



St. JOSEPH'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Part of the Edmund Rice Family

4th May 2017

Dear Parents,

I write on behalf of the Governing Body, following the completion of another successful year for the school.

This year has been an interesting year for the school as we received an Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) Inspection in November 2016; any occasion when we are under scrutiny, as during an Inspection, is a stressful time and I take this opportunity to thank all the staff, teaching, administration and support staff for their hard work and dedication to the school.

The school received a 'Compliance Inspection' which focussed on ensuring that all paperwork and practice achieved the required standards. We are delighted that St Joseph's Preparatory School met all the standards required, which is a testament to what goes on every day in the school.

The new Government initiative to offer families thirty hours of free education or child care has been embraced by the school and will be introduced with effect from September 2017.

Throughout the year Mrs S. Hutchinson has continued to recruit new families and at this time of year she is once again busy showing prospective families around the school in readiness for the forthcoming academic year.

We are extremely fortunate to have very dedicated staff, both teaching and non-teaching, at St. Joseph's Preparatory who are continually striving to give the best education and pastoral care to each and every child in order to develop their individual strengths and to make them a well-rounded member of the school family. The staff deliver a well-planned broad balanced and exciting curriculum in line with current statutory legislation.

The school remains grateful for the support of Father Taylerson and Deacon Richard Pemberton in leading our School Masses. Staff continue to prepare children for the Sacraments as part of the Curriculum in readiness for the Parishes to take on the final preparations as children approach First Holy Communion and Confirmation; this is in line with the request some years ago that children return to their parish to undertake their Sacraments.

I would like to take this opportunity to say 'Thank you' to the team on the PTA. There is a tremendous amount of hard work and effort that goes in to organising such a varied programme of enjoyable events. The Governors and I are most grateful to the PTA as the school continues to benefit from the funds that they raise.

The Governors and Staff meet this month for the annual Saturday Governor / Staff Planning Day, where together we plan strategies to further develop the school during the forthcoming academic year.

I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Governors for their continued support to both me and to the school, particularly prior to and during the Inspection.

I trust that you find this Report informative and take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and for making the school such a happy and vibrant place.

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Hulme
Chair of Governors

St Joseph's Preparatory School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Headteacher: Mrs S.D. Hutchinson BEd

Rookery Lane, Trent Vale, Stoke on Trent, ST4 5RF Tel: 01782 417533 Fax: 01782 849327 Email: enquiries @stjosepsprepschool.co.uk St. Joseph's Preparatory School is a Registered Charity and a member of the Independent Schools Association and the Catholic Independent Schools Conference



The Governing Body's Report to Parents 2016 / 2017

THE GOVERNING BODY 2016/17 OF ST. JOSEPH'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

All Governors are appointed by the Trustees of the school, the Congregation of Christian Brothers.

Mr S Hulme (Chair)

Mr D Harding (Vice Chair)

Ms R Maguire (Director Edmund Rice Schools)

Mr B Slater (Safeguarding Governor) (CB Headteacher)

Ms J Shaw

Mrs S Shipley

Mrs R. Watkins

Mr D Edge

Deacon R Pemberton

Mrs L Atherton

Governors (Ex Officio) Headteacher: Mrs S Hutchinson

Staff Representative: Mr D Hood

Clerk to Governors: Mrs H Pickford

The Governing Body's Report to Parents



Staffing

Miss S Jones left to further her teaching career; Mr W Smith joined the staff in September 2016. Mrs J Brown went on Maternity leave on Thursday 9th March 2017; her baby girl was safely delivered later that day. Mrs Brown's maternity leave is being covered by Miss C Oliver.

Curriculum and Staff Development

All teaching staff meet regularly to review Curriculum provision. Professional Development is in line with the School Improvement Plan and Individual Performance Management targets. Professional Development is an on-going and important aspect of the school. Mrs Taylor, Mrs Barlow, Mrs Brown and Miss Bird have received Early Years Training. Mr Salt has received RE training and has attended local Catholic Teacher Association meetings. Mr Hood has Safeguarding training - Multi Agency Working. All staff received Safeguarding training delivered by Stoke Safeguarding Board. All staff received Fire Marshall and Fire Extinguisher training. Staff maintains First Aid training in line with legislation. Miss Gerrard and Mrs Dale have received specific Diabetic training. All teaching staff have received Literacy, Mathematics and Assessment training. Mrs Hutchinson received training on Inspection and Regulatory Requirements. Mrs Macdonald has received training on SEND. All staff have received training in this area. Mrs Hutchinson has attended the Catholic Independent Schools Conference.

Religious and Pastoral Life

We thank Father R. Taylerson and Deacon Richard Pemberton as they have continued to support the Catholic nature of the school as they have celebrated Mass for us on a regular basis and as often as their busy schedules have allowed. Collective Worship, Daily Prayer and Intercession continue to be an important aspect of the school for staff and pupils. The Early Years celebrated a Harvest Thanksgiving in school. A whole school Harvest Mass was held at St Teresa's Church. Produce was donated to Age UK and cheques presented to our chosen charities including the work of the Christian Brothers. A cheque was presented to the Donna Louise Trust. The charity for 2016/2017 is The British Heart Foundation. The Prep Christmas Carol Service took place at Holy Trinity Church. In February PP1 led a Christingle Service. P3 led a May Day Procession and Service in honour of Our Blessed Lady. All classes have led or will lead a whole school assembly and Prep children take regular turns to prepare Mass. Prep 5/Prep 6 pupils were led by Father Rob to say the "Stations of The Cross" during Lent. All the school family have taken part in Lenten activities and times of Reflection. Miss Kent continues to work with P6 and the Edmund Rice Development Team.

External Examinations

The school continues to prepare the children for a wide range of Entrance examinations. Our children have successfully gained places at:
Adams Grammar
Denstone College
Newcastle under Lyme School
St Dominic's Priory
St Joseph's College Edmund Rice Academy Trust
Clayton Hall Business and Language College

Children have been successful in gaining Scholarships again this year.

PTA

The Governing Body wish to record their thanks for the contributions made by all members of the PTA. There have been many successful and enjoyable events including: discos, a Film Night and Summer Fayre.

The Governing Body are grateful for the work of the PTA and wish to thank them for their invaluable support and ongoing provision of items for the school, this year the Early Years department have benefitted from monies raised.

Community Links and School Visitors

The school continues as an International School and an Eco School.

The school continues to be enriched by visitors; in particular visitors from within the Edmund Rice Family and CAFOD.

The children take part in running Fair Trade Stalls every Friday and understand the impact of Fair Trading.

Events throughout the year have enabled us to make donations to our chosen charities.

We continue to support the Christian Brothers and Edmund Rice Family.

The school has worked with and had visits from the local Police, the Fire Service, the Ambulance Service and representatives from the NHS.

Children from the Early Years have visited the local area and made trips the Post Office.

We are very grateful to the voluntary contribution of Mrs Rhead who continues to run our school Library.

External Support

The school is extremely grateful to outside agencies which support our school in anyway; this year we have been particularly grateful to the Bet365 Foundation Trust for their support which has enabled us to provide a Climbing Wall in the School Hall.

We are also grateful to Oakhill Primary School for the use of their fields for Sports Day.

Parents

Parent/Teacher Consultation evenings were held in October and March.

Parents and families have been welcomed to a variety of events throughout the year May 2016 to 2017.

Questionnaires have been sent out to fully involve parents and to take into account their views. These are discussed at the Governors Away Day.

We are most grateful to parents, grandparents and the wider school family for all their support.

Marketing

Mrs Hutchinson continues to show a wide range of visitors around the school and recruitment remains good.

Our current Parents are our best marketing tool and Mrs Hutchinson is very happy to show prospective parents around the school at any convenient time.

Advertisements are currently on display at Sainsbury's Newcastle and 'Flip Out' in Stone and the school is included in the free Maternity Pack distributed to new mothers at the Royal Stoke Hospital.

Fees

School fees for academic 2016/2017 were increased by 4%.

Safeguarding/Child Protection

This remains a high priority and termly agenda item for Governors and a weekly agenda item for staff with current legislation and statutory requirements adhered to.

All staff have been trained in this area.

Mrs Hutchinson is the designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Hood is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Miss Gerrard is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead for Joe's Club

Health and Safety

This remains a weekly item on the staff agenda, involving all members of the school family.

Mr Denson and Mrs Hutchinson conduct a yearly Health and Safety Audit and a Fire safety Audit; these are reported to Governors.

Governors review this termly and as need occurs.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

The staff and visiting experts provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities; all of these are popular and add to the extended curriculum.

Some activities take place off the school site.

The Governors are grateful to all members of staff for the time, planning and enthusiasm that go into each of the extra-curricular clubs.

Joe's Club

Joe's Club is well attended both at Breakfast and After School. A variety of snacks and planned activities ensure that the children are well provided for. The Governors are grateful to all the staff who contribute and to Mrs Maskery and Mrs Clarke who lead the Breakfast and After School Club.

Sports Report

Autumn & Spring Term Sports Report 2016 - 2017

The first two terms of the year have seen the School compete in eight Midlands Independent School tournaments across seven different sports and forty-five children from Pre Prep Two through to Prep Six have been chosen to compete within the competitive sporting arena. We have once again enjoyed a good level of success, particularly so within the sports of Football, Gymnastics and Cross Country - the following list of teams and individuals highlight our most memorable sporting achievements to date:

Autumn term 2016 (Teams)

- U'9 Boys 5-a-side Football team reached the Quarter-finals of the ISA Midlands tournament at Kiddeminster Leisure Centre (Eighteen Schools competed)
- The U'11 Boys took the bronze medal position at the ISA Midlands Floor & Vault Competition
- The Swimming squad enjoyed their second best ever set of results since 2002, achieving six Top 8 finish positions in eighteen events and the Girls team finished 11th overall (21 Schools competed across 26 events)

Autumn Term 2016 (Individuals)

- Liam won an individual bronze medal at the ISA Midlands U'11 Boys Set Floor & Vault Championships (Sixteen competitors took part in the event)
- Macey finished in the Silver Medal position in the Midlands Yr4 Girls 25m Backstroke (Twenty-one competitors) and as such was the first reserve to compete at the National ISA Swimming Gala

Spring Term 2017 (Teams)

- The U'11 Boys Cross Country team finished 3rd at the ISA Regional Meet held at Bedstone College, Shropshire (Twenty-one Schools entered the event)

Spring Term 2017 (Individuals)

- Jack R and Isaac both finished within the top 10 runners of the Midlands ISA U'11 boys Cross Country Race (Over one hundred runners in the field) and as such, were selected to represent their Region at the ISA National Cross Country Meet at Princethorpe College, Warwickshire. Sadly, the National event had to be cancelled due to torrential rain on the lead up to the day

The Summer Term is the PE and Games Department's busiest part of the year with the School competing in the sports of Athletics, Cricket, Rounders & Tennis. There is also an ISA U'8 Multi-sports event at Dodderhill School, Worcestershire and our School Sports Day and Swimming Gala for the children to look forward to. Our thanks go out once again to Denstone College, Florence Tennis and Bowls Club, Moddershall CC, Oakhill Primary, Stafford Gymnastics Centre and Trentham RUFC for the use of their facilities and to all the staff and external coaches for their help in running sports clubs throughout the year and preparing children for competition.

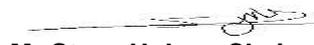
Conclusion

I would once again like to thank all the staff for their hard work, dedication and care for our children. My thanks also go to yourselves as parents and carers for your continued and valued support.

In conclusion the Governors are proud of St Joseph's Preparatory School as it continues to educate and nurture the children in its care who are part of our unique School Family.

God Bless.

Yours faithfully,


Mr Steve Hulme, Chair of Governors

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