



# St John Fisher News

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015 (Issue 24 ~ 2014/15)



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

## Citizen of the Week

This week's recipient is **Macksymilian Jasinski** (Y1) who was chosen for remembering this week's statement to live by: '**I can learn from my mistakes**'. Macksymilian is a special young man who tries hard to learn from his mistakes. He is developing into a very well-mannered young man who makes good choices. He is always so generously full of praise for other children when they do well and he remembers to say 'please' and 'thank you' to everyone. Like all recipients of this award, Macksymilian shows this excellent behaviour even when he does not realise that he is being observed. Congratulations, we are all incredibly proud of you!

## 2015/16 Term Dates & Holidays

Next year's term and holiday dates were sent out last week and are available on the website.

## Important News: School Dinners

From September 2015 our school meals will be provided by Taylor-Shaw, the company that already works for the City Council in a number of Sheffield schools. Proposed changes to the current arrangement with All Saints Catholic High School led to a review which resulted in Governors taking this decision. We are very grateful to the catering team at All Saints who have worked with us for many years.

A meeting will be arranged so that parents and carers can find out more, including menu options etc.



## World Book Day

Today we celebrated our World Book Day. To emphasise the importance of bedtime reading everyone came to school dressed in night clothes, including onesies. Everyone looked brilliant! As part of the day children read their favourite bedtime books with their buddies, which everyone enjoyed very much.

## Library

From next week the library will be open before and after school, each **Thursday**, for 30 minutes so that parents/carers can take a bit of time out of the day in order to enjoy a book together.

If you would like to volunteer to help supervise a session every now and again, please pass your name and contact details to Mr Smith. To begin with the library will be opened on Thursdays, but if we have enough volunteers it is hoped that we will be able to open on other days as well. Thank you.

## Parent/Carer Meetings

I would like to thank everyone who met with colleagues in order to discuss their child(ren)'s progress/targets. They were very purposeful meetings, and those I spoke to seemed very clear about their child(ren)'s strengths, successes and next targets. I would also like to thank our PTFA for providing refreshments.

Parents/carers also really appreciated the opportunity to look around the new and refurbished areas of the building and seem very pleased and positive about what they saw.

Thank you to everyone who took the opportunity to provide feedback directly to Ofsted via the 'Parent View' website. I would like to remind you that if you would like to give feedback – but do not have access to the internet – we will provide you with the means and a private space to complete the questionnaire here in school, just let us know. After registration the actual questionnaire takes seconds to complete. You can also access via this link: [http://www.st-](http://www.st-johnfisher.org)



[johnfisher.org/parents/parentview/](http://johnfisher.org/parents/parentview/)

### **e-Safety**

A reminder that the e-Safety section of the website has been updated and contains lots of information and links designed to keep you informed not only about the risks posed to children who have unregulated access to the internet but also about the easy steps that you can take to protect them.



The link is: <http://www.st-johnfisher.org/parents/esafety/> .

### **Parent/Carer Workshops**

A reminder that the following workshops have been arranged to help parents and carers to feel more confident about supporting their children at home. Children and their younger pre-school siblings can be looked after by staff in another classroom for the duration of each workshop. Please make a note of the following dates:

- **Phonics** (Tuesday **17<sup>th</sup> March** 3.30pm – Y5 Classroom)
- **Assessment** (Tuesday **24<sup>th</sup> March** 3.30pm – main hall)
- **Writing** (Tuesday **28<sup>th</sup> April** 3.30pm – Y6 Classroom)
- **Mathematics: Addition & Subtraction Strategies** (Wednesday **6<sup>th</sup> May** – main hall & classrooms)
- **Mathematics: Multiplication & Division Strategies** (Wednesday **10<sup>th</sup> June** – main hall & classrooms)

The focus of each workshop was decided following consultation with parents at the last Focus Group meeting.

A new simpler format pupil report format, designed with support from Governors and parents (at the last Focus Group meeting) will be presented and explained at the Assessment Workshop planned for 24-03-15. Please try to attend. Thank you.

### **Good Shepherd Appeal**

The Bishop's annual appeal runs through Lent and aims to raise funds for the small local Diocesan charities that do so much to support people in Sheffield and across Hallam. These charities get on with doing vital work locally but struggle for funds and recognition because they have to compete with far bigger national and international charities as well the high profile television appeals. Further information is available via the Hallam Diocese website:

<http://www.hallam-diocese.com/caring-services/hallam-caring-services>

There will be a collection box in every classroom to collect coins of different values. The aim is to see if we can again create 'carpet' of coins that covers the library floor. Please be as generous as you. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Smileys – Amnesty!**

Two thousand smiles – gold-coloured plastic coins - were purchased in September to be used as 'Smileys' or house-points. The idea is that when a child is awarded a smiley he/she marks it on their personal reward card (to go towards their bronze, silver and gold awards) and then he/she should immediately put it in the correct section of the clear acrylic box in the school hall where smileys are deposited until they are counted at the end of each term.

Unfortunately more than a thousand smileys cannot be accounted for. Though we remind the children about what they should do, it is possible that some smileys have still managed to find their way home by mistake. I would therefore be very grateful if you would please have a good look at home, in book bags, pockets and in fact anywhere they might be. Please return any that you find. Thank you for your support.



### **Wear a Hat Day**

A reminder that **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015** is 'Wear a Hat Day' in support of brain tumour research. On that day the children can dress down and come to school wearing a hat. The PTFA will collect the £1 donations on the way into school and every penny collected will be donated to support this vital research. Further information about the cause is available via: [www.braintumourresearch.org/wearahatday](http://www.braintumourresearch.org/wearahatday). Thank you.



### 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 too.

Foundation 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
William Denham	Evan Siner	Filip Dominiak	James Fitzpatrick	Isaac Woolhouse	Julia Kapinska	Leighton Gough

### Golden Children

This week's Golden children will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

### Links Sports Stars

The following children were chosen by the sports coaches to be this week's sports stars because they have been attentive and tried hard. Well done Mike M, Chloe M, Alex L, William L, Olivia K, Isaac P, Jasmine G, Joshua M, Mia P-F and Luke M, we are all very proud of you!



### Weekly Liturgy of the Word

I would like to thank the young people of FS2 and Y6 for leading the liturgies this week. On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March the weekly Liturgy of the Word will be led by the young people of **Y5**. As usual the family and friends of our Y5 children are invited to join us in the school hall just after 9.00am. Thank you for your support.

### Green Day

On **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015** we celebrate the feast of St Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland. As it is a special day the children in St Patrick's House will **not** have to wear uniform. Instead they are invited to dress down and wear something green if they have it. The Head of House will organise a treat for all members in the afternoon just like the members of St Andrew's House and St David's House enjoyed on their feast days. Children in the other Houses are expected to wear full school uniform as normal.



### Achievements Outside of School

Please don't forget to let us know about your child's achievements. It does not matter if it is big or small; if it is important to your child we will share it and celebrate it just the same! Thank you.

- **Poppy Walton** in **Y3** was involved in a bumper charity sale on 3rd March 2015 which raised a staggering £2,812.44 for the Rosemere Cancer Foundation. Rosemere fundraises to bring world class cancer treatment and services to cancer patients throughout Lancashire and South Cumbria via their local hospital by funding vital equipment, research and training that cannot be funded by the NHS. The charity also funds those things that make the cancer journey a little more comfortable such as free access to complementary therapies for all newly diagnosed patients. Well done Poppy!

### Attendance

This week the girls and boys of **Y5** were first with a **99%** attendance! They will receive a visit from Bobby Bear. In second place again were the young people of **Y4** with **98.7%** attendance and they will receive a visit from Brenda. In third place were the children of **Y1** who managed an attendance rate of **98%**. They will be visited by Elvis the Owl!

Our whole-school average attendance this week was **96.9%** which is just shy of our 97% target. Thank you.

### Punctuality

We have a number of children who attend school regularly but arrive late frequently. Being late can add up to a lot of lost learning time.

- 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- 15 minutes late is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.

Please help your child(ren) to be punctual every day. Thank you.

### Parish News

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

### Volunteering: A Message from ESCAL

As a part of the city wide literacy strategy, ESCAL Volunteering recruits Reading Volunteers to support children and young people across the city. Volunteers offer additional one to one support for students requiring help with their reading skills, which in turn develops reading ability, confidence and self-esteem.

With over 300 volunteers across the city, ESCAL volunteers contribute to the literacy development of students, offering much needed support to Sheffield's children and young people.

We are aware that some of you may already volunteer within school, or may like to take this opportunity to support children directly as well as being a valued member of the school's Governing Body. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please liaise with your Headteacher, to see if this may be an option for you and your school. If you would like further information on training, or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to get in touch! Alternatively, if your school do not have Reading Volunteers and you want to know more about working with ESCAL Volunteering, please do get in touch!

If you are interested in getting involved the email address is: [ESCALVolunteering@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:ESCALVolunteering@sheffield.gov.uk)

### Discovery Night: An Opportunity from Sheffield University

Back by popular demand, Discovery Night opens the University's laboratories and lecture theatres to the public for an evening of science for the whole family. There will be talks, exciting demonstrations and hands-on activities for visitors of all ages. This is a family even suitable for all key Stages with lots of activities for both primary and secondary-aged children and adults including the opportunity to investigate skeletons, see 3D printers, use microscopes, see liquid nitrogen ice-cream, use Kids' Labs, participate in lab tours/mini lectures, explore virtual reality proteins, see yourself in infra-red, and much, much more. Find out about everything from to animal behaviour to dentistry, from nuclear energy to psychology. Tour the facilities, put on a lab coat and have a go yourself.

Everyone is welcome and the event is free – no booking required. The event is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March from 4-8pm and everyone is welcome and the event is free; no booking required. Recommended age 5+. Full listings are available on the event website: [www.sheffield.ac.uk/discoverynight](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/discoverynight)

### Toys

I would like to remind you that children are **not** allowed to bring their own toys into school. This includes football stickers and other cards that can be collected. There have been several problems recently that have started with children bringing their own toys in from home.

Play equipment is provided for the children to use at playtimes, and we are working with the Student Council currently to improve this. Councillors are also meeting a designer shortly to discuss the new outdoor equipment we are bidding for.

Children can bring in items linked to a topic or for 'Show and Tell' **with the permission of their teachers**, but items have to be left with the teacher in the classroom. Toys brought in without permission (or good reason) will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.

### Statement to Live By

Next week's 'statement to live by' is **"I try to keep going when things are difficult and not give up"**

**Time to talk:** This week's statement is all about resilience. It is about perseverance. It is about believing in ourselves and our capacity to achieve what we set our minds to achieving. It is about the digging deep if we start to weaken so that we never give up trying to achieve our goals. As we approach the third Sunday of Lent we might miss those things we gave up on Ash Wednesday. Perhaps it is a barrier in Mathematics or English that we cannot get over? Perhaps it is something to do with our behaviour or attitudes? Whatever we are aiming to do it is important to remember that God walks with us and is on our side.

Why don't you talk about the times when you have needed to be resilient? Was it easy or a struggle? What happened? Did you succeed or give up? Why?

Best wishes,  
Mr Barratt