



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



20th December 2019

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.

This term, we welcomed Mrs Finnen as our Year 4 teacher, Science and P.E. leader. She has already been very successful, with our children entering a variety of sporting events including football, cross country, dance and athletics. Our athletics team have been going from strength to strength with them winning the competition against other local schools recently.

We are well underway towards achieving the improvements set out in our School Development Plan. For 2019-2020 these are:

- **For subject leaders to drive the implementation of our knowledge based curriculum**
- **To develop and embed the use of high level and adventurous vocabulary across the curriculum**
- **To ensure that the number of children achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of Reception remains high and that the percentage of pupils at exceeding are above those seen nationally, especially in reading.**
- **To measure and address staff workload and the wellbeing of pupils and staff**
- **To address key priority pupil groups as identified by core subject leaders.**
- **To ensure that the school is well prepared to implement any changes required to prepare for the single national framework for inspection of Religious Education**

Successes so far have included:

- **Staff training has focused on staff and pupil well-being, safeguarding, subject leadership, curriculum, maths, English, religious education, school inspection, leadership, behaviour, science, phonics, Spanish and art.**
- **Governors' meetings have focused on evaluating our school, recognising our successes and identifying key priorities for improvement**
- **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 95.44%. This is mainly the result of having many children off sick during November and December, which is a local and national problem. Year 5 were our best attending class this term and they will be celebrating with a party on Monday 6th January at 8:50 a.m.**

As in previous years Year 6 SATs results 2019 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 in line with 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.

Visitors such as Levi Tafari (Black History), Ann Angel (Judaism), an archaeologist as well as Poetry and Poppies workshops have supported our curriculum offer this term. Visits to The World Museum, Princes Road Synagogue, Walker Art Gallery and following the course of the River Alt have further developed pupils' cultural capital.

We all had an entertaining morning enjoying The Wizard of Oz together, although I consider that our pupils who took part in Romeo and Juliet for the Shakespeare Festival were the best performers that I have seen at the leisure and culture park this year.

Other wonderful shows were the Reception Class' Sleepy Shepherd; Key Stage 1's Lights, Camel, Action; and, Key Stage 2's Christmas production. These events were a great showcase for our children's talents. I am really proud of them all.

Year 6 pupils also enjoyed activities to develop self-confidence, motivation and team building at the PGL residential in October, which was great fun too!

Thanks to those of you who have given money towards the Archdiocese Building Fund (Levy). Contributions have helped us to decorate Year 1, 2 and 3 classrooms as well as have new doors fitted throughout the school.

Thank you to all the parents, carers and families. Your responses to the questionnaire were extremely positive with 100% considering that their child make good progress and 100% stating that they would recommend our school. 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 6th January, from 8:40am, ready to start school at 8:50am.

Enjoy a peaceful Christmas break



C. Newstead