

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oxford

"Let us protect with love all that God has given us"

(Pope Francis 19.03.2013)



Headley Way, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7SX

Telephone: 01865 763357

Email: office.3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk

Website: www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk

17th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is quite hard to express how I feel about leaving this very special school. I have spent twenty-seven years as a teacher, fourteen of which have been as a Head teacher- over twelve years at St Joseph's. It has been such a privilege to be a part of this vibrant community with all their special gifts and I have certainly felt *"protected with love"* by all that God has given me here. As you probably know, I have been particularly proud of what we have achieved with Music and Chess and I feel sad that the concert at the Town Hall has not been able to go ahead and that we cannot fill our hall with glorious singing and playing. The Chess squad have however been busy with excellent National on-line competitions, including being overall National champions at U11 and an U9 win against a very strong Birmingham independent school. It is sad for these children that they have not been able to compete in person at National level this year after our stunning performances last year.

One of the things we have strived for is to recognise each child's God given talents and to give them a wide range of opportunities through which to develop and shine. The St Joseph's children certainly have a multitude of talents: Art, ice skating, kick boxing, cooking, den building, robot wars to name a few! I know that Ms Tweedie will continue this focus on breadth and that the school is in safe hands.

The children here are a joy, and even in Lockdown have provided laughter and giggles. The Key Worker children should be especially commended for their willingness to participate at school, even at the beginning when all their friends were at home. The Year 6s have been an inspiration in their willingness to embrace new systems and plans, despite their disappointment with not being able to have the normal Leavers' events this year. Thank you so much to Olivia in particular for singing (recorded) for tomorrow's Leavers' Mass which will be live streamed from Corpus Christi church, Headington. The staff at St Joseph's have also displayed a wonderful 'can do' attitude, even when things were so uncertain at the beginning. They are looking forward to welcoming all the children safely back in September. I have been truly blessed to have worked with such a professional and caring team.

We can never forget God's part in all of this- He always seems to make things right when they seem insurmountable. This is particularly noticeable when we lose someone to pastures new and are recruiting new staff- the perfect match always seems to be sent. The Holy Spirit has helped me when things have been hard and I have never felt alone; I have always been accompanied. I am so grateful to the Governors, who have encouraged my professional and spiritual journey, and been caring critical friends. Cllr Mary Clarkson was a Governor here when I was appointed and is still here now- a beacon of unselfish service to the school. Of course, I have to mention Sr Marie-Ann who has been an unfailing support and friend, both to the school, and to me personally.

It is a very peculiar time for us all and I pray that you keep safe over these challenging months. Thank you for all your support and kind words and I look forward to hearing about the school's future successes.

Warmest wishes,
Sue Tomkys
Headteacher

Diary Dates- PLEASE KEEP THESE

17 th July 2020		Term finishes for school holidays
20 th & 21 st July 2020		Inset days – school closed to pupils
22 nd July to 31 st August 2020		Summer Holidays
1 st & 2 nd September 2020		Inset days – school closed to pupils
3 rd September 2020	9am	New Terms Starts