



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Holloway, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9BB

Tel: 01666 822331; Email: admin@st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

Website: www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

Thursday 20th May 2021

Dear Parents,

I would like to start with a huge thank you for the many beautiful flowers that many of you donated in support of our May Mass and Procession yesterday. The children were reflective and enjoyed creating a class flower arrangement for Mary. Look out for the photographs in the newsletter!

As the country is looking at the easing of restrictions for the pandemic, we can be hopeful of a return back to some normality at some point. However for Schools the guidance from the DfE has not changed. We have not received any change in lifting our restrictions or Risk Assessments. This has also been the message from the Local Authority to date. As always please be reassured I will notify you when there are any changes to our school restrictions and guidance, as I have done throughout the pandemic.

Since the start of the Pandemic our community, St Joseph's, has remained strong with many encouraging conversations and emails from you, remaining as always, positive and supportive. As I communicated last week we have had some staff who have been with St Joseph's for a while and have made the decision to move on to pastures new, and as a community and Headteacher I wish them all the very best in the future. I would like to reassure parents that I can understand that change can be difficult, however it can also be positive, as we continue to be blessed with an exceptional school, with incredible children, families, staff and parish.

I have been in discussions with Ms. Hayley Clapham, and she is able to begin her class teaching for 2 days a week alongside Mrs Jardine in term 6. This is a fantastic opportunity for Ms Clapham to transition into the Community whilst starting to get to know the children ahead of September. Ms. Clapham came into school yesterday and the children were very excited to see her. She will be teaching on a Thursday and Friday in term 6.

I have also recently been in communication with Mr Daniel Heavey, who is equally positive about starting at St Joseph's in September and he brings with him a wealth of sporting experience.

Finally I would also like to inform you that we have been able to extend one of our existing TAs, Mrs Hanna Webb's, role to incorporate an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) in school for 4 afternoons a week. This has been something I have been very keen to facilitate since my arrival at St Joseph's and I am very excited that she will begin in term 6 for 2 afternoons a week, building to 4 in September.

Although I appreciate that there have been communications about staffing changes over the last few weeks, the small size of Saint Joseph's magnifies the perception of any staff leaving the school. We are living through unprecedented times and a number of people are reflecting on what that means to them at the moment - it is not that surprising that staff are revisiting their priorities and life choices after so many years in Saint Joseph's.

I hope you can sense that although we have staff moving on, these are exciting times for St Joseph's with plans in place to improve the provision we offer your children and the community.

Look out for the photos in the newsletter....they are beautiful and we very much look forward to next year when you will be able to join us in celebrating the month of Mary.

Warm regards and God bless

Mr Gregory Fauvarque
Chair of Governors

Mrs Sue Woods
Headteacher