



# St John Fisher Weekly News



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014 (Issue 16 ~ 2013/14)

## Welcome Back!

I would like to wish you all a happy new year! It was so great to see all the children again and to hear about everything they got up to over the holidays. This is going to be a big year in the life of our school. As a new Academy we are technically no longer in a 'Special Measures' category, so we are awaiting a further inspection which will be undertaken by two HMs to confirm our *designation*. Basically this means that they will judge whether the progress we have made since our inspection last May is good enough.

I welcome your feedback on any aspect of school life, so please get in touch if you would like to speak to me. You can also give feedback to Ofsted directly via the 'Parent View' site. (<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>). If you don't have internet access at home or a computer then please let me know and I will arrange for you to complete the questionnaire in school so that you do not miss out. There will also be an opportunity at the next Parents Evenings.



## Pupil Progress & Achievement

As you know the children had their second round of assessments just before Christmas. I am having pupil progress review meetings which each teacher today and so will send home the second pupil achievement report next week. If you want to discuss any aspect of it please make arrangements to meet your child's teacher.

## Dates from the Calendar

Please keep checking your school calendar for information about forthcoming events including class liturgies. **Please note that there is no INSET day in February.** We moved the INSET day to the end of the Spring Bank Holiday so that you could have two full weeks. Please take note of the following dates:

- INSET Day - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014
- INSET Day - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014
- Parent/Carer Evening - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February (2.30pm – 5.00pm)
- Parent/Carer Evening - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February (6.00pm – 8.00pm)

## The Visit of Bishop John

I would like to remind you that Bishop John Rawsthorne will visit us on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014**. He will arrive around 1.30pm and will be shown around the school so that he can visit every classroom to meet the children. At 2.30pm he will lead a simple liturgy of thanksgiving which will include a blessing and formal opening of our new library and administration block. You are *all* invited to join us for this and a simple reception in the hall afterwards with refreshments provided by our PTFA, enabling you to meet Bishop John.

## Maths Workshops for Parents and Carers

We will be holding the first of a series of workshops to show you how we teach (and the children develop) mathematical skills. A number of parents have spoken to me saying that they would appreciate more information on the way mathematics skills are taught in school so that they can better support their children at home. This is particularly the case with the four rules of number (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). The workshop will be after school on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014** and you are all welcome. Please be assured that we are here to help, explain, demonstrate and support you in any way that is required, so there is no such thing as a silly question! If there is specific support with mathematics that you need yourself then please let us know in confidence. Thank you.

## Adverse Weather Conditions

An important letter was sent home yesterday about what will happen if weather conditions mean that school needs to start later/finish earlier or even close. Nothing has changed from last year. This means that in the event of severe weather we will notify the local radio stations (who will make announcements and post the information on their websites) and text parents/carers. Please ensure that we have your correct mobile phone numbers. Thank you.

## Pupil Premium Funding

As you are aware from previous newsletters, school can access Pupil Premium funding for children who are entitled to Free School Meals (even if they do not eat them), looked after children and children of service personnel (regular or reserve). This funding can be used to help with school trips and additional educational or extra-curricular activities.

From April 2014, we will also be able to access the funding for children who are 'Adopted from Care' or 'Post Looked After Children'. The criteria for this are as follows:

- Children who left care under a Residential Order on or after 14 Oct 1991
- Children who left care under a Special Guardianship Order on or after 30 Dec 2005
- Children who were adopted from care on or after 30 Dec 2005

In order to be able to access this funding, school will need to see evidence that your child meets one of these criteria e.g. an adoption order, before 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Please speak to us if you have any questions.

### Miss Kiernan's 'Drop-In'

Hello! While I am loving being back in the classroom for two days a week, and sharing teaching Y4 with Mrs Evans, I miss having the time to speak to our wonderful parents, so this is a reminder about my 'drop-in' session. I will be available every Friday from 3.00pm in the library to chat about anything 'inclusion' related. This could involve a long-term educational concern, a developmental query or anything else to do with your child(ren) at school, home or elsewhere. Please feel free to drop in for a chat and I will help all I can!

**Miss Kiernan**

### Parish News

The Next Children's Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January at 10:30. All parents and children are welcome to attend this special Children's Mass.

### Golden Children

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

• F 2	<b>Archie Saxton-Clayton</b> for settling back in to school life brilliantly after the Christmas holidays and for always being ready to listen and to learn!
• Year 1	<b>Reuben Hastings-Quainoo</b> for trying really hard to do the right thing at carpet time! Well done!
• Year 2	<b>Poppy Walton</b> for always listening to instructions and challenging herself with her learning!
• Year 3	<b>Ashleigh Hurst</b> for performing really well in her writing assessment because of the huge amount of effort she is putting into all her work! Congratulations!
• Year 4	<b>Noora Moshtael</b> for having an all-around amazing attitude. She is just a fantastic role-model!
• Year 5	<b>Leighton Gough</b> for his fantastic engineering skills when building 'The Iron Man'!
• Year 6	<b>Libby Kilbride</b> for fantastic pride and effort in all she does! A super role-model to others!



### Links Partnership Sports Stars of the Week

The children who were identified as Sports Stars this week were: Kimi Hardy, Melissa Clayton, Nicole Mercardo and Sophie Robinson-Oates. Congratulations all of you!

### Weekly Liturgy of the Word

Thank you to Mr Smith and the young people of Year 6 for leading this week's liturgy. Thank you also to everyone who was able to join us. The liturgy next **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014** will be led by the children of **Year 5** and will start just after 9.00am in the school hall. Friends and family members of our Year 5 pupils are very welcome to join us. Thank you.

### Weekly Attendance Winners

I would like to introduce Brenda who now visits the class with the second highest attendance of the week. She replaces Bertie who is currently having a super time travelling the world. He sends his best wishes to everyone by the way. For the week ending 06-01-13 in first place are the girls and boys of **Y6** who achieved a **100%** attendance - and will be visited by Bobby Bear. In second place were the children of **FS2** with **99.1%** attendance and they will receive a visit from Brenda Bear! In third place were the young people of **Y1** who managed **98.3%** attendance and will be visited by Elvis the Owl. Congratulations all of you! The average attendance was **97.7%** which is back above our target of 96%, thank you.



**Brenda Bear**

Good attendance is vital for ensuring good levels of pupil progress. It is for this reason that attendance is used to measure a school's effectiveness. Our target is a minimum of 96% and this is how we are doing.

September 2013 to December 2013 (Overall)			
FS2	96.4%	Y4	97%
Y1	96.1%	Y5	97.5
Y2	97.7%	Y6	97.7%
Y3	96.4%	<b>Average</b>	<b>97%</b>

Term 2 (November & December 2013)			
FS2	95.5%	Y4	96.2%
Y1	96.9%	Y5	96.9%
Y2	97.1%	Y6	97.3%
Y3	96.5%	<b>Average</b>	<b>96.6%</b>

Years 2 and 6 had Golden Time yesterday!

### **Achievements Outside School**

Olivia Worrall in Year 6 has recently passed her Primary Grade certificate in Ballet and Silver Cheerleading certificate, both highly commended. Well done Olivia!

### **Statement to Live By**

Next week our statement to live by is: **"I listen to what you say. I show that I am listening to you."**

**Time to talk:** Why is this important? How does it feel to be ignored or to talk to someone who looks like they are disinterested in what you have to say? Do you always show others the respect they deserve by listening to them actively and showing them that we care about their opinions and what they have to say?

Have a great weekend,  
Mr Barratt