

Friday 16th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was good to meet Mrs Stephens this week and have time to hand everything over and for her to get to know the school. I know that the school is in safe hands and she will continue to look after St Joseph's and keep it moving forward.

It has been a busy week with first aid workshops, Christmas lunches, Carols in the playground and then a beautiful final assembly today. Every class sang me a beautiful song, or read a poem or recounted some memories and it was very special.

It has been a lovely week and a very special last 7 years.

Thank you so much for all the lovely wishes I have had, cards and gifts. I feel truly blessed to have been Head of St Joseph's. I have been in different educational settings for the last 20 years and can recognise what a special place this school is. I take away so many memories – Church and school sleepovers, building the canopy over year 1/2, starting Forest School and Breakfast and After School Club, introducing the Gospel Values, getting Good in Ofsted, Advent services, Nativity plays, negotiating remote learning and bubbles, seagulls in the corridor, a sink hole in the playground, St Jos Got Talent, Public Speaking competitions, meeting with MPs about funding, dressing as Mary, the Angel Gabriel, St George – to name but a few. It has been really hard work but there has also been a lot of fun and laughter.

I thank all of the children and families for all of the support. I shall miss the children's beaming faces and hearing the great learning chatter as I go in and out of classes. I thank the staff for making my time here so enjoyable and memorable. The staff here are talented, dedicated, kind and caring and always go above and beyond; I can't thank them enough. I shall miss each and every one of them.

I wish you all a very happy, relaxing and safe Christmas.

With love and thanks

Mrs Taylor-Bashford

**Diary dates:**

Tuesday 3rd January – Non-pupil day

Wednesday 4th January – Children return to school

Friday 6th January – Epiphany Mass in Church 11am. Everyone welcome.

Friday 13th January – Yr 3 swimming starts.

Monday 16th January – Waste project workshops

Silver Awards: Sycamore Class – Kenny, Maple Class – Shiloh, Amelia

Bronze Awards: Sycamore Class – Lily, Poppy, Beech Class – Harry K, Lucy, Lilly, Finlay

Stars of the term: Oak Class – Bea & Albie, Rowan Class – Anastasiia & Brooklyn, Sycamore Class – Lily & Ralph, Cherry Class – Harry & Evie, Maple Class – Kelly & Daisy, Beech Class – Jacob & Gemma, Alfie & Rose