



St John Fisher News

Friday 16th December 2016 (Issue 13 ~ 2016/17)



www.st-johnfisher.org

www.ourladyoflourdessheffield.gov.uk



Citizen of the Week

There is no award this week as it has been our annual Community Carol concert today. There will be a citizenship award presented at a special end of term Celebration Assembly on the last day (Wednesday 21st December) from 9.05am. All are welcome.

Forthcoming Events

This year's school calendar can be accessed via: www.st-johnfisher.org/parents/school-dates/

19-12-16	✓	Opportunity for Y3 parents/carers to meet Mrs Drake – Y3 classroom at 3.30pm
21-12-16	✓	Celebration Assembly – School Hall at 9.05am
	✓	Last day of Term 2, break up for the Christmas holiday
06-01-17	✓	School closed - disaggregated staff training day
09-01-17	✓	School reopens for the start of Term 3
13-01-17	✓	New Year Mass (led by Y6) – Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church at 9.30am
	✓	Celebration Assembly – School Hall at 2.55pm (The family and friends of Y1 pupils invited)
17-01-17	✓	Y6 visit to the Crucial Crew
19-01-17	✓	Curriculum Exhibition – School Hall at 9.05am
20-01-17	✓	Celebration Assembly – School Hall at 2.55pm (The family and friends of FS2 pupils invited)

Staff News

Mrs Evans

Today we finally bid farewell to Mrs Evans who has been our Deputy Headteacher since September 2013. You may recall from the newsletter sent out on 27th May 2016 that Mrs Evans was appointed as Deputy Headteacher at St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School and started there last September. We negotiated with the Governors of St Wilfrid's for Mrs Evans to be seconded back to St John Fisher on a temporary and part-time basis in order to complete her important work - particularly to do with Mathematics.

I am grateful to Mr Truby, the Headteacher of St Wilfrid's, and the Governing body for the generosity and understanding they showed in enabling this to happen.

Mrs Evans agreed to join us in the immediate aftermath of the challenging Ofsted inspection of May 2013 – a typically brave decision as she moved with her family from Bristol to Sheffield. Her utter commitment to playing a full part in turning the school's fortunes around was as significant as it was inspirational. She has played such a huge part in the progress we have made as a community.

Her qualities as a person; a leader; a team player; an educationalist; and someone of great faith and humility have been key to our journey as a school. I am so grateful to her for all she has done, and I know that our school - the children and colleagues she leaves - will always have a special place in her heart. Mrs Evans is assured of our prayers for her continued happiness, good health and success in all she does in the future.

Mrs Bishop

Today is also Mrs Bishop's last day before she begins her maternity leave. She also leaves with our prayers and best wishes as we ask God to protect her, her new baby and her family during this very special time.

Miss Kiernan, Mr Tandy & Mrs Drake

From next week Mrs Drake will be the Y3 teacher. A reminder that there will be an opportunity for parents and carers to meet with her after school on **Monday 19th December 2016**, and all are welcome. I would like to thank Miss Kiernan and Mr Tandy sincerely for their hard work in Y3 this year. Miss Kiernan joins Mrs Sambrook in Y1 from the beginning of Term 3. Mr Tandy, who has worked in a number of Catholic schools in Sheffield and latterly as a supply teacher during a long and distinguished teaching career retires this Christmas. We thank him for all the support he has given our community over the years and wish him well for the future.

Good News

RE (Section 48) Inspection

I am delighted to inform you that following our formal Section 48 inspection of RE and the Catholic life of the school the summary judgements are:

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|--|------------------------|
| • Outcomes for Pupils | (1) Outstanding |
| • The Provision for Catholic Education | (1) Outstanding |
| • Leaders and Managers | (1) Outstanding |
| • Overall Effectiveness | (1) Outstanding |



Diocese of Hallam

"St John Fisher Primary is, overall, outstanding in providing Catholic education for its pupils"

A copy of the report has been emailed along with this newsletter. It is also available via the school website: <http://www.st-johnfisher.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/S48-Report-St-John-Fisher-Dec-16.pdf>.

I would like to thank all my colleagues who have worked exceedingly hard over many months in order to secure these excellent judgements. I would also like to thank Fr Paul for his help and advice, and particularly for supporting the vibrant liturgical life of the school. I would like to thank Mr Cape for his advice and guidance leading up to his retirement last summer. Finally I would like to single out Mrs Holloway (Subject Leader) and Mrs Walton (Link-Governor) for 'RE & Catholic Life' for their hard work and absolute focus in driving and securing the improvements necessary over the past two years in order to meet the rigorous standards and expectations of the new RE inspection framework.

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 wide range 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

Achievements Outside of School

- **Lacey Lou Lockey** in **Y1** achieved her 50m swimming award recently, Congratulations Lacey Lou!
- **Emily Cowlshaw** in **Y3** took part in her first dance show at the Montgomery Theatre in Sheffield last weekend. Everyone was so proud of her! Well done Emily!
- **Tamzin Samba** in **Y3** recently achieved her Kingfisher 3 diving award. Well done Tamzin!

If your child has achieved something special outside of school you can either write about it and deposit it in the post box (in the entrance foyer), or you can email it to: enquiries@stjohnfisherlearning.co.uk. Thank you.

Term 2 Smiley Final Scores

St Andrew's House  404	St David's House  361	St Patrick's House  420	St George's House  324
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Congratulations the children and staff of St Patrick's House, our Term 2 winners! They will receive Golden Time as a reward next week!

Did You Know?

- 5 minutes late every day adds up to 3 days lost each year
- 10 minutes late every day adds up to 6 days lost each year
- 15 minutes late every day adds up to 10 days lost each year
- 20 minutes late every day adds up to 13 days lost each year
- 30 minutes late every day adds up to 19 days lost each year

Weekly Attendance			
FS2		98.0%	
Year 1		98.6%	Elvis the Owl will visit next week
Year 2		99.6%	Bobby Bear will visit next week
Year 3		94.8%	
Year 4		96.9%	
Year 5		96.9%	
Year 6		99.4%	Brenda Bear will visit next week
Weekly Target		97%	This week's Average Attendance 97.7%

Term 2 Attendance			
FS2		97.0%	
Year 1		96.0%	
Year 2		98.6%	Golden Time
Year 3		96.2%	
Year 4		97.9%	
Year 5		97.6%	
Year 6		97.3%	
Termly Target		97%	Average attendance for Term 2 97.2%

Our average attendance figures for the week, the term and the year so far are all above 97%.

Attendance is used by inspectors as one of the key ways to judge the effectiveness of a school.

Particularly pleasing for us is the fact that our 2016-17 attendance figures - so far are strong in each class and overall; with most classes now above 97.5%.

As the expectations of all schools increase year on year we will need to join others in raising our own attendance target to 97.5% from September. Thank you for your support.

2016-17 Attendance (so far)			
FS2		97.6%	
Year 1		96.8%	
Year 2		98.7%	Golden Time!
Year 3		97.5%	
Year 4		98.1%	
Year 5		97.7%	
Year 6		97.9%	
Yearly Target		97%	Average Attendance for the year 97.7%

Congratulations to The children of Y2 who earn two lots of Gold Time for being both the Termly champions and the overall leaders so far this year!

Our Catholic Life

New Year Mass

You are all invited to join us for a special Mass to mark the New Year on Friday 13th January 2017. It will be led by the pupils of Y6 and take place at Our Lady of Lourdes. It will start at 9.30am.

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

The next Liturgy was due to be led by the children of Y1 on Thursday 19th January. However this has been cancelled because our Curriculum Exhibition is taking place that morning. So, the next liturgy will be the week after, on Thursday 26th January 2017, led by the young people of **FS2**. The family and friends of our FS2 children are invited to join us in the School Hall just after 9.00am.

Weekly Celebration Assembly

You are all invited to a special Celebration Assembly on Wednesday 21st December at 9.05am as we have not been able to have one for the last two weeks.

Daily Advent Class Reflections

Our daily class Advent reflections will continue next week (not on PE days). The Advent liturgies are a very special time for each class to pause and reflect at the end of a busy day on the importance of the season of Advent and the true meaning of Christmas. Family and friends are invited, but places are limited. Please book on the day, through the School Office, if you wish to attend. Thank you for your support.

Parish News

The next children's Mass takes place on 18th December 2016 followed by a short carol concert straight after Mass. Everything starts at 10.30 and you are all invited! Please do try to go along.

KS1 Nativity

On Tuesday and Wednesday the children in Years 1 and 2 performed their nativity play, 'Noisy Nativity' and they were magnificent! They retold the story of the events around the birth of Jesus, so beautifully.

I was only able to see Tuesday's incredible performance because I attended Mr Anyon's funeral which coincided with Wednesday's performance, but I did manage to catch up with a number of parents and colleagues on my return who assured me that Wednesday's performance was also very impressive.



I am delighted for the children and my dedicated colleagues who worked so hard to produce the play. What was striking was the sheer joy on the children's faces and their confidence as they spoke out clearly; sang with such gusto and acted with such pride. They were enjoying themselves which is the most important thing of all. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us. Thank you also for providing your feedback.

FS2 Outdoor Learning Area

I am delighted to inform you that work on the FS2 outdoor learning area is almost complete. There are just one or two snags to put right. The project was funded by a £10K grant which was secured from the 'The Big Lottery Fund' following an application by the PTFA.

The area was designed by a team from 'Ground Designs' who worked closely with Mrs Darken, Mrs Prentice and myself in order to create an inspiring and useable space for our children. The removal of the broken chain-link fence and the replacement with a gate means that the space is also easily accessible to the children and staff of Y1.

The space will be open for children to use in January, once the safety checks have been completed. Until then, we respectfully ask you to not let your children use the new equipment.

I would like to sincerely thank the PTFA, my colleagues in FS2 and the 'Ground Designs' team for all their hard work.



LOTTERY FUNDED



Community Carol Concert

Yesterday the community came together for our annual Community Carol Concert at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. It was led by the children of Years 3-6. The church was packed with family and friends as we listened attentively to the words written by the children as part of a school-wide writing project focused on Advent and the Christmas story. The children who read did so from their own scripts. The readers were all splendid! The readings were interspersed with carols and Christmas songs. Some children sang in small groups and were fantastic! Some played keyboard, guitar and percussion – all displayed confidence, pride and enjoyment. One of the highlights for me was the rendition of Silent Night sung by class groups of children in the different languages spoken at home by some of our families. It was very moving. I would like to again thank Fr Paul for his constant support; Mr Smith, Miss Pendlebury, Miss Kiernan, Mr Burt and all my colleagues who were involved in preparing the children so well. Thank you to everyone who came along. Finally I would like to thank our incredible children for being so brilliant! Afterwards everyone was invited back to school for refreshments and cakes provided by our PTFA. I would like to thank our friends from the PTFA for all their help.

2016 Pantomime

On Thursday the whole school visited the Lyceum Theatre to watch this year's pantomime. The school travelled on buses paid for by the PTFA. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the performance and had lots of fun! The children (and staff) whose birthdays were in December even had their names called out!

I would like to thank Mrs Battams for making all the arrangements. Work started last December, and has continued all year, it was a big undertaking.

I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Ramsden for their generosity in providing every child with snacks and water to enjoy during the interval.



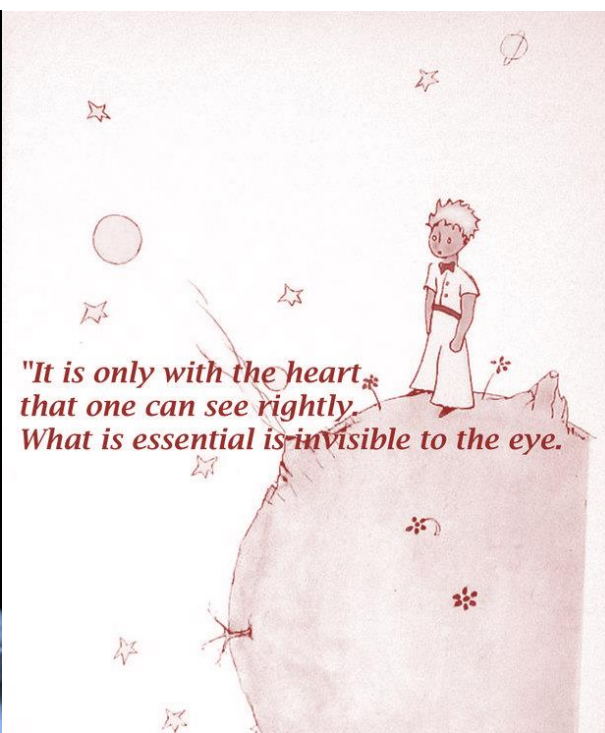
I would like to thank the PTFA for funding the transport so that the cost to parents could be kept to a minimum and I would like to thank all my colleagues and the volunteers for looking after the children so well.

When we returned the children enjoyed a picnic party lunch instead of the usual lunch, capping a very special day in the life of our community.

Statement to Live By

Next week our 'statement to live by' is '**Simple things make me happy**'

Time to talk: At this time of year, as we thoughts turn to presents, we have been thinking about the true meaning of Christmas as we journey through the season of Advent. The children have been thinking about those important things in their lives that money cannot buy. Why don't you try to list some? Why not think about simple ways to make others happy. What is it or who is that make our lives happy and special?



Have a great weekend,

Best wishes,
Mr Barratt

*Appreciate
the little things, for one day you may
look back and find they were
the big things.*