



## Head-lines

I have said it before, but I do think the first term of the academic year is always my favourite; as much as I like the Summer months, I think the change from Autumn to Winter is one of the most beautiful periods of the year. It is always a privilege to work in a school with such wonderful children, but at this time of the year especially, it is just magical. Seeing the growing excitement and anticipation, the school decorated, Christmas fairs and the truly amazing KS1 production. We did have an issue in F2L with a particularly naughty elf who was causing mischief daily, but luckily Mason was on the case, found him in the fridge of all places and used the special gloves to put him back on the shelf! Thanks Mason!

As always, thank you all for your continued support, and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Mr Turner

## Just as St Joseph the Worker did.... Stepping up to achieve excellence



As you will be aware, at the end of last year we introduced a new Vision Statement for our school by turning to the example set by St Joseph. Given an enormous task, he didn't turn away or do things half heartedly - he 'stepped up' and took on the role. We are striving for excellence at St Joseph's. This term I have seen this Vision realised in several ways and I would like to thank people for their part.

Firstly, thank you to the staff. We have introduced a few new ways of delivering the curriculum this last half term. It has been a challenge, but staff have Stepped Up and embraced the new demanding teaching methods. Our maths team have produced an information leaflet to tell you all about it which will be sent out in January.

Our PTA have worked exceptionally hard over the last term - we have had wreath making nights, Christmas fairs, grotto, Elfridges to name a few! So much of their own time and energy goes in to planning and organising these events and it is wonderful to see our school community come together. Thank you so much to Liz and all the PTA for Stepping Up and making Christmas extra special for the children.

I would like to thank Mrs Capper who once again organised the toy donation for the Radio City Mission appeal to ensure children from struggling families get to enjoy opening presents Christmas morning. I also thank you for your generosity with this as well as our

'Reverse Advent Calendar' - Mrs Ward and Mrs Summers will be delivering your donations to the John Thompson Mission later this week.

I appointed our Y6 Prefect and Play Leader team following a rigorous process of applications, references and interviews! They are doing a wonderful job and making a real difference to the running of the school. Thank you Mackenzie, Charlotte, Isabelle, Gabriella, Izzy and Finley for looking after our KS1 children at lunch - I know they love playing with you. And thank you to Nirmal, Zac, Jack, Daniel, Hannah, Eimear, Charlotte, Scarlett, Rosa, Caitlin, Amelia, Thea, Freya, Evie, Hannah and Georgia. You are working so hard as prefects and you were especially invaluable during the KS1 concert so thank you for Stepping Up.

These are just a few examples, but there are many more I could give! So I thank all - staff, children, parents, parish, for following the example of St Joseph and helping us to realise our Vision of excellence.



## Goodbye....

This term we say good bye to Miss Thomson who has been teaching Year 1 since September. Miss Thomson is embarking on an exciting new phase and will be teaching overseas. She has promised to keep in touch and send lots of pictures. On behalf of all the children in Year 1, thank you for your work Miss Thomson. Mrs Davies will be returning from maternity leave in January and will be the Year 1 teacher.

## Twitter and Parent Apps

If you don't already do so, please could I encourage you to follow us on Twitter @stjosephsbh The account is constantly updated with pictures of what the children are up to at school, trips, events, concerts, work and so much more. Please follow, like and share the wonderful achievements of our pupils. So far we have 463 followers - let's crack the 500 mark!



Please could I also continue to ask you to make use of the Parent App system. We really do want to cut down on the amount of photocopying we do and the app is a great way to communicate. Please speak to Max or Angie in the office if you need help installing it. Thank you

## Dogs on the playground

We have started to notice a few dogs being brought to the playground at drop off and collection. Please can we remind you that our playground is a no dog space, including holding small dogs in your arms. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.



## Surveys

This term I have requested feedback on two areas - drop off routines and behaviour and conduct at school. Many thanks for your responses and the findings will be used to help us shape work for the next term. We will continue to look at drop off routines, timings, etc in order to maximise the learning time at school.

I want to continue to look at behaviour and conduct, but was delighted with the responses as the overwhelming majority of parents felt that as a school we have high expectations of behaviour, conduct, manners and politeness. I will share the full results in the New Year but want to thank you again for your support.

## Welcome

Welcome to Heidi, Annabelle, Bailey-Rae, Freddie, Jacob, Anabelle, Evan, Daisy-Rose, Patrick, Harry, Rex, Joseph, Edward, Thomas, Maggie, Liliana, Jessica, Preston, Lily, Abigail, Oscar, Esme, Olivia, Krishvin, Daniel, Jasmine, Ruby, Lucy, Olivia, Maisy, Anton, Ethan, Jake, Aoife, Hetty, Kayla, Franklin, Ava, Frankie, Orlaith, Thomas, Jayden, Mason, Teddy, Samuel, Thomas, James, Ruby, Sophia, Puvija, Amelia, Riley, Sofia, Mila, Sophia and Heidi who have joined St Joseph's this term. I hope they have all settled in well and are enjoying being part of our school.

## Born in a Barn

A huge thank you to all the children and staff who put together a wonderful KS1 Christmas Concert. It had everything - song, dance, comedy, tragedy, cock-a-doodle-do's(!) and also reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas - the arrival of a very special baby. We had a special member of the audience on Tuesday - the Mayor of Wirral and he absolutely loved it and praised all the children. Well done everybody!

## *Thought for the term....*

*While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*  
Luke 2

Christmas is such a special time when we welcome the arrival of the Saviour of the World, Wonder Counsellor, The Prince of Peace.

Blessings on your children, you and all your family this Christmas.



