



## St Joseph's Catholic Academy

Member of the Newman Catholic Collegiate

Mobberley Road, Goldenhill, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 5RN

Tel: (01782) 235393 Fax: (01782) 235394

[www.stjosephscatholicacademy.co.uk](http://www.stjosephscatholicacademy.co.uk)

email: [stjoseph@sjnewman.co.uk](mailto:stjoseph@sjnewman.co.uk)

Acting Executive Principal- Mrs D Farmer

Acting Head of School – Mrs R Wilson

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020,

Dear Parents and Carers,

This will be my final letter of the academic year- the 16<sup>th</sup> since lockdown! It was lovely to welcome Miss Forrester back to school last Monday after her Maternity Leave- how much has changed since she left us last July! The staff are continuing to work hard, getting school ready for our re-opening to all pupils on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. I hope that you have all had the chance to read the guidance for re-opening, which you can find on the Coronavirus tab of our school website. It is a very comprehensive guide, and it will be particularly important to pay close attention to your child's drop off and collection times, as these will need to remain staggered to ensure we minimise the number of adults on the premises at once. If you have not yet read the four new documents posted on Friday, I urge you to do so before September. It will be imperative for the safety of our children, staff and families that we all strictly adhere to the guidance to prevent a second wave. If you have any queries or questions regarding re-opening, please do not hesitate to contact us before Friday. School will be closed over the six weeks and the school email will not be monitored frequently- all of our staff deserve a proper break before we return to the new normal in September. There will be no phone calls home from school during the summer holidays. If you need to contact school as a matter of urgency, please call or text the school mobile number on 07517791530.

The staff have reported good attendance at the 'Meet the New Teacher' Teams meeting last week. Thank you to all parents who have been able to support their children with attending these Teams meetings- this contact with their new teachers will help children's transition back to school in September. The final Teams meeting this week will be with your child's current class teacher and will be a chance for them to reflect upon the year.

The children who are in school have been a joy to teach this half term. They have remained focused, hard-working and cheerful despite school being considerably different than before. Our Wow award winners for this week are:

Nursery bubble: **Elsie**, who has blown Mrs Gater's socks off this week when learning to write her name!

Reception bubble: **Abbie-Rose**, for being so enthusiastic about all of the learning activities and for a huge improvement in her presentation

Year 1, bubble 1: **Ann-Teresa** for super progress in her Reading **and Nicola** for her fantastic writing

Year 1, bubble 2: **Layla-Grace**, for a fantastic attitude to all of her learning and **Beau**, who has produced some fabulous, thoughtful RE work

Key worker group: **Elsie**, for her super happy attitude to learning and life!

Year 6, bubble 1: Libby and **Maisy**, who have both settled back in to school life brilliantly after joining their bubble later

Year 6, bubble 2: **Lily**, for fantastic problem solving and budgeting in the Money Sense project and **Kaden** for his enthusiasm for learning and infectious laugh!

A huge well done to all of our Wow winners and all of our fantastic children who are continuing to work really hard at school and at home.



This week, we will be saying goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children. Throughout their school life at St Joseph's, these children have been a class of hard-working, respectful, resilient and talented young people who are a real credit to their families. It is incredibly disappointing for us as a school to not be able to send them onto pastures new in the way that they deserve. They have missed out on so much in the last three months- a time that they should have treasured for the rest of their lives- and not once have they complained. Thank you Year 6 for your understanding and patience- you are wonderful children and I will be in touch with you next academic year when we will hopefully be able to reunite and celebrate together again. In the meantime, I wish you every success for your futures and would love to hear how you are getting on.

We will also very sadly be saying farewell to several members of staff this week. Miss Stephenson and Mrs Roberts joined us temporarily last September and have been an asset to our school, teaching in Years 3 and 4 and developing excellent relationships with their classes. We will miss them both greatly and wish them every success for their future. Mrs Root will also be leaving us after 3 years on Friday and again, we wish Mrs Root every success for the future. Mrs Root worked alongside Mrs Marson every Friday in school and has taught many of the children in Key Stage 2, who I know will be sad to see her go.

Mrs Marson will also be leaving St Joseph's this Friday. She has worked tirelessly for the children of St Joseph's for the last 8 years, leading on many initiatives in school, particularly in her passion for Science. Mrs Marson will be a great loss to our school. She is an outstanding teacher, who has touched the hearts and lives of many of the children and their families, and I will personally miss her greatly. I would like to thank Mrs Marson for the love, care and concern she has shown to our children, and the support and guidance she has given to many of our staff over the years, and I wish her a very bright, successful future.

Finally, our longest-standing member of staff, Mrs Gater, will be retiring this week after 33 years of service to St Joseph's. Mrs Gater is the heart and soul of our school. As the first teacher that many of your children would have encountered, her role as our Nursery teacher has been crucial in ensuring that they were settled, cared for and had the very best start to their education. I know that several parents remember being taught by Mrs Gater themselves at St Joseph's, and it is a real testimony to her loyalty and dedication, not only to the teaching profession, but to teaching at St. Joseph's, that she has remained at this school for so long. Mrs Gater will be dearly missed by the staff, children and many of our parents, but she is thoroughly deserving of a happy, healthy and restful retirement after more than 40 years of teaching, and we wish her all the very best of luck for her future.

On behalf of all of the staff, the children and the whole school community, I would like to thank each of these members of staff as they move onto the next stage in their lives.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you as parents for your constant support and understanding during the last few months. I wasn't entirely sure what I was letting myself in for in Mrs Hamilton's absence, but I certainly was not expecting for the year to unravel in quite the way it has! It has been a challenge but with the support of a fantastic team of staff, wonderful children and supportive and considerate parents, we have managed to survive the year, and for that I count my blessings. I would like to thank all of the staff in school for remaining positive through much uncertainty, and I would particularly like to thank Mrs Farmer for her wisdom and guidance, and Mrs Philps, Mrs Williams, Miss Murray and Mr Colclough for the countless administration and safeguarding roles they have undertaken to ensure the smooth running of school. Finally, I would like to thank each and every one of your children. They are history in the making, and have been unfairly labelled 'the lost generation' throughout this pandemic. I think they have shown great courage, determination and a versatility not seen for generations and we will work tirelessly on their return to ensure that they get the best education possible next year.

I wish you all a very happy, restful summer, and pray that we will be blessed with good weather and happier times ahead with our families and friends. I am very much looking forward to seeing you all in September. God bless and take care.

Mrs. R Wilson,  
Acting Head of School.