



HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the new year. On behalf of all of the staff, thank you so much for all of your kind wishes, cards and gifts before Christmas. Your kindness was greatly appreciated. We all hope that you had a lovely holiday with family and friends. We wish you the very best of luck, laughter, health and happiness for 2020.

This week, it has been lovely to see your children return to school with such enthusiasm. The staff have spoken about how happy your children were and it has been lovely to hear the buzz of excitement as they played with their friends in the playground. Alongside the buzz, there has been a calm and positive learning atmosphere in the classrooms. I have loved spending time in the classrooms this week and working with your children.

All teachers will be sending home their termly letters to you on Monday. Please do take the time to read them and understand what your children will be learning and how you can help at home. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Thank you so much for the fundraising efforts before Christmas. We have now sent the cheque to For Jimmy with our donations from our Christmas Jumper Day. The money that we raised from the movie night and the Christmas Fair is being spent on further resources for the teaching of reading. This has made a real difference throughout the school. Thank you! We will be planning in another movie night later on in the term.

We have sadly said goodbye to some of our friends this holiday as they have moved further away from St Joseph's. We wish them the very best in their new schools. We have also welcomed new families to our school family. Please do make them feel welcome if you see them in the playground.

On Wednesday, our school governors had the first of their committee meetings in our new structure. We had two committee meetings after school where the governors met to discuss resources and the finance of the school and also the curriculum and achievement. It is great to have such supportive governors who are working so closely with our school staff.

Year 3 have had their first steel pans lesson on Wednesday. It was lovely to hear the first lesson in the hall. I will be looking forward to hearing them each Wednesday morning. Many of the staff are also eager to learn so we may have a staff and pupil band in the near future. Watch this space! We still have some spaces for pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 to learn the steel pans during the school day on Wednesday. Please contact the office if your child is interested.

Year 2 have been busy writing their blessings using the chalk that Miss Clegg had blessed at the weekend. I was fortunate to have the class give me their blessing for my office this week too. Please speak to any of Year 2 if you need more information.



In order to give children a range of different experience, we have changed the clubs for this term. Football and dance will no longer be running and we have the following after school clubs running until Easter:

- Years 1 and 2 – Ukulele Club Monday 3:30-4:30
- Years 3 and 4 – Computing Club Monday 3:30-4:30
- Years 5 and 6 – Athletics Club Monday 3:30-4:30
- Years 3-6 – Choir Tuesday 3:30-4:30

All letters were sent out before the Christmas holidays, but there may still be spaces if you would like your child to take part. Please speak to Mrs Cunnew or Mr Bannon for further details.

We are planning on developing the EYFS and KS1 playground in the coming months. We are eager to hear your ideas and suggestions. If you are free on Friday 17th January at 2:30pm, Miss Doherty and the School Council would love to meet with you.

Many of you will have missed Mrs Blyde in the past four weeks. She has severely torn ligaments in her foot and is therefore unable to come in to school. We wish her a very speedy recovery.

Thank you for your continued support

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'N. Doherty'.

Nicola Doherty (Headteacher)