



17<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents

I am delighted to inform you that we had a teaching and learning review in both the Infant and the junior schools on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January and the outcomes were extremely positive. A group of three Head teachers within the Umbrella Trust led the visit. As an Umbrella Trust, we as Head teachers visit schools within the group to moderate standards.

The reviewers observed lessons, spoke to pupils, looked at pupils' books and work and spoke to Leadership and subject leaders. They were impressed with the quality of teaching and learning and were complimentary of curriculum changes (e.g. topics – 'Our Heritage' and 'Enterprise' work.) to support high standards in both learning and personal development.

They were extremely impressed with pupil voice and felt our children were very articulate, expressed their opinions clearly and children believe their ideas are listened to and acted on. The children spoke freely about the school, indicating they are, 'proud to be a pupil here and feel cared and loved by staff.' They feel safe and are encouraged to be aspirational, always aiming high. They were clear that behaviour is strong; however, a few pupils do not always follow the high expectations set by the pupils and school. They were clear that unacceptable behaviour is fairly addressed and children are encouraged to think about their actions and take responsibility for them. Pupils are concerned about parents parking near the school and about how children find it difficult to cross the road. They were pleased that Leaders are there at the gates to keep them safe.

The Heads felt that extra-curricular provision, learning outside the classroom was particularly strong, and clubs (particularly lunchtime opportunities run by staff) and trips are a strength. The extensive provision was more than they had seen in other settings.

The Heads agreed with the following priorities identified in the school development plan at the start of the year. To further develop our strengths, we need to look at increasing independent learning opportunities to encourage children to take changes and not be afraid to make mistakes. Children need to be given tasks to challenge themselves beyond their ability and comfort zone on a more consistent level so this is strong in every year group.

I am so proud of our children and the support they receive from all staff. The Heads concluded that 'St Joseph's is a place where children are happy, learning is strong and their wellbeing is a high priority and drives all agendas.'

Thank you for the support you continually give and for working with the school to ensure we are the best we can be.

To further support us, please join us on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January from 10.00 a.m. in the Junior School to help with the Junior Adventure playground project (we will be clearing and tidying up.) The PTA have kindly been publicising this event on the PTA WhatsApp group and are actively involved with it. Please do come along.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Fernandes  
Headteacher

**Headteacher: Mrs Leonore Fernandes**

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