



St John Fisher News

Monday 15th July 2013 (Issue 37 2012/13)

I decided against sending a newsletter home last Friday because of the release of the OFSTED report.

OFSTED Report and Parent & Carer Meeting

Following the release of the OFSTED report I was keen to invite parents and carers to a special meeting to:

- explain what the category of 'Special Measures' means and what the ramifications are for our school;
- share what has been (and is being) done to drive the improvements necessary to get us out of this category and back to at least 'Good' as soon as possible; and
- give parents and carers an opportunity to ask questions and offer comments, opinions and ideas

For such an important meeting I was delighted that so many parents and carers were able to be present. I had a strong sense from those I spoke to at the end that it had met these objectives. Parents and carers shared views in a spirit of openness – and I am very glad they did. If you feel that you still have a comment or suggestion to share or a question to ask please contact me via the school email address: enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk and I will try respond as soon as I can.

In one way, from the moment the school's situation became apparent to me, this whole year has been focused on beginning a process of improvement, by putting those systems in place that increase openness and transparency; that involve parents and carers more in school life by giving them information about the curriculum and about their children's targets, progress and attainment. As Headteacher I understand that I am accountable, and I accept this accountability willingly because I love this School and I have complete faith and belief that our special community will bounce back strongly.

That said - it is not all about me. It is about the ongoing development of strong partnerships between home, school, Governors, Diocese, local authority and our Catholic/local families of schools. It is about everyone pulling together with a shared vision for the future and an utter determination to do right by our children.

This process has started strongly and we have received lots of positive feedback about the direction that the school is now going in. We can never afford to be complacent or rest on our laurels as there is still much to do. Your involvement and support is key to our future success. I would like to thank Mr John Cape and Mrs Diane Stokes for facilitating the meeting as well as the colleagues and Governors who were present.

Leavers' Mass

The Leavers' Mass takes place on **Thursday 18th July 2013** at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. It will start at 7.00pm and be celebrated by Father Paul. We would like every child in Year 6 to attend this very special Mass of thanksgiving. If you know your child will *not* be able to be present please notify school as soon as possible. All are welcome to attend, especially their family and friends of our young people.

The traditional end of year Mass also takes place in school on Tuesday 23rd July at 9.30am. The Mass will be celebrated by the recently ordained Father Kieran Fletcher. All are welcome.

Parent and carer Focus Group

The next meeting of the group that was originally scheduled for this Thursday will have to be postponed because the arrangements for Leavers' Mass have now changed and so they will coincide. I will contact members in order to make alternative arrangements. My apologies for any inconvenience.

Staff News

I am delighted to welcome three new members of staff who will join our teaching team in September 2013. Governors have recruited two former local authority Early Years advisors to work as a job share in Foundation 2 (Reception); one of whom is Sue Rogers - who has already supported school so much this year already. Miss Sheena Rybka will also be joining our teaching team, taking responsibility for our Year 3 class next year. I would also like to inform you that Mrs Cope and Mrs Cooper have both tendered their resignations, which Governors accepted, and a process is already underway to recruit new staff for PPA cover. I would like to thank both Mrs Cope and Mrs Cooper for their hard work and dedication to St John Fisher and we wish them well in their future careers.

Transition Arrangements

I understand that children can become unsettled by the prospect of changing classes and having a new teacher. It was for this reason that I had introduced a transition day that was due to take place this week. The aim was to give children an opportunity to meet their new teacher(s) and the other staff who will be working with them. As a result of the huge staffing turnaround these plans have been scaled back, but we will do our best to give all children an opportunity to meet the staff who will be working with them.

As part of these arrangements parents and carers will have an opportunity to meet their child(ren)'s new teacher on the afternoon of one of the two INSET days booked in at the beginning of September. The purpose of these one-to-one meetings is to share assessment information and targets *before* school starts. A letter explaining the arrangements will be sent home shortly. At the beginning of next term there will also be a 'Welcome Meeting' for each year group; another opportunity to meet your child(ren)'s teaching and learning team and find out about the year ahead. I will be seeking feedback about these meetings.

Home visits were offered to the families of every child children joining our new Foundation 2 (Reception) class in September and every child is also having two full 'taster' days before the end of the year. Every child and their family will also have the chance to meet the Foundation 2 Teaching and learning team this Thursday at XXXpm.

Governor News

At Thursday's meeting for parents and carers Mr Cape announced that Governors had elected Mrs Sarah Ludlam to be the new Chair of Governors. Many of you will already know Sarah who is also a parent and member of our PTFA. Sarah will be supported by Miss Angela Wild, our Vice-Chair. Mr Cape also informed those present at the meeting that three new and outstanding Foundation Governors – each with very specific skill sets and experience – had been nominated to join the Governing body. We are just awaiting confirmation from Bishop John and the Trustees of Hallam Diocese that their nominations have been accepted. I know Sarah will be writing to you all shortly and will update you on the make-up of the Governing Body when she does.

I would like to take this opportunity to both recognise and thank Ms Sal Robinson for welcoming and supporting me since my appointment as Headteacher in September. As Chair, Ms Robinson met with me regularly to discuss issues and to advise, challenge and support me. Her commitment was incredible when you also consider that she, like all our Governors, is a volunteer. Her professionalism was also recognised by the OFSTED inspectors who visited school in May.

Results

I am delighted to inform you that our end of Key Stage statutory assessment results (SATs) in both Y2 and Y6 are much improved on previous years. The Y6 results are in line with the top 25% of schools in the country.

Year 2 Assessments (SATs)	Reading			Writing			Mathematics		
	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
Children assessed at Level 2b or more	67%	67%	76%	47%	47%	66%	60%	77%	80%
Children assessed at Level 3	27%	23%	46%	0%	7%	0%	13%	13%	33%
Year 6 Assessments (SATs)	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
Children assessed at Level 4 or more	83%	84%	100%	80%	72%	86%	80%	78%	93%
Children assessed at Level 5 or more	40%	47%	60%	30%	25%	28%	23%	25%	46%
Children assessed at Level 6 or more	NA	0%	0%	NA	6%	3%	0%	6%	10%

Each child is worth between 3% and 4% statistically

Sports Day 2013

I would like to thank everyone who was able to come along and support the children at this year's Sports Day. I am very grateful to Miss Kipling for all her hard work in organising this special day. Miss Kipling is seeking your feedback about the day and your ideas for developing it further in the future. Comments can be forwarded in the form of a brief note or via our email address: enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk. Please mark your response 'Sports Day'. Thank you.

Reading Books

Please return all school reading books by Wednesday to give us time to update and sort our stock ready for September. Thank you.

Golden Children

The class teachers added the names of the following children to our Golden Book in the last two weeks:

• F 2	Amna Javid for being an 'always' child in both attitude and learning! Jack Oadley for looking after the visiting children who will be joining school in September!
• Year 1	May Woodhouse for always trying her best in all areas of learning! Alfie Saxton-Clayton for doing so well with his handwriting and for trying very hard with his independent writing – well done!
• Year 2	Evie Stamford for always demonstrating an excellent attitude to all her learning. She is a good role-model for the whole class! Ben Cartwright for always demonstrating an excellent attitude to his work and for showing care and thought to others in class!
• Year 3	Lily Nell for trying really hard with her mathematics in the last few weeks and for working independently! Anca Nicula for working so hard in mathematics she no longer requires additional support!
• Year 4	Evie Flint for having a great attitude to learning and towards her friends and others! Franky Diaz for making a huge effort with his handwriting and moving onto a practise pen!
• Year 5	Ella Harpin for always trying her best in everything that she does and for setting a great example to others! Charlotte Williamson for showing great sportsmanship whilst representing our school at the Sheffield Kwik Cricket finals!
• Year 6	Joy Wietska for always being polite and respectful to adults and children alike! Katie Bond for always trying to give the very best she can in all that she does!

Girls' Kwik Cricket

On the 4th of July, the Y5 Girls Cricket Team represented St John Fisher at the Sheffield Kwik Cricket Finals at Sheffield United Cricket Club. This was the first time SJF have been represented at this level and it meant that the team was ranked in the top fifteen schools in the whole of Sheffield! A great achievement in itself! After unfortunately losing their first game, they went on to play brilliantly and won their next three games. Well done! I would like to thank the parents and grandparents who came to support the team. They could not have done it without all the cheering!

Summer Reading Challenge

As Children's reading can 'dip' during the summer holidays the annual '**Summer Reading Challenge**' encourages three quarters of a million children into libraries to help them maintain their reading skills and confidence. The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to read six books during the long summer holiday. There is a different theme each year. Children can read whatever they like - fact books, joke books, picture books, audio books - just as long as they are borrowed from the library.

Every time your child finishes a book they get stickers and rewards and there is a certificate for everyone that manages to finish the challenge! The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all children and is designed for all reading abilities. Schools work with local libraries and give out information to encourage children to take part. The theme for the 2013 Summer Reading Challenge is **Creepy House**. Please see attached leaflet for more details. All Sheffield Libraries are participating in the scheme and Crystal Peaks Library is taking part from Monday 22nd July until Saturday 14th September.

Living with Nature Project

Some of our children have taken part in workshops as part of this lottery-funded project to enhance the area around Dyke Vale Park. They visited the woodlands in search of inspiration before creating fantastic mobiles using words and natural materials. A 'Celebration Day' is planned for September when the children's work will be displayed at Dyke Vale. The children who participated were:

- Hannah Moomba (Y3)
- Brody McConaghy (Y3)
- Abigail Marchant (Y4)
- Olivia Worrall (Y5)
- Kiera Swift (Y3)
- Ellie Scott (Y4)
- Thomas Wood (Y4)
- Elizabeth Avelino (Y5)
- Jasmine Green (Y3)
- Leighton Gough (Y4)
- David Sayers (Y5)
- Libby Kilbride (Y5)
- Patrick Lodge (Y3)
- Sam Jephson (Y4)
- Winnie Saxton (Y5)

Olivia Worrall enthused: "I really enjoyed the project. My favourite part was when we went to Dyke vale to explore the woods. It felt like an adventure. We got a stick and made a story out of it. We did this by collecting remarkable things from the woods and tying them with yarn. It's been an amazing experience!"

Winnie Saxton exclaimed: "I really enjoyed going to the woods and making our super story sticks! I have learned that there are millions of sounds in the woods, yet they are all different!"

Weekly Attendance Winners

The classes achieving the highest attendance were:

- in first place was Y6 with 100% attendance over the week;
- in second place was Y5 with 98.1% attendance over the week
- In third place was Y1 with 98 % attendance over the week

Over the week our average pupil attendance was 97.4% which is above our target of 96%. This means that Bobby will visit Y6, Bertie will be visiting Y5 and Elvis will be visiting Y1 next week.

Achievements Outside School

- **Isabelle Walton-Hall** achieved her 100m swimming certificate recently! What a staggering achievement Isabelle, well done!
- **Sophie Tyree** received a special trophy for her dedication to drama and for being a pupil of 'Stagecoach' for five years. Congratulations Sophie, what a star you are!

Thank You!

I would like to thank our PTFA for running a fantastic disco last Friday. Everyone seems to have enjoyed themselves hugely and it was a great success. I would like to thank the members of the PTFA for all the time they put into organising and running the event and for all the parents who came along to offer support.

Statement to Live By

This week our statement to live by is: **"I notice that we are the same and we are different."**

Time to talk: Together you could list the similarities and differences between you. You could talk about physical similarities and differences or you could explore the foods you like, or football teams, or television programmes, or music/pop groups – the list can go on for as long as you like. At the end you could explore what the world would be like if everyone was the same and there was no difference. Older children could explore why some people choose to focus on difference rather than on similarities.

Best wishes,
F Barratt