



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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4th January 2018

Dear parents

'Without God we cannot, Without us God will not' [St Augustine].

May I take this opportunity to welcome you all back at the beginning of 2018 and to wish you all a Happy New Year! It was wonderful to see all of your children returning today. Thank you for sending them back in full uniform. They always look so smart; the standard of uniform is very good and that is down to your commitment.

Both myself, the Governors and staff are truly proud of what we achieved in 2017 and look forward to the challenges of 2018 with excitement.

Parent Survey July 2017

Thank you to all those parents who completed the annual survey in back in July, I know that this is a long time ago but a new year is a good time to reflect back; I do apologise for the delay in sharing this with you but I hope that the findings below will enable you to see what we are doing as a school in response to your concerns.

As with any survey, the greater the response, the more accurate the results! We were pleased that 116 questionnaires were returned, 12 more than last July 2016; we had more this time from Year 2 and Year 4 parents (present Year 3 and Year 5). I must again urge more of you to take part, tell us what you are happy about and what concerns you. As a school, your views will enable us to evaluate the impact of the improvements we are making over time.

I would like to share with you some of our findings. The main survey summary points are as follows:

- 95.7% of parents rated the school good or very good overall.
- 66% of parents said that the school had improved from July 2016 to July 2017.
- 48% of new parents said that the school was better than they expected.
- With regards to non- academic areas, parents are most happy with Library facilities, Out of School Activities and the development of moral values.
- Significantly higher scores than the previous survey are the regular marking of work, information on different types of bullying and E-Safety, out of school activities and a range of subjects taught.

Thank you to those of you who included written comments in the appropriate section of the survey; both positive points and areas for development were made very clear. I read each and every one. It is good for staff to feel appreciated and many of the comments directed to individual members of staff did just that so thank you. Many of you also expressed concern regarding the bell in the morning and certain classes being left to wait. I hope that the new morning arrangements have helped with this issue. Some issues emerged from the survey and comments that parents are least happy with, two in particular:





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Homework expectations – our approach towards homework is reviewed annually and our policy amended accordingly. It is important that homework has an impact on progress and attainment. Our revised policy has been in place since September and is continually reflected upon – it is available on the website. Homework is an opportunity for 'Home Learning'. The curriculum letters sent home inform you of the expectations for your child's year group.

Parking: Many of you express concern with parking at drop off and pick up times. This is a serious issue that impacts on all of us including the local residents and it isn't going to go away. I will be providing further information and ideas about this during the term. Do let me know if the early bell has impacted on drop off congestion.

Parent surveys are evidence of our partnership work. We are looking forward to parents evening on Wednesday 17th January. I am hoping that following on from last year, we can make this another opportunity to work together for the good of the whole school community. Look out for the letter tomorrow!

Kitchen Message

Following a well-earned rest, Tina and her team are again working hard to provide the best catering for your children. It is continually brought to my attention on a termly basis that many Key Stage 1 parents are not returning their choices for Universal Free School meals on time. This concerns me as it does cause Tina lots of unnecessary paper work and frustration. We are one of few schools that operate the pre-order system which if all requests are in on time, works and is a way of ensuring that all children get what they like to eat for their dinner. Unfortunately if this pattern continues then we will have to look at having no pre orders and children choose on the day. **Please could all Key Stage 1 parents ensure that orders are in on time; there are still many outstanding for this term, those orders need to be in by TOMORROW 5TH JANUARY at the latest.**

I end this letter as I began with words of thanks. Your support is very much appreciated. As the decorations come down on Saturday and we celebrate the Epiphany, I invite each and every one of you to our mass and prayer service on Monday; both at 9.15am. This year we are changing the organisation of this to allow all Key Stage 1 children to experience both a mass and prayer service. This will also allow the older children in the school the chance to lead a prayer service. This time Reception, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5 will be in the hall celebrating mass and in church, led by Year 6, there will be a prayer service. Joining them will be Year 1 and Year 4. You are all most welcome at either celebration.

Finally, I always endeavour to be out on either playground as much as I can. Each week, I look forward to a quieter period where I can be more consistently out in the morning and the afternoon!! This is something that I do enjoy. I am always happy to discuss concerns whether on the playground or privately. Please remember if you have a worry or concern, see your child's teacher as a first port of call. Mrs Jackson, Mrs McDonagh, Miss Dean and myself are always available should you wish to see us. The lines of communication document was sent to you, should you need another copy, please ask or go to the website.

Yours as always in faith and partnership

Mrs Louise Bury
Headteacher

