

December 2016

The season of Advent is truly thriving at St Joseph's. The Christmas preparations and decorations are in abundance and the children are very much looking forward to breaking up and enjoying the Christmas holiday. The Early Years' nativity plays on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December were a joy. The youngest members of our school made their parents and teachers very proud. Year 1 and 2 nativities were excellent and the children sang the songs with great enthusiasm and enjoyment. Thank you to the children for their enthusiastic involvement and to the staff for their dedicated work in producing the plays. The DVD recordings of all the nativities have been a great success too! We look forward to the junior carol services on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday 16<sup>th</sup>. It will be a fitting occasion to round off a busy and successful term.

### Section 48

As you know the junior school had a section 48 inspection on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016. I am pleased to advise you that the school secured a strong 'good' overall judgement and one aspect - Provision (the quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education) as 'outstanding'. Congratulations to the pupils, the staff and governors for their commitment to the Catholic life of the school. The junior parents will receive a printed copy of the report. The report will be available for all to share on the school's website.

### Farewell

At this time of year we often say farewell to members of our staff. Ms Beverley Dennis (year 4) will be leaving us at the end of term. Ms Dennis has been with us for the term on a part time basis. We wish her well with her future career and prospects.

### Governors and School improvement

I want to offer a note of thanks to our governing body. As you know the governors are extremely involved with the school. Their work is not always known about however they put in a lot of time behind the scenes. The governors are not paid and give up a lot of their time to support the schools in their journey to becoming outstanding. Both schools came out very well in the school reviews we had in October 2016 and have recently (7<sup>th</sup> December 2016) been praised by the Local Authority and Diocese for making significant improvement. The junior school secured a 'good' judgement at the recent section 48 inspection. On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December the performance tables will be released for all schools. We anticipate this year that we will feature well in those tables. Thank you to all the pupils, staff, governors and parents for working so strongly together. There is still work to be done and I look forward to another good term ahead.

### Welcome

Welcome back to Mrs Flegg who will be returning from maternity leave after the Christmas holiday. Mrs Flegg will be returning part time (3 days a week) and will be based in Year 3H. We also welcome Ms Martin as the full time class teacher in year 4D.

### PTA

Thank you to the PTA and all their helpers for a wonderful Christmas Fair. Father Christmas arrived in style and managed to meet a number of our children in his wonderful grotto. We welcomed Father Christmas back on Christmas dinner day when he visited the infants and year 3. Thank you to the PTA for

arranging Christmas discos on Christmas dinner day. The PTA has worked really hard this term and has held many successful events as well as the fantastic achievement of purchasing the defibrillator.

### Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you once again for your support and generosity 73 boxes were collected, as always it was a good response. Thank you to Mrs Carter for organising the project.

### Holidays and Absences from school

Please note that we are no longer able to authorise any holidays during term time. We could use some sort of discretion in the past, this is no longer the case. Any holidays will be marked down as unauthorised and you could be subject to a fine. Prolonged illness and regular illness will need to be supported by a doctor's note/letter.

Please note that school finishes at 2pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December and will reopen on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Thank you for the many gifts and good wishes we have received, we sincerely thank the whole school community for your support of the school this term. Our prayers are with you all and particularly for those who will be missing loved ones this year. We look forward to the New Year and wish you and your families a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

