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Headteacher: Mrs Evelyn Clayton B.A.Hons QTS

Monday 20th December 2021

Dear Families,

We are nearing the end of another very busy and productive term. The staff and children have worked incredibly hard and we are very proud of them. Many thanks for your continued support. Strong partnerships between home and school ensure that we get the very best outcomes for the children. Thank you for all that you do to support the school and the community.

This is my final update before we finish for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday.

Finishing Time Tuesday 21st December

A reminder that children will finish school at **1.30 pm on Tuesday 21st December.**

EYFS Nativity/KS1 Christmas performance/KS2 Carol service

The children have been very busy rehearsing for Christmas performances. It has been a joy to see them coming together to celebrate the season and to hear their beautiful singing. The performances have been filmed this year due to the rising rates of Coronavirus and to maintain everyone's safety. This year, performances will be shared with families on our school You-Tube channel. Further information will follow.

Parent Governor

I am pleased to inform you of the result from our recent parent governor election. The successful candidate is Mrs McMahon who has a number of children in the school. Mrs McMahon has been elected unopposed. The Governing body are looking forward to welcoming Mrs McMahon into her post in January.

MP's Christmas card competition:

Thank you to all the children who entered Barbara Keeley's Christmas card competition. Councillor Keeley commended all of the children on the very high standard of entries that were received. Josie Kavanagh in Y3 was selected as runner up and received tickets to watch a performance of 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe' at the Lowry Theatre. Well done Josie!



Staffing

We are very sad to say goodbye to Mr Shields at the end of this term. Mr Shields has been caretaker of St Josephs for the past seven years. During that time he has made a valuable contribution to the life of the \school and will be fondly remembered by staff and families alike. Mr Shields\ will always be a friend of St Joseph's and we wish him well in the future.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Jessop and Mrs Dunn have been appointed Acting Assistant Head teachers for the rest of the academic year. They will cover the Deputy Head responsibilities until Mrs Willis returns in July.

We will welcome Mrs McNeill to the teaching team in January. Mrs McNeill and Mrs Shaw will be teaching Reception in joint capacity. Both teachers are very experienced EYFS practitioners and are looking forward to working with the children and their families. Miss Coleman will support teaching and learning across the school before commencing her maternity leave in February.

Finally, Miss Farrell leaves us at the end of this term. Miss Farrell has supported teaching and learning across KS2 over the past twelve months. I am sure you would want to join me in thanking her for her work and wishing her all the best as she awaits a lovely new addition to her family in the New Year. Thank you Miss Farrell.

Christmas Service at St Teresa of Avila and Joseph the Worker RC parish, Irlam

Christmas Masses - Friday evening 24th December: 4pm at St Teresa's and 6.00pm at St Joseph's. **Christmas Day** -Saturday 25th December: 9:00am St Joseph's and 10.00am St Teresa's. **The Feast of the Holy Family** - Sunday 26th December: 9am St Joseph's and 10.00am St Teresa's.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. We hope that you all enjoy a restful time with your loved ones and families. On behalf of all the staff, thank you for your support throughout another challenging year. We look forward to welcoming the children back for the spring term on **Monday 10th January** at the usual times of 8.50/8.55am.

Sincerely

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