



Head-lines

So here we are at the end of the Autumn term already! And what a term it has been. It has certainly had challenges, and we have all had to continue to adapt with tiers, lockdowns, restrictions and more. I know some of our families continue to be really affected by the outbreak, and as always we keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Christmas time in a Primary School is always a joyous period, with carols, nativity productions and parties. We have been restricted by what we can do, but I am delighted to let you know that wherever we could, we kept the magic of Christmas alive: we have had art days, jumpers, Christmas dinner, and by being innovative, we have managed to put together a brief film to share with you some of the highlights from the last few weeks. You can watch this on our school youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lds3bIUkQGg> We hope you enjoy watching it, we hope the children have enjoyed being part of the St Joseph's Christmas, and from me and all the staff, we wish you all a very, Merry Christmas.

Mr Turner xx

Thank you....

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who is a part of our school family - and I use that word 'family' very deliberately. Our school is such a special place, and it is thanks to everyone involved, all connected together, providing all we can for the children.

I want to thank all of my staff - they do an amazing job day in, day out and especially at the moment with all of the additional stresses. They are human too, with families, worries and their own lives. But none of that affects the dedication and care they show each day, so from me, a huge thank you to my wonderful staff.

I would like to thank the PTA. Our PTA are fantastic and work so hard, giving their own time to arrange events and activities for our community. It has been a little different this year, and even without the stressful brilliant job of organising the Christmas fair, they continue to work hard behind the scenes, arranging art projects, parties and more. So a huge thank you to all of our PTA and everyone who supports them.

I thank all of the parents for all your support. Similar to the staff, I know this year has had so many challenges; working from home, juggling remote learning, job worries. We are all so very grateful for the support you give us - the kind messages, the gifts and your comments from the Parent View survey (more to follow on that later). I really believe we are a team, working together to see your wonderful children grow and develop, so from all of us, a big thank you for your support.

Our school family extends beyond these walls and playgrounds, so a big thank you to our Governors, Directors, Clergy and Parishoners.

And finally, a massive thank you to our children - you are the reason we are here, you are the reason we come to work, and you are all amazing! Thank you for being so polite, kind, hard working, funny, well mannered, energetic, lovely.... thank you for just being you!





Prefects and Play Leaders

In our last newsletter I mentioned that the recruitment process for our Prefects and Play Leaders for 2020-21 had just commenced. There was a rigorous process, consisting of letters of application, references and formal interviews. All of the candidates did exceptionally well and I was so impressed by the standard of applications and how they all conducted themselves in interview - I am sure future employment interviews will be a breeze and we will see a future generation of MD's! It gives me great pleasure to share our Play Leaders for 2020-21: James, Liam, Daniel, Jacob, Lucas,

Tina, Rachael, and Abi.

And our Prefects for 2020-21: Sebastian, Oliver, Adonia, Kryspin, Aiden, Nicole, Erin, Lucy, Alisha, Phoebe, Nancy, Charlotte, Ashley, Erin, Mitchell, Lily, Sophie, Katie, and Emily. I look forward to our first team meeting

Parent Pay

Christmas Mass times St Joseph's

Masses this year are Christmas Eve 5pm at Saint Joseph's, 10pm at Saint Michael's. Christmas day 9.30am Saint Joseph's and 11.00am at Saint Michael's. To ensure we remain Covid secure people need to book in advance asap by contacting Jane Edwards in the Parish Office on 0151 652 5767 or admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk. Some Masses are already getting near safe capacity.

We are in the process of setting up a system called Parent Pay. Once set up, this will enable us to move towards being cashless as all payments are made via the app/website. This will be particularly useful for children who pay for a school meal as it means money can just be transferred by parents into their child's account and do away with the need for sending in envelopes of cash. It also has the facility to choose the meal option each day, meaning we can reduce waste and ensure the meals match the orders. Parent Pay can also be used for paying for trips, clubs and any other events. It is in the process of being set up and we hope to go live in the New Year - we will write to you again with all the information.

Parent View survey

Thank you to all the parents who completed the online Parent View survey sent via the Parent App. The survey is the one given by Ofsted during an inspection and gives us a really good picture of feelings and views. I was so delighted with the results as the headline figures are the overwhelming majority of parents are positive with the different aspects of our school, with 100% saying their child is happy in our school! To echo my words from Page 1 of this newsletter - thank you so much for your support. The area we score less positively in is about how well informed parents are regarding what the children are learning. Again, thank you for this feedback and I will ensure it is addressed. There is lots of information about our Curriculum on our website in the 'Our Curriculum' tab, and a full overview is published at <http://www.stjosephscatholicprimarybirkenhead.co.uk/curriculum-overview>

This may give you the information you are looking for, but I will certainly consult in the New Year to see how we can improve it and ensure you are fully informed about the learning that goes on.

I will also send a full breakdown of all the responses in January.

Thought for the term

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6-7

