

# St Joseph's



# News

Half termly Summer 2 edition

July 2020

## Head-lines

This first section of the newsletter is always a few words of my reflections on the events and achievements of the last half term. For this edition, where do I even begin?! Absolutely none of us could have foreseen the events of the last few months unfolding in the way they have. I can still recall so clearly 5.00pm on Wednesday 18th March when I, along with the staff, watched the announcement that from Friday 20th, schools would be shut to all but children of Key Workers. From then on in, we have been living and working through this topsy turvy world, of being 'cl-open' as it became known. These last few months have affected us all in some way and we really have been living through history. Once again I want to offer my deepest condolences to anyone who has lost a loved one due to COVID, and you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

A school really becomes a living entity when it is filled with the sound of children and it is something we have missed so much. But following the instruction from the Government, we had to close our doors to most children. We cannot wait until September to welcome them back! Yes, things will be a bit different, and there will be additional measures we have to put in place. But everything we do, from timetabling to curriculum, will be done with joy in our hearts at the thought of once again having our building full of the reason we are here - the children.

Before I close this section, I want to say a couple of collective thank you's - Firstly, thank you to you, the parents. I do not for one second underestimate the difficulties you have faced - juggling your own jobs, working from home, worries and anxieties and teaching. I know you will have done everything you can to ensure your children were safe, well and learning. However, I know that some of you worry that this hasn't been enough, that your children are now 'behind'. I want to repeat what I said in a previous letter - please do not worry about this at all. When the children return in September, we will work with them, wherever they are at. This is what we do for a living. If we reframe 'learning' and don't just confine it to English and Maths, I truly believe that the children will actually be 'ahead' - they will have developed skills, independence, resilience, empathy, hobbies, interests etc. We can then pick up with lots of the more traditional academic side, but not lose all these worthwhile areas. I also want to thank you for all of your kind words and support throughout all this. At the end of the day, we are human too, with our own worries, stresses, families. During these months we have received numerous messages, gifts, pictures and videos - I want to say a huge thank you as they have meant so much and always seemed to come when they were most needed. So thank you for being part of our school family.

I also want to say a huge thank you to all of my wonderful staff. Throughout all of this, each and every member has worked in a variety of roles - on site supervision, phone calls, setting work, making visits, and all done to the standards of excellence we strive for. I couldn't be prouder and more grateful of all the work they have done, so from me, a huge thank you to all my staff.

These have been difficult times, and the road ahead remains bumpy and unclear, but for now, I wish you all a lovely Summer, get some rest and we can't wait to see you all in September

With love and best wishes,  
Mr Turner

# Good-bye Year 6

This Summer 2 newsletter also brings the bitter sweet farewell to our Year 6 leavers. We are incredibly sad to see them go - they have spent a year as our eldest children, setting the tone for the years below, role models for our younger children. But merged with the sadness is the pride at seeing how much they have grown, how far they have come and how much they have achieved. This has been a difficult period, and I am so pleased that we were able to host some of the more traditional leavers events, albeit socially distanced! This week we have had a mass celebrated by Father Chris via Zoom, picnics, discos, sports days and assemblies. I know it's not quite the same, but it has been lovely to celebrate in this way, so my thanks to Mrs Corr, Mr Nayland and all the staff, parents and PTA who helped organise the variety of events.

I am so incredibly proud of our Year 6 and want to express my thanks for all they have done. This year, they have represented St Joseph's as Prefects, Play Leaders, Choir, Ambassadors, Sports teams, charity workers and so much more. They have been polite, kind, well mannered, enthusiastic, resilient - in short they have embodied all of the virtues we hold dear.

Samuel, Colin, Scarlett, Georgia, Amalea, Isabelle, Gabriel, Thea, Lucas, Christopher, Samuel, Gabriela, Marley, Caitlin, Charlotte, Courtney, Ava, Aliyah, Jack, Daniel, Jack, Patrick, Rosa, Ines, Daniel, Mackenzie, Eimear, Freya, Elliot, Zac, Jules, Hannah, Alex, William, Evie, Isabel, Finley, Jack, Hannah, Charlotte, Jacob, Nirmal, Max, Jessica, Jasmine, Sonnie, Hollie, Isabella, Charlie and Michael - you are all absolute stars and I couldn't be prouder of you. From the bottom of my heart I thank you for all you have done, all you have achieved at St Joseph's and I wish you every success for the future. You will be assets to your new schools and I am sure each and every one of you will do amazing things. You will always be members of our St Joseph's family so please do keep in touch.

With love, all at St Joseph's

## ...And good-bye parents!

I know that also for some of our Year 6 parents, this year sees the end of your journey with us. This year we have previous PTA chairs, Chair of Governors, PTA members and many more. Some of you have been with us a short time, whereas for others, this marks the end of a long, long relationship and a few siblings over the years! Again, thank you for all of your support over the years, and I wish you all the best for the future. Our school is a special place, and I know my Mum and Dad still have my old school photograph of me wearing the dove with pride! You will also always be a part of our school, as our school has been a part of your lives. Take care, keep in touch, and thank you.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Davies and to Mel the cleaner who are leaving us. Many thanks to both for all your work and I wish you every success in your next steps.

### Google Classroom

As mentioned in a previous letter, we will be continuing to make use of the technology we have discovered over lockdown. We want to use Google classroom, both as a 'Plan B' should it be needed, but also during 'normal' times to set homework etc. The links were sent via text, so please do access it and keep a look out for tasks being set.

### Dates

As it stands, we open to children on Wednesday 2nd September. Please keep a look out on Twitter, our website and the Parent App for updates. This will include the timings for drop off and collection as we will be staggering them slightly to avoid congestion.

