



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr C Newstead



22nd December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we finish for the Christmas holiday, I am writing to you to keep you informed of progress during the autumn term.

We are well underway towards achieving the improvements set out in our School Development Plan. For 2017-2018 these are:

Aim 1 To ensure that outcomes for all children are outstanding.

Aim 2 : To ensure that the quality of teaching, learning and assessment throughout the school are outstanding.

Aim 3 : To ensure that the effectiveness of leadership and management are outstanding.

Aim 4 : To ensure that personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding.

Aim 5 : To ensure that provision for Catholic Education is outstanding.

Successes so far have included:

- **Staff training has focused on Maths Mastery, Online Safety, De-escalation and Positive Handling, Writing, Reading Resources, Safeguarding, School Development and Religious Education.**
- **Governors' meetings have focused on building priorities for our school as well as a review of the School Development Plan and an evaluation of our school.**
- **The head teacher's performance management targets have been reviewed by governors and all teachers have had new targets set for this school year.**
- **Attendance is currently 96.6% which is outstanding. Year 3 were our best attending class this term and they will be celebrating with a party on Monday 8th January at 8:50am. Furthermore, 73 children have been in school every day this term and will receive a reward for 100% attendance when we return in 2018.**

As in previous years Year 6 SATs results 2017 were among the highest in Knowsley. Our results were also above national averages for all other English primary schools in all subjects at the expected standard or above. Reception Class results were above the national average; our end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2) results were above local and national averages at the expected standard or

above in all areas and our Year 1 Phonics Screening Check results were well above national results. All our results are available on the school website in greater detail. You can be assured that everyone at St. Joseph's will continue to work hard to provide the best possible education for all of our children.

This term we have participated in a number of sporting activities including gymnastics, cross country and football. Our football team have been going from strength to strength and we are currently second in the league!

We all had a great morning watching the performance of Beauty and the Beast at the leisure centre. Year 6 pupils also enjoyed activities to develop self-confidence, motivation and team building at the Colomendy residential in October, which was great fun too!

The BOB boxes were very successful, raising £1,060 to support people in need in developing parts of our world. It was great to see so many mums, dads, grandparents, uncles, aunties and cousins working with their children to support our environment (as Pope Francis requested) and the work of CAFOD.

My favourite occasions this term have been our children's performances. The Shakespeare production received the following review: "This was a dynamic and visually stunning Macbeth filled with strong and powerful voices that delivered the dialogue and narrative with emotion and maturity."
(Lane Paul Stewart, Shakespeare Schools Festival)

Other wonderful shows were the Nativity Plays and the Key Stage 2 production. These events were a great showcase for our children's talents. I am really proud of them all.

Thanks to those of you who have given money towards the Archdiocese Building Fund (Levy). Contributions have helped us to complete the roof repairs. In the future we hope to further improve the school with internal decorating.

Thank you to all the parents, carers and families. I am very grateful for your contributions towards the Christmas Draw. Money raised from the draw and ticket sales for the school Christmas performances will go to our school fund, which helps us to fund extra events and items, such as the Christmas parties. Thank you also for your thoughtful Christmas gifts.

Finally, I look forward to seeing the children in school again on Monday 8th January, before 8:50am, ready to start school at 8:50am.

Enjoy a peaceful Christmas break.

C. Newstead

