy in FS2 when they start next week.

Having a whole-school buddy system is not only popular but it is important for supporting our ethos and values. It promotes positive behaviour by encouraging older buddies to act as positive role models to the younger buddies. Buddies will have lots opportunities to meet each other both informally and during lesson time throughout the school year.

### **Foundation Stage 2 (FS2)**

On Monday we welcome our new children and the whole community is really excited. This week the FS2 team have been visiting every child and their parents/carers in their homes – a really valuable opportunity to share information, offer reassurance, share advice and – for brand new parents especially – start building those important relationships on which successful schools depend.

### **Building Improvements**

Over the summer the Y3, Y4 and Y5 classrooms were decorated along with the toilets near the Y5 classroom. The building of the new kitchen and alterations to the school hall were delayed whilst I appealed to the Minister of Education against the decision not to award us a grant to upgrade the building to bring it in to line with new fire protection standards. As you know the appeal was upheld and both projects merged. Architects and surveyors are now working on plans and have put the work out to tender with a view to starting at October half-term. The planned completion date is January 2015. I intend putting the plans on the website as soon as they are finalised and will keep you informed of developments.

## School Houses

Below is a table of information about our houses. I would like to remind you that the children in each House celebrate the feast of their patron by dressing up in the House colour. Hopefully this will be on the actual feast day, however if the feast day falls on a weekend or during a holiday the dressing up day is moved – as in the case of St Andrew and St David this academic year. Please take a note of the dressing up day.

House	Colour	Emblem	Actual Feast Day	House Colour Dress Up Day	Head of House	House Captain
St Andrew	Blue	Thistle	Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Miss D'Roza	Hubert J <b>Vice-Captain</b> Ciara B
St David	Yellow	Daffodil	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Mrs Asquith	Mia P-F <b>Vice-Captain</b> Charlotte C
St Patrick	Green	Shamrock	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Mrs Dewsnap	Caitlin G <b>Vice-Captain</b> Sophie R-O
St George	Red	Rose	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Mr Hawley	Abigail W <b>Vice-Captain</b> Oliver P

This year, the winning house each half-term will be allowed to also come to school dressed in their colours to mark their victory and you will be informed of the day in the newsletter.

## Holidays in Term Time

The information sent out recently is available in the 'Parents' section of the website ([www.st-johnfisher.org](http://www.st-johnfisher.org)).

## Focus Group

Last year I wrote to you following feedback on the annual reports – which had been mixed. Some parents/carers were very happy whilst others were not. I invite you to work with us this year as we review the report format. It is an opportunity for you to share your views. If you would like to get involved please email Mr Smith ([i.smith@stohnfisherlearning.co.uk](mailto:i.smith@stohnfisherlearning.co.uk)). I really do urge you to think very seriously about getting involved if you can spare some time. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

## Staff News

Mrs Evans is well – and at the time of writing this newsletter there are no updates regarding her new baby. My colleagues and I have been praying for her and her family and I will let you know when her baby is born.

## Feedback

You are invited to give feedback to Ofsted about our academy at any time via the 'Parent View' website ([www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)). There is also a link via the Ofsted section of our website ([www.st-johnfisher.org](http://www.st-johnfisher.org)).

Ofsted take the Parent View feedback very seriously. As we also value your feedback, ideas and suggestions I urge you to also contact me or join the Focus Group or PTFA if you would like to share your opinions and ideas. Thank you.



## House Points This Week

The smileys earned during the first three days will be added to the total next week and reported in next week's newsletter.

## Golden Children

We will start adding names to the Golden Book from next week.



## Links Partnership Sports Stars of the Week

This will also start next week.

### Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Next week's Liturgy of the Word will be on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September and will be led by the young people of Year 6. As usual, it will be in the school hall and begin just after 9.00am once the children are registered. As space is limited, we invite just the family and friends of our Year 6 pupils to join us. Thank you.

### Achievements Outside School

- **Tamzin Samba** Y1 achieved her Stage 2 swimming award during the six week holidays and is now working towards her Stage 3 award. What a fantastic achievement Tamzin, well done!
- **Isabelle Walton-Hall** in Y3 passed her ASA Bronze Challenge Award in August, and achieved her 400m distance award this week. She also recently passed her 'Musical Star Dance' award after demonstrating proficiency in performing skills! Congratulations Isabelle, what super achievements!

Please let us know if your child has an achievement that he or she is proud of as we would be delighted to publish it in the newsletter next week.

### Writing Champions

This will begin next week.

### Collective Worship

During our collective worship in September we will focus on Psalm 145 and the Hail Mary. Psalm 145 is also known as the Psalm of David and goes like this:

*I will honour you – my God the King.  
I will praise your name for ever and ever!  
Every day I will praise you.  
I will praise your name for ever and ever!*

Below are the words of the 'Hail Mary' prayer that you might like to share at home.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed are thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus (bow as we say Jesus' name).  
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now – and at the hour of our death.  
Amen*

### Statement to Live By

Next week our first 'Statement to Live By' is: "**We are all special.**"

**Time to talk:** Together you could think about all the things that make us special to others and all the things that them special to us.

### Weekly Attendance Winners

This year the minimum attendance target has risen to 97%. For the week ending 5<sup>th</sup> September the girls and boys of **Y1**, **Y3** and **Y5** were in joint first place with **100%** attendance. Bobby Bear, Brenda Bear and Elvis the Owl will visit each of the winning classes next week. The average overall attendance for the week was **97.6%** which is above our target of 97%, thank you.

### Finally

I would like to thank you for your kind wishes and words of support. It is very much appreciated. I hope you all have a fantastic weekend.

Mr Barratt