



St John Fisher Weekly News



Friday 7th March 2014 (Issue 23 ~ 2013/14)

Ash Wednesday Mass

Last Wednesday the children of Year 2 led the celebration of Holy Mass to mark Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent – and they were superb. They conducted themselves with a maturity that belied their young ages and I was so proud of every single one of them. Our Service commenced with a presentation of the children's Lenten promises which had been stuck to three crosses and were then displayed before the altar throughout Mass. It was quite a long service and I felt that on the whole, our children behaved very well throughout. I believe that the fact that our youngest children now sit with their 'buddies' was key to this.

I would like to thank Father Paul for celebrating Mass; Winnie and David for serving so well on the altar; my colleagues for their hard work to preparing the children, liturgy and music; and all the friends and family members who were able to join us in the celebration of Mass. It was great to see the church so packed and it was wonderful that so many could be present to join us. Thank you.

Focus Group

Unfortunately due to an oversight on our part the Focus Group planned for Tuesday 4th March clashed with Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day), and as a result just one parent turned up. We are sorry for this oversight and another meeting has been arranged for Monday 24th March at 6.00pm. I do hope that more of you will be able to join us, including existing members.

The Focus Group is open to **all** parents and carers and is an important forum for sharing ideas and opinions on things to do with school. It is my view that an effective partnership between home and school is vital for school improvement, **which is why I believe that an effective Focus Group is key to our recovery**. Initially we will focus on finishing work on the new behaviour policy and then we will review some curriculum-related matters. Miss Kiernan is coordinating the group from now on. If you are interested in finding out more please contact her via her school email address on: c.kiernan@stohnfisherlearning.co.uk. I would like to repeat that anyone can get involved and we are not looking for a huge commitment. Thank you for your support.

Yellow Day

The members of St David's House (including staff) looked resplendent in yellow last Monday! The children also enjoyed some extra playtime in the afternoon to mark their patron's feast day.



Green Day

The feast of St Patrick is on Monday 17th March 2014. At St John Fisher this means that it is 'Green Day' for the members of St Patrick's House. To celebrate members will be allowed to wear something green rather than their normal school uniform on that day. **All other children should wear full school uniform on that day. Thank you.**



Maths Workshops Reminder

Our calculation workshop has been arranged for **Thursday 13th March 2014** starting at 3.30pm. It is the first of a series planned in response to parent feedback for more information and support. Children will be supervised and you are all invited. Each demonstration will last for about 30 minutes before being repeated. You can then leave, go to a different demonstration if you have children in more than one year group or even stay and see it for a second time if you would like to.

We would also be very happy to support any parents/carers who would like some additional support outside of this session. If you are interested then please contact us in confidence. Thank you.

House Points This Week

St Andrew	St David	St George	St Patrick
Smilies This week			
102	56	91	73
Running Total			
102	56	91	73

Holidays in Term Time

As you know the government and local authority now expect schools and academies to take a very strong line when dealing with term-time holiday requests from parents. Their view is that children need to be in school as much as possible and that term-time holidays will harm their progress and attainment. In many schools and academies this has led to changes being made to policies so that no holidays are authorised during term time unless there are very exceptional circumstances.

Governors here at St John Fisher are in the process of considering our academy's position. In doing so they are very sensitive to the different views and opinions of parents. However they are also mindful of their responsibility to ensure that our academy's policies and procedures not only meet all Government standards but are also consistent with other schools/academies in Sheffield and across the Diocese of Hallam as well. You will be notified of our position as soon as it has been finalised. Thank you.

Golden Children

The class teachers added the names of the following children to our Golden Book this week:

• F 2	Lily Peters for trying hard, for being kind and for being a good example to others! Well done!
• Year 1	Millie Taylor for doing some wonderful writing and for concentrating on it until it was finished!
• Year 2	Callum Hardy for always working hard and listening to advice!
• Year 3	Melissa Clayton for trying really hard in both mathematics and writing! What a star you are!
• Year 4	Lily Mell for making a fantastic leap forward in her writing! She been using some excellent descriptive language and we are all really pleased with! Congratulations!
• Year 5	Annabelle Langley for putting lots of effort into her learning!
• Year 6	Lewis Mappin for always giving 110% in everything he does in his work! He is a super role-model!



Links Partnership Sports Stars of the Week

The children who were identified as Sports Stars this week were Lilly Cox, Poppy Walton, Asia Robinson, Lucas Diaz and Laurie Paige. Congratulations all of you!

World Book Day

The children looked fantastic in their outfits on Thursday as they dressed as their favourite book characters to mark World Book Day. I am delighted that they were not the only one as many of my colleagues also took full advantage of the opportunity to dress up. It was a really happy day in school and I was delighted that the Sheffield Star published photographs on Friday 7th March. If you missed them you can go online and view them in the newspaper archive. I am also really grateful to the PTFA for all their hard work.

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Our liturgy next week will be on Thursday 13th March 2014 and will be led by the young people of Year 6. It will be in the school as usual and will start shortly after 9.00am. The family and friends of our Y6 children are very welcome to join us. Thank you.

Achievements Outside School

- **Poppy Walton** in Y2 has been doing really well in her karate classes. I have read a letter sent by her karate teacher to Poppy's parents commending her on her hard work, focus and commitment. This has resulted in her getting a trophy, 3rd place (under 10s) Open Hand Kata, 3rd place (under 10s) Weapons, medals in the under 14s Weapons competition and the under 10s Musical Forms! Congratulations Poppy!
- **Grace Woolhouse** and **Holly Longden** both in Y6 achieved their Level 1 Cheerleading Awards this week! What an amazing achievement, well done girls, we are all very proud of you both!
- **Dominic Rolfe** in Y5 completed the 3rd stage of the Tiger Syllabus at 'Springwater Taekwondo' and has been awarded his Purple Stripe Belt. Congratulations Dominic!
- **Corey Goodinson** in Y6 competed in the 'Armada Cup' diving competition (20th-24th February) and received a silver medal in the Synchro 1m springboard, a bronze medal in the 3m springboard competition and a gold medal in the 1m springboard competition. On 1st March Corey won a silver medal in the 3m springboard event in the North-East Regional Diving Competition whilst also contending with and injury! Fantastic achievements Corey, well done!

Staff News

I would like to inform you that Miss Pugh will be leaving us at the end of the month in order to take up a new position in a school, closer to home, in Manchester. Since joining our school at the beginning of the year Miss Pugh has helped transform our Early Years provision. I am very grateful to her for all she has done to support school improvement and the children in her care and I wish her the very best for the future. As a staff we will miss her. Miss Rodgers has agreed to work full-time in FS2 from Monday 31st March until the end of the year.

Writing Champions

The children who have been named as champions this week for being enthusiastic and for making (or sustaining) improvements in their writing are:

Foundation 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Isla Thompson	Willis Stoeman	Alfie Saxton-Clayton	Ben Rogers	Lily Mell & Matthew Bond	Cerys Pope	Sophie Tyree & Finn Lodge

Statement to Live By

Next week our statement to live by is: **"I know what humility means."**

Time to talk: You could encourage your child(ren) to guess what the word 'humility' means and then find the word in a dictionary to see if he/she was right. When you have the definition you could think about why Jesus taught that to show humility is an important way of staying close to Him. You could also think about the different ways in which we can show humility in our own lives - both at home and at school.

Parish News

The next children's Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes will take place on the 16th of March at 10:30am. All parents and children are welcome to attend this special Children's Mass.

Weekly Attendance Winners

For the week ending 07-03-14 the girls and boys of **Y6** were in first place with **99.3%** attendance. They will be visited by Bobby Bear. In second place were the children of **FS2** with **98.7%** attendance and they will be visited by Brenda Bear! In third place were the young people of **Y1** who managed **97.3%** attendance and will be visited by Elvis the Owl. Congratulations all of you but I am particularly pleased with the children of Y1 who for improving the class attendance! The average overall attendance for the week was also back above our 96% target, at **96.7%**, thank you for all your support.

Best wishes,
Mr Barratt