

SJF NEWS

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Friday 15th December 2017 (Issue 14 ~ 2017/18)



Citizen of the Week

This week's recipient is **Tyler Hault** in **Y4** who understands that simple things makes us happy, in line with this week's 'Statement to Live By'. As we each continue with our personal Advent journeys towards the great feast of Christmas it is important to focus on what is important (joy, peace, hope and love) and not the unimportant material things that come and go. Tyler demonstrates an understanding of this in his attitudes, behaviours and responses – and we could not be more proud of him! Well done superstar!

Marie Balfour RIP

Earlier this week I attended the funeral of Mrs Marie Balfour at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church at Spinkhill. Mrs Balfour worked at St John Fisher in a variety of different roles for 30 years until her retirement in 2013. She will probably best be remembered in her role as the FS2 Teaching Assistant. Always a great supporter of our community, Mrs Balfour also served as a Staff Governor for a number of years. Generations of families and children – including some of our current parents - will remember her fondly for her kindness and generosity of spirit. Our thoughts and prayers go to her and her family. We will have a Mass said for her in the coming weeks and consider a suitable way to remember her and honour the wonderful contribution she made to our community over so many years.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen

Calendar Reminders

19-12-17	✓ KS1 Nativity Play – School Hall at 2.15pm (please bring money for the raffle)
20-12-17	✓ KS1 Nativity Play – School Hall at 2.15pm (please bring money for the raffle)
21-12-17	✓ Christmas dinner day (a non-uniform/Christmas jumper day)
22-12-17	✓ curriculum exhibition – School Hall from 9am-10am ✓ KS2 Community Carol Service – Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church at 2.00pm ✓ PTFA refreshments and raffle in the School Hall afterwards ✓ no Celebration Assembly ✓ end of Term 2
08-01-18	✓ school reopens – start of Term 3

Advent 2017

Class Advent Reflections

Advent reflections continue this week on the following days. All are welcome, so please do try and join us.

- ✓ **FS2** on **Tuesday** and **Thursday**
- ✓ **Years 1 & 2** on **Monday** and **Tuesday**
- ✓ **Years 3 & 4** on **Monday** and **Wednesday**
- ✓ **Years 5 & 6** on **Monday** and **Thursday**

A reminder that if you would like to attend, please book through the **School Office** (rather than speaking to the class teacher). Please arrive at **3.00pm** and wait in the foyer by the School Office, so you are in time for the prompt start at 3.10pm. Regrettably, we are unable to admit anyone after this time. Thank you for your understanding.

Advent Prayer

A reminder that throughout Advent we have been focusing on 'The Act of Contrition'. This is a very special prayer in which we ask God to forgive us for all the things we have done wrong. We also ask God for the strength to move on in our lives and leave our bad ways behind us. The prayer can be said any time, but is always said when people receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The words are: **O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you – and by the help of your grace, I will not sin again.**

Term 2 Smiley Scores

These were not counted this week because of the Santa in School event. The House Captains will add them up and share the scores in next week's newsletter – when the Term 2 Champions will be revealed!

Santa in School 2017!

What a great day!





This year's PTFA 'Santa in School' event was spectacular, just as it has been for the five years it has been running! I would like to thank everyone involved in organising this year's event!

'Santa in School' takes a lot of organising and I would like to thank **everyone** who worked so hard planning it, sourcing gifts and materials, preparing everything and then running the event on the day. Incredibly kind!

I would also like to thank Santa for taking the time out of his busy schedule to be with us.

I would like to thank the team at Spa View Church, including Senior Pastor Chris Jeavons and Sally Watters, for again hosting it.

The church was decorated as a Winter Wonderland with a fantastic Gingerbread House! Santa certainly felt at home with us!

The children experienced it with their buddies and after meeting Santa there were lots of stalls and activities for them to enjoy!

All our children were amazing and had a wonderful time! They were buzzing! I would also like to thank the Y7 pupils from All Saints who supported the PTFA. You were amazing!

If you would like to find out more about supporting the PTFA and getting involved in the planning/preparation of next year's event please email school or leave contact details in the post box (in a sealed envelope) and we will pass them on. Thank you.

Christmas Lunch 2017

A reminder that our Christmas lunch is on **Thursday 21st December 2017**.

The main menu choice is roast turkey with cocktail sausage, Quorn roast with Quorn sausage, Halal roast chicken served with roast potatoes, stuffing, peas, carrots and gravy.

Dessert is a choice between Black Forest flapjack or fresh fruit and yoghurt!

As it is a special day all the children and staff can dress down and wear a Christmas jumper if they have one!

Achievements Outside of School

- **Poppy Sorby** in **FS2** took part in her first dance show recently, receiving a special medal for her part in the group performance of the Christmas show! Congratulations Poppy!
- **Leon Chudzinski** in **Y3** recently passed Stage 3 in the 'Learn to Swim' programme, and has already progressed to Stage 4! Super achievement Leon, well done!
- **Tamzin Samba** in **Y4** participated in Dance Studio's 'Festive Spectacular' production at Springs Academy on 10th December! As well as this, Tamzin received a special certificate for completing a diving taster session! Both are fantastic achievements Tamzin, well done!

Christmas Cards

Cards must be posted in the special Christmas post box (in the foyer) rather than given out in the playground, as this leads to litter. Please ensure that the recipient's name is written clearly on the front of the envelope along with his/her class. Thank you. The cards are collected, sorted and delivered by Y6 pupils each day.



Christmas Panto 2017!



Monday was panto day, and thanks to our PTFA, the children were able to enjoy a production of Jack and the Beanstalk in school this year! The PTFA also provided the children with snacks and drinks to enjoy! I would like to thank the PTFA for giving our children this wonderful opportunity, everyone had lots and lots of fun!

FS2 Nativity 2017!

Huge congratulations to the children of FS2 for this week's wonderful nativity! It was amazing! The children were brilliant and obviously enjoyed themselves as they retold the nativity story through song, dance and drama! They were so incredibly confident! I would like to thank each of them for their fantastically enthusiastic performances and my special colleagues for all their hard work behind the scenes encouraging and empowering our youngest children to shine. Amazing! Photographs will be published in the next newsletter.

Attendance this Week

FS2	86.3%	
Year 1	92.7%	Elvis the owl will be visiting next week
Year 2	89.3%	
Year 3	96.8%	Bobby bear will visit next week
Year 4	95.9%	Brenda bear will visit next week
Year 5	86.6%	
Year 6	91.3%	
Target	97.5%	This week's average attendance: 91.2%

This is one of the lowest overall averages we have ever had and is reflective of the fact that so many children have been too ill come to school. One day this week, in one of our classes, eight children were off sick! Let us hope that everyone rallies for the last week and our attendance figures return to their normal high levels.

Please note that if your child is going to be late for school please telephone before 8.55am so that your child's dinner is not cancelled. Thank you for your cooperation.

Collective Worship

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

We will resume our liturgies in the New Year.

Celebration Assembly

Please note that there is no Celebration Assembly next week because it is our Community Carol Service followed by refreshments in the School Hall. All invited!

Curriculum Exhibition

You are invited to join us for our first exhibition of the year on 22nd December 2017 (last day of Term 2). It is in the School Hall from 9.00am. It is a great opportunity to come along and have a look at the children's work.

Lozenges

Here is a message from Mrs Pickering our lead for first aid/medical issues:

"We have noticed that a few children are bringing in cough lozenges to school. Whilst we understand that parents/carers are giving these to children in order to ease their cough/sore throat symptoms, they are a form of medicine and therefore have the potential to cause harm. They also present a potential choking risk.

We have strict procedures regarding the use of medicines in school and a healthy eating philosophy that does not allow children to have sweets. Our concern also is that lozenges brought in to school without the knowledge of staff will be shared and consumed by children as if they are sweets.

We are looking at the impact of this and the legal and practical obligations and implications.

Whilst this is ongoing, we ask that you do not send lozenges into school. Thank you for your support."

Extreme Weather & School Closure



Last week's extreme weather scare served as a timely reminder of the importance of school having up-to-date contact details for parents/carers. Please notify us if you change your address, email address, mobile telephone numbers etc. because it is important that we are able to make contact quickly in the event of an emergency. Thank you for your support.

Jubilee Tree Planting





We were delighted to welcome employees of 'Two Sisters', Drakehouse who joined us in order to plant the trees just received from The Woodland Trust to mark our Diamond Jubilee. Every child planted a tree, 214 in total, in an area of the field we would like to eventually develop into a small wooded area for outside learning. The children had a wonderful time planting their very own saplings. I would like to especially thank Mrs Lisa Cowlshaw of our PTFA for helping us to link up with 'Two Sisters' and for supporting us with the tree planting. I would also like to thank Messrs Broadhead and Smith for securing the trees from The Woodland Trust.

Statement to Live By

Next week our 'statement to live by' is '**I try to love others as I love myself**'

Time to talk: During the season of Advent, in the build up to Christmas, we are encouraged to think about our lives and the direction we are going. We are challenged to make changes if we need to get back on track. The children have been learning that the true message of Christmas is one of hope, peace joy and love. The greatest of all of these is love – because God is love. We are asked to put others first and treat them as we would want them to treat us. At St John Fisher we try to show love to others in lots of ways:

- ✓ by sharing a smile
- ✓ by having good manners and remembering to say 'please' and 'thank you'
- ✓ by sharing forgiveness and accepting apologies
- ✓ by respecting difference
- ✓ by remembering that everyone is a child of God - no one is rubbish
- ✓ by being a good buddy
- ✓ by sharing
- ✓ by including others – and not leaving anyone out
- ✓ by being proud and happy for others' successes
- ✓ by being generous, unselfish and kind

What sorts of things can you do at home to show family members that you love them, and will try to put them first so that they feel special?

