



## ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*"To Live Love and Learn in a Caring Christian Community"*

**NEWSLETTER NO.1**

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

Welcome back and Happy New Year!!! It really is wonderful to see our smiley and happy St Joseph's children back at school and I hope you were able to find some quality family time together in the holiday.

The staff and I would like to thank you for your generosity towards us and the kind words shared at the end of last term by so many of you. In a profession which can be stressful and demanding, this was extremely appreciated. The last days are always an emotional time for our Year 6 pupils, but we were so proud of their personal growth and achievements through their time at St Joseph's, as with every cohort that progress through the school.

Our pupils make what is labelled "outstanding" progress and achievement when they leave St. Joseph's in year 6 and last year was no exception. An amazing 98% gained greater than expected standards in reading, writing and maths compared to a Herts average of 65% and a national average of 61%. However it is the spiritual and personal growth of the child from Nursery through to Year 6 which is celebrated and highlighted in our Leavers' Mass and Year 6 Awards and which is our real focus. This is also reflected in our half term award assemblies for the whole school where our Headteacher mission statement awards take centre stage.

At the end of last year, we came to the end of our three year Development Plan and we will soon be considering what areas we need to concentrate on over the next three years. As with before, you will have a chance to voice your opinions at the parent consultations in November, along with the pupils, staff and governors.

As you have been told in the past and mentioned on our website, your views can always be expressed on the Ofsted Parentview site. It was interesting to find a sudden rush of views this week, some positive, some less positive. Despite the recent surge of responses, these still represent a very small proportion of our school family and further honest feedback is appreciated. If you have a concern or are unhappy about your experience of this school, then please make an appointment to see me to discuss your concerns. I cannot promise a magic wand but I do want to understand why you are unhappy so that it can be addressed as far as possible. Alternatively, if you are happy with the school, please do take the time to let your voice be heard as well so that there is balanced view from the family of St Joseph's on this Parentview site.  
(<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>)

Attached is our Home School Agreement which outlines our expectations of ourselves and our expectations of you as parents. It is worth reflecting on again as you have made the conscious decision for your children to be educated here. There is no such thing as a perfect school, but I would ask you to work with the school to support your child's education.

Our next three years are going to be exciting but not without challenges with expansion, new buildings and cuts to our budget. There will be bumps on our journey, but the staff and governing body are looking forward to strengthening and improving the family of St Joseph's in partnership with you.

Last week we heard the sad news that Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor died. The Diocese of Westminster has asked all schools to share his last communication with Cardinal Vincent; "My dear Cardinal Vincent, I would be very grateful if you would convey this short message to the priests, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese, of which I, as well as you, have been privileged to serve as their Bishop. At this time, the words I pray every night are never far from my thoughts: "Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit". Please tell them that I am at peace and have no fear of what is to come. I have received many blessings in my life, especially from my family and friends. I thank God for the many priests, religious and lay faithful who have helped and sustained me in my Episcopal life. Nor should I forget the many Anglican and Free Church colleagues whose friendship I have valued very much. Above all, as I now commend myself to the loving mercy of God, I ask them all to pray for me as I remember and pray for them."

Fraternally in the Lord,

+Cormac

May he rest in peace.

Thank you for your continued support of the school.

Peter Coldwell  
Headteacher