



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

1st May 2018

Dear Parents,

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

In September 2017 the school embraced the new Government initiative to offer families thirty hours of free education or child care. This has seen some slight alteration to the systems the school had in place, but has been successfully incorporated into the day to day running of the school.

Currently the school is preparing for a Section 48 Religious Education Inspection from the Arch Diocese of Birmingham. Governors and staff are working hard to ensure that the good practice which is already in place at St Joseph's is celebrated and shown to the Inspectors when they arrive. We do not yet have a date for this Inspection but are awaiting a phone call any day.

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 Arch Diocese of Birmingham. We are pleased to be able to celebrate with the children who receive these Sacraments at our special Mass on 14th June.

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 Day, this year it will be led by the Edmund Rice Office Team based at Woodeaves.

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

THE GOVERNING BODY 2017/18 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

Mrs R Gradwell (RE/Catholic Life Governor)

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 for Period May 2017 to May 2018

Staffing

Miss C Oliver has taught Reception throughout Mrs J Browns Maternity leave. Mrs J Brown returned to school on 12th March for a two week 'hand over' period.

Mrs P Devgon joined the ancillary staff.

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, Miss Oliver and Miss Bird have received Early Years Training

Mrs Brown had received EYFS Moderation training.

Mr Salt has received RE training and has attended local Catholic Teacher Association meetings.

Staff maintains First Aid training in line with legislation.

Miss Gerrard has received specific Diabetic training.

Mrs Griffiths, Mrs Devgon, Miss Rowlinson, Miss Gerrard have received 'Safer Food Handling' Training.

All teaching staff have received Literacy, Mathematics and Assessment training.

Mrs Hutchinson received training on Safeguarding

Mrs Macdonald has received training on SEND.

Mrs Hutchinson has attended meetings and conferences arranged by the Edmund Rice English Province.

Governors have attended Governor Training provided by the Edmund Rice Team and from the Arch Diocese of Birmingham.

Religious and Pastoral Life

We thank Father Rob 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 whole school celebrated with the candidates in the Prep department who had received the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in their own Parish.

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.

The charity for 2017/2018 is The Kabanda Trust.

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.

All Pre Prep and Prep children have had the opportunity to pray in the Chapel at St Joseph's College.

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
- 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, Beetle Drive, 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. The PTA is currently fund raising for a new mini bus.

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 local Crossing Patrol, and representatives from the NHS.

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

We are also grateful to Oakhill Primary School for the use of their fields for Sports Day and the Physical Education links formed with the school.

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 2017 to 2018.

Questionnaires have been sent out to fully involve parents and to take into account their views. Religious Education/ Catholic life have also been sent to parents. These are discussed by the Governors and staff and are used to inform further planning.

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.

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 the NHS website and the school is included in the free Maternity Pack distributed to new mothers at the Royal Stoke Hospital. Prospectus are available in the Show Homes of local housing developments.

Fees

School fees for academic 2017/2018 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 and up dated 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 have conducted the annual Health and Safety Audit and a Fire Safety Audit; these are reported to Governors.

Governors review this termly and as need occurs.

The Christian Brothers have provided HR cover for all the schools which they own including St Joseph's Preparatory School.

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

Summer & Autumn 2017 and Spring 2018

St Joseph's have competed in ten different sports over this period, participating in ten Midlands Independent School tournaments, two National Independent Schools Championships, five South Stoke Level 1 tournaments and two County Level 3 tournaments. Sixty-one children from both the Prep and the Pre-Prep were chosen to compete in inter-school competition and all pupils from PP2 to P6 competed in intra-school Athletics & Swimming events. We have once again enjoyed a good level of success, particularly so within the sports of Athletics, Cricket, Netball, Rugby, Swimming, Table Tennis and Tennis - the following list of teams and individuals highlight our most memorable sporting achievements to date:

Summer term 2017 (Teams)

- South Stoke U'9 Short Tennis Champions. Qualified for the County Level 3 tournament, but sadly could not attend
- ISA Midlands U'11 Kwik Cricket Champions

Summer term 2017 (Individual)

- Liam - Midlands ISA U'11 Boys Mini Tennis Singles Runner-up
- Charlie - Year 4 Boys 60m Sprint Champion. Represented the Midlands at the National ISA Athletics Championships
- Rebecca - Year 6 Girls High Jump Champion. Represented the Midlands at the National ISA Athletics Championships

Autumn term 2017 (Teams)

- South Stoke U'9 Tag Rugby Champions. Did not qualify for the County Level 3 tournament however as we were told on arrival that we required two girls in the team?
- South Stoke U'11 Sportshall Athletics Small School Champions. Qualified for the County Level 3 tournament and finished 5th/8 schools

Autumn Term 2017 (Individuals)

- Macey - ISA Midlands Yr5 Girls 33m Backstroke Champion. Represented the Midlands at the National ISA Swimming Championships at the Olympic Aquatics Centre in London
- Rebecca - ISA Midlands Yr6 Girls 33m Freestyle Champion. Represented the Midlands at the National ISA Swimming Championships at the Olympic Aquatics Centre in London

Spring Term 2018 (Teams)

- South Stoke U'11 Mixed High5 Netball Champions. Qualified for the County Level 3 tournament and finished 8th/10 schools
- ISA Midlands U'11 Boys Table Tennis Champions

Spring Term 2018 (Individuals)

- Hugo - ISA Midlands U'11 Boys Table Tennis Singles Champion
- Liam - ISA Midlands U'11 Boys Table Tennis Singles Runner-up

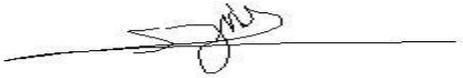
Our thanks go out once again to Denstone College, Florence Tennis and Bowls Club, Moddershall CC, Oakhill Primary, Stafford Gymnastics Centre and Trentham RUFC for the use of their facilities and to all the staff and external coaches for their help in running sports clubs throughout the year and preparing children for competition.

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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