



LOVE ONE ANOTHER

SACRED HEART RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

WESTHOUGHTON



Thursday 22nd July 2021

Dear Parents and Families,

END OF TERM!



As we reach the end of this school year, we take the opportunity to reflect on the achievements in a year filled with opportunities. We began the year with new systems to keep us safe, the first priority of any school. With a few adaptations, these systems have served us well and some will continue next year. We successfully explored new ways of teaching and learning via our Google Classroom platform, meaning that even in times of 'bubble' isolation, learning continued at pace. This was especially challenging during the Spring lockdown when a half of our pupils were learning from home with virtual lessons delivered by their teacher. The feedback we received was extremely positive – and we thank you for your support, encouragement and backing. Virtual parents' evening was successful and largely ran to time! In school, our lessons have helped us to make good progress and enjoy learning together. The essential job of Catholic schools is to grow the God-given gift held by each child, forming them to make Christ-like decisions and become considerate leaders. In our World-Class School award assessment, our pupil leadership team embodied this mission. Our head pupils have been busy all year, film-making to show that this school community is not weakened by pandemic. Our Reception learners are now KS1 ready, and all learners are excited by a well earned break, whilst having a healthy sorrow at being parted from their class for some weeks – as shown in the resilience of our Y5 bubble who closed earlier this week. Our children's results from recent assessments have also been made available – Y1 phonics and Y6 assessments were non-statutory this year – 2019 test papers were used. Our Y6 leavers are certainly well prepared for their KS3 education and there is no sense of them needing to 'catch-up' following their focused learning. We express our thanks to our governing board for their strategic direction, our staff 'mission' team, students, families, parish and wider community who have supported us in our aims and efforts.

Many children will have brought home their exercise books – a celebration of their learning and effort. Please reflect together on their journey as you look through them before safely storing them away to bring out in the future and remember a year like no other! Those whose books we are keeping, we will return them safely when it is time to do so.



We pause today to joyously thank those who have helped shape our school's work:

For 29 years, Mrs Cody has served our school, expertly teaching generations of Sacred Heart children. We are grateful for the impact that she has had on the education of many children and wish her well as she begins her well-earned retirement.

A year ago, Mrs Callow, who has been our Deputy Headteacher since 1997, left us on secondment, and takes up a substantive post as Head of School at St Gregory's from September. We sincerely thank Mrs Callow for her leadership, wisdom and commitment and wish her every success in her new role.

In 2010, we welcomed Mrs Fletcher to our teaching team. We will most miss her positive approach and strong leadership of R.E. as she takes up a well-earned promotion at Our Lady & St Paul's, Heywood.

In January 2019, Mr Cregan joined us as Assistant Headteacher, SEND lead and Y2 teacher. In his short time here, he has made a positive impact and we are sure he will thrive as Deputy Headteacher at Our Lady & St Paul's RC Primary.

We also thank and express our best wishes to Miss Evans, who will begin an undergraduate degree at Edge Hill University, Mrs Faye, our lunchtime leader, Mrs Riley and Mrs Lee who leave our school kitchen team after dedicated service.

Our Heart TSA PGCE group of students have all had success this year and are ready to embark upon a teaching career rooted in service. Nationally, the Teaching School programme concludes this August, with a new landscape emerging within the school-led system. Our provision for initial teacher training, CPD & school-to-school support will become 'Teach Heart Alliance' in September as our established partnerships continue.

Personally, I thank Miss Middleton, who as our interim Deputy Headteacher, has had enormous impact this year. I am sure that when she takes up the permanent role of Deputy Headteacher from September, that this dedication will continue. Also, Mrs Owen, who has served as School Business Manager for almost all my headship, starting with us in January 2006: Mrs Owen will continue to work in our front office team as Miss Butler takes up the post of School Business Manager. Mr Dootson also changes role, becoming our family liaison officer from September. I am sure you will support them in their new roles. Two years ago, I began secondment as the interim Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CEO) of St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust. As I conclude my time in that role, I wish my successor well in his leadership of a Trust rooted in principles of service and the common good.

As we prepare for the break, we send our best wishes to our wonderful Y6 pupils, and any other pupils who are moving to new schools. Last Sunday was Mandela Day. Nelson Mandela famously said, "It is easy to break down and destroy. The heroes are those who make peace and build." This is our wish for our Y6s – for them to be agents of peace and re-building of society!

Please continue to 'expect the unexpected' and offer Sacred Heart your demonstrative support as we begin a new school year in September, with the promise of exciting new opportunity and challenge.

Thank you for all your support this year. We pray: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place all our trust in you. Stay with us Lord, on our journey...

With best wishes for a restful and safe summer break!

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Johnson

Executive Headteacher

Miss S Middleton

Deputy Headteacher

