



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Friday 12th March 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back everyone!

It has been so truly wonderful seeing all the children back in school since Monday 8th. The children sound happy and pleased to be learning back in school, as it should be. The playground is back to full life and it feels as though we are getting ever closer to some sort of normal.

Many thanks to all the parents that I have seen this week and all the kind words and comments, in truth, it is these positive, supportive words which help keep us all going, and build the special St Joseph's community that we are. We are so very blessed to be part of this community and parish. Well done to all the children this week, who have worked and behaved well on your return.....keep it up.

In these unusual times, I believe it has made many people think about their own personal circumstances alongside family commitments and it deeply saddens me to inform you that we have staff members moving on to pastures new.

Firstly Mrs Butt will be leaving us at the end of this term as she moves onto Frogwell Primary School in Chippenham as a Year 1 class teacher. She has brought so much to St Joseph's over her time with us. Her energy and commitment to the children has been evident since I have been at St Joseph's.

Mrs Murphy is leaving at the end of this term to complete her shiatsu training. She has always spread a light of positivity wherever she walks in school and her presence will be greatly missed.

Finally and by no means least Mrs Payne will be starting her retirement at the end of the Easter break. Mrs Payne has been with the school for 22 years and has seen many changes along the way. She has worked tirelessly with the children in key stage 1, and who can forget the amazing displays in and outside of the schools. The Poppy display and the Harvest Leaves are my personnel favorites. She has been a personal support since I have joined and I am thrilled she will not be leaving our community as she will still be part of the St Joseph's family, volunteering for us.

We will all miss these wonderful members of St Joseph's school and wish them all the very best in their future endeavors.

As a result of these vacancies, we have secured a fixed term teacher to cover St Francis class from after the Easter break, for term 5 & 6, Mrs Natalie Jardine. Mrs Jardine will be starting on Monday 29th March and will have a detailed transition for the last week of term, whilst Mrs Butt is still here. This will give the teachers a chance for an in depth transition whilst getting to know the children before Easter. This will also mean that the children will go off to their Easter break, safe in the knowledge of who their new teacher is. Mrs Jardine will also be on site Wednesday 24th March, getting to know processes and procedures. Please join with me in making Mrs Jardine welcome into our community and support her settling in period. We will be putting an advert out in the next week for a permanent class teacher post. As you can understand this is a lengthier process and this will ensure a permanent class teacher will be in post for September.

We also have an advert out at present for a permanent teaching assistant for Key Stage 1. If you know anyone who is interested please encourage them to look on our school website or phone the office for further details. Additionally we have asked Miss Madeley to return in term 5 and 6 to cover further hours in St Lawrence class to cover some of the hours Mrs Murphy worked, I am sure many of the children in St Lawrence class will be pleased to see Miss Madeley back!

Many thanks for all your continued cooperation and support.

Warm regards and God bless

Mrs Sue Woods
Headteacher