



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Regents Gate
Long Causeway
Exmouth
Devon
EX8 1TA

Interim Head: Mrs N Taylor-Bashford

Tel: 01395 264875

19th July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last year and to wish you a very happy holidays.

At St Joseph's there have been many developments over the last year. As Ofsted recognised in October, the school was moving in the right direction and we have continued over the last few months to build on that and push forward.

I have listed below just a few of the areas we have been focussing on:

As a school, we have been developing a child-led curriculum with activities and experiences chosen to enhance the learning, hence you will have noticed an increase in school trips and experiences. We have also looked at new ways to improve the marking and feedback in books ensuring that children respond to, edit and improve their work; knowing their individual targets and what they need to do to move their learning forward.

We have looked in detail at how we ensure we challenge and stretch all pupils at all levels. Planning includes children's individualised targets and how they are being supported to 'master' the curriculum and be challenged appropriately.

We have also had a big push on guided reading and how we can extend the range of skills children need to develop in each year group. I am really pleased to say we have just bought into 'Accelerated Reader'. This is a widely used program which aids children's development of comprehension skills in a fun and motivating way. The children will start to use this early next term.

We are also really excited to be taking part in the Primary Writing Project from next September. This is a national programme which runs over 2 years and so it is a long term investment to raise standards in reading and writing. The aim is to help children make faster progress and gain confidence and pleasure as a reader and writer.

As a school, we had a very successful Pupil Premium review last term led by Mr Brumby (leading expert in education and Pupil Premium specialist). Whilst the main focus was our disadvantaged children, it still looked at all areas of the school. One of the comments in his report was *'They (school leaders) are clear about the outcomes they wish to achieve and how they will know if they have succeeded. This marks a shift in culture that had already begun by the time of the Ofsted inspection in October 2016 but which was then still in its infancy. The acting headteacher has worked very hard since then to establish an ethos of attainment for all which is now beginning to take hold across the school.'* You can read the whole review on our school website under the Pupil Premium tab.

We have also worked tirelessly to support children socially and emotionally and to tackle any disruptive behaviour. Again, we were pleased when the report noticed *'Pupils appreciate what their school does to support their learning and well-being. They are proud of their school and their achievements. Socially, children talked about the ways in which they are helped to resolve disagreements.'*

As many of you will be aware, we now have many pastoral interventions running such as specific programmes like 'Time to Talk', 'Good to be Me' and Rainbows and other groups like friendship groups, anger management groups or 1:1 for children with anxiety. We will continue to build on these next year.

Academically, we have now received all the initial results for our school compared to National data. These are initial results as the finalised results will be published later in the year as there is still time for schools to request papers to be remarked etc.

I have included the results below. We are very pleased that we are above Devon and National in almost every area. We are especially pleased at the number of children who achieved the expected (or higher) standard in all three subjects, RWM (reading, writing and maths). This year it is 72% which is a huge increase on last year which was 48%. We are also extremely happy at the number of our children achieving 'greater depth' standard as challenging and stretching our most able has been a real area of focus for us this year and it is great to see this paying off.

Subject	St Joseph's	Devon	National
Year 6 – Reading at Expected or above	79%	74%	71%
Year 6 – Reading at Greater depth	48%	27%	25%
Year 6 – Writing at Expected or above	76%	76%	76%
Year 6 – Writing at Greater depth	21%	18%	18%
Year 6 - SPAG at Expected or above	83%	75%	77%
Year 6 - SPAG at Greater depth	45%	27%	31%
Year 6 - Maths at Expected or above	93%	74%	75%
Year 6 – Maths at Greater depth	45%	19%	23%
Year 6 – RWM at Expected or above	72%	61%	61%
Year 6 – RWM at Greater depth	21%	8%	9%
Year 2 - Reading	75%	76%	76%
Year 2 - Writing	79%	69%	68%
Year 2 - Maths	89%	75%	75%
Year 1 - Phonics	87%	83%	81%

I would like to say a very big 'Well done' to all the children and to all the staff for their hard work this year.

Thank you also to all the parents, governors and the Parish for all the support this year. I wish you all a happy, safe and relaxing holiday.

Best wishes

Nicky Taylor-Bashford