



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



15th July 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

As you know, after 17 years as head teacher, tomorrow is my last day at our wonderful St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. I have many happy memories that I will take with me and many people that I am grateful to. My staff here at school are incredible. The difficulties caused by the global coronavirus pandemic have certainly brought out the best in people. I know that you are equally grateful to them for consistently putting our children first, ensuring that they are safe and providing them with the best possible education, whether they are in school or at home.

Every child will come home with a rainbow wrist band today. Rainbows are a symbol of acceptance, tolerance and pride in all of our uniqueness and differences. They are also a symbol of gratitude and hope. May all of our children continue to value their uniqueness and be proud of the individuals that they are. Children will also bring home a colourful cross as a symbol of our school's mission statement: ***Everyone Together with Jesus***. It is a gift to remind them of the unity of our school family and of their individual importance in what they have given to us all. It is also a symbol of peace and love.

To all parents and carers, I would like to say **thank you**. I have been overwhelmed by your support and gratitude over the years. I know that not everyone has always been happy with everything that our school does, but by you continuing to send your precious children to St Joseph's each day, is a demonstration of your commitment to what we do, our rules and our values.

As head teacher, I have also been head learner in our school. I have learned much from you, our staff and our children. These are some of the things that I have learned:

We Learned it All in School

(Adapted from Robert Fulghum)

Most of what we really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be, I learned in school. Wisdom was not at the top of the university mountain, but there in the sand pit.

These are the things I learned.

Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Live a balanced life. Learn a bit and think a bit and draw and sing and dance and play and work every day.

When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up, we are all like that. Goldfish, hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup - they all die. So do we.

And then remember one of the first words you learned to read, the biggest word of all: **look**.

Think what a better world it would be if we all had snack and milk each day. Or if we had a basic policy always to put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

Goodbye!

C. Newstead

