



St John Fisher Weekly News



Friday 13th December 2013 (Issue 14 ~ 2013/14)

The Visit of Bishop John: New Date

The visit of Bishop John Rawsthorne will *not* now take place on Monday 16th December 2013. Instead it has been rearranged for **Monday 20th January 2014**.

The timetable will be the same on that day, so you are all invited to a simple liturgy which will start at 2.30pm in the hall. I am very grateful to our PTFA who will provide refreshments after the liturgy, giving you an opportunity to meet Bishop John and our other guests, which will include Fr Paul, Governors, our partners from the Diocese of Hallam, the architect and the main contractor as well as the PTFA committee.

New Curriculum

Since September we have been developing a new curriculum partly in response to the Ofsted judgement last July and partly to meet the requirements of the new Primary National Curriculum being which comes into force in September 2014. We are working with a highly regarded consultant educationalist called Jane Pow who also works currently as part of a group of experts advising the Department of Education.

As a staff we have spent a great deal of time thinking about the sort of curriculum we need for St John Fisher; the sort of exciting curriculum our children deserve; one that will help us drive up standards and keep them high.

Our aim is that our new curriculum will excite and engage all our children. We want it to be rigorous; with a big focus on the teaching and learning of those important basic skills that our children need to in order to make progress and fulfil their potential. I want my colleagues to take full advantage of the freedoms that our new curriculum will offer to ensure that deep learning takes place and our children enjoy, achieve so they can be the best they can be.

Every day children will have a 'Number and Calculation' session which will focus on meeting every child's needs so they build confidence with numbers, sequencing and completing calculations (mentally and using informal and formal written strategies). We aim to deliver parent/carer workshops to demonstrate what is being taught in school so you feel more confident supporting your children at home.

Children will also have focused sessions to develop reading, handwriting, spelling and their understanding of punctuation and grammar which will again aim to address any barriers holding them back. We want our curriculum to empower every child so that he/she makes at least 'good' progress from their different starting points.

All other areas of mathematics along with the different subjects of the National Curriculum, including computing and science, will be taught in a cross-curricular way when appropriate or as specific modules within themes. PE will continue to be led by specialist sports coaches.

The themes will be whole-school and in January we will pilot our first, entitled "Marvellous Machines". You will receive a Curriculum Overview explaining what will be covered soon after we return. I would very much appreciate your feedback and ideas so that we can get it right for our children. Thank you.

Staff News

I am delighted to inform you that following a rigorous selection process by the National College, Mr Smith was successful in his application to become a Specialist Leader of Education (SLE). This means that once our school is in a secure position he will spend some of his time working to support colleagues and promote outstanding practice in other schools. Until then his focus will be internal. Our congratulations go to him!

Key Stage 2 Community Carol Service

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our Key Stage 2 Parents and Families to attend the Carol Concert next Friday at 2.00pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. You are then invited back to school for refreshments and cakes served by the PTFA.

Nativity Performances

I would like to thank everyone who was able to join us to watch the nativity plays this week. I would like to thank the children and my colleagues for all they did to prepare them.



Links Partnership Sport Stars of the Week

The following children have been identified by our sports coaches as stars this week: Hubert Jaworski (for the second week running) and Darcy Tirol. Well done to you both!

Golden Children

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

• F 2	Vilius Bagdonas for joining in brilliantly in all lessons, and especially PE!
• Year 1	Diana Nicula for making a beautiful Christmas card for her family!
• Year 2	Ola Dominiak for trying hard!
• Year 3	Bitanga Kalyata for trying hard to demonstrate good learning behaviours!
• Year 4	Ruben Jackson for always being such an enthusiastic participant in class! He has fantastic ideas!
• Year 5	Alex Thompson for making fantastic progress with his writing!
• Year 6	Daniel Kandare for making a fantastic effort with his handwriting!

PTFA: Santa in School Day

Father Christmas' elves have written to the PTFA committee to say that he can visit us on Thursday 19th December! We are all really excited!

To celebrate this special event the children will **not** have to wear school uniform on that day and come to school dressed in their favourite clothes – although we do ask that they are practical for school and suitable for the weather etc.

As it is a special day - and weather permitting - everyone is asked to wait on the playground in front of the library *before school* in order to greet Father Christmas just after he lands following his long journey down from the North Pole. This means that on that day the children in F2 and Y1 will stay on the playground and not go straight into class as they normally do.

Every child will have an opportunity to meet Father Christmas with their buddy, and spend a little pocket money buying little treats and gifts on the stalls that will be run by the PTFA.

As there is so much happening on 'Santa in School Day' we will not have separate party days so there will be no need to send in party food (or money for teacher to buy party food) this year.

If you can spare some time to help the PTFA set up the parish hall the day before and/or help on the day we would really like to hear from you. We would really appreciate some more volunteers to help make the day a huge success for our fantastic children. **All offers of help would be appreciated.** Thank you.

I would like to sincerely thank our PTFA for all they have done to organise this special event - which has taken about ten months to plan and prepare for. The PTFA Committee is a small group always looking for new members, so if you are interested in getting involved in small ways or big, please get in touch.

Please bring any outstanding money for the Santa in School event by Wednesday.

PTFA: Carol Concert

We would be grateful if you would donate any mince pies, cake or buns for after the KS2 carol concert next Friday (20th). The PTFA will be serving teas and coffees to everyone who attends the concert.

PTFA: Internet Shopping

A reminder that you can raise much needed funds for school by using the following link when you shop online: Thank you. www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel



Writing Champions

The following children are our Writing Champions this week because they have really tried hard and made a personal leap forward as a result. Their fantastic writing can be viewed in our hall over the next week.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
George Cranston	Matthew Ford	Kayleigh Collins	Olivia Dean & Matthew Bond	Jacob Croft	Gabriel Pinto, Finlay Morris & Libby Kilbride

Assessment Point 2

The results data from the second round of assessments completed recently is being collated. Pupil progress reports will be sent home in January along with targets as part of our continuing commitment to keep you informed as to how your child(ren) are doing.

House Points this Term

St Andrew	St David	St George	St Patrick
Smilies This week			
200	139	200	199
Term 2 Running Total			
781	730	891	994

Super Writer

I walk through the winter woods,
And nature is sleeping –
Leaves are scattered on the ground,
What secret are they keeping?

The bitter air whips against my legs,
Gentle gives way to harsh –
But tenacious grass still peeps up through
All the mud and marsh!

Libby Kilbride (Y6)

Parish News: Children's Mass

The Next Children's Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes will take place on **Sunday 15th December at 10:30am**. All parents, carers and children are welcome to attend this special children's Advent Mass. Thank you.

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

I would like to remind you that the next liturgy is on **Thursday 9th January 2014** in the school hall. It will be led by the young people of **Year 6** and start just after 9.00am. The family and friends of our Year 6 pupils are very welcome to join us. Thank you.

Weekly Attendance Winners

For the week ending 06-12-13 in first place are the girls and boys of Year 5 who achieved a 99.3% attendance - and will be visited by Bobby Bear. In second place were the children of Year 6 with 99.3% attendance and they will receive a visit from Brenda Bear (Bertie is still indisposed)! In third place were the young people of Year 4 who managed 98.8% attendance and will be visited by Elvis the Owl. Congratulations all of you!

The average attendance was **98.4%** which is back above our target of 96%, thank you.

Achievements Outside School

- Abigael Collins in year 4 has had a busy couple of weeks. Firstly she achieved her Level 3 and Level 4 British Trampolining awards and she also achieved her 100 metre swimming award. Congratulations Abigael, we are all very proud of you!

Statement to Live By

Next week our statement to live by is: **"I know I belong to a community that includes my school."**

Time to talk: A community is like a family where we are loved and respected for who we are and we don't have to pretend to be someone or something we are not. Our school, like our families is a special because we can be happy, safe and loved there. Apart from our families and school what other communities do we belong to?

Have a great weekend,

Mr Barratt