



St. Alban & St. Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery



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15 December 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

We are almost at the end of this year and what a year it has been!

We have dealt with the impact of a global pandemic whilst working hard to meet the needs of the children of Key Workers and vulnerable families as well as implementing remote learning systems for others. We have reintegrated our children back in stages to school, drawn up comprehensive risk assessments, recruited new staff for September 2020 and tried to keep morale high amongst staff, parents and children.

In September we saw our children arriving back to our newly amalgamated St. Alban & St. Stephen Catholic Primary School. They appeared happy and excited to be in their new classes with their new teachers. The school must be commended for the way in which the children settled so quickly. Whilst all procedures for a safe and risk adverse school were put in place, the school created a warm, bright, creative and welcoming environment for our children's return.

We also welcomed new families this term in Nursery and Reception and other year groups. I am sure they already feel settled and are enjoying being part of the St Alban & St. Stephen family.

We were delighted to welcome new staff to our school in September. It is so heartening to see how well they have settled into school life, bearing in mind the year we have had. More recently we appointed our new and first substantive Headteacher of our new school, Mrs Clare Moore. I am sure many of you have had the opportunity to meet Mrs Moore by now and are supporting her in her new role.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of the school as we navigated the hurdles of this year. Sending your children to class to be taught by a teacher was quickly replaced by remote learning opportunities. Your kitchen and living space became the new classroom and in many cases 'you' became the new teacher. It was a time like no other and you have been a wonderful support to your children and to school staff. We are very grateful for this.

We are also thankful for your continued generosity as we fundraise for school resources and coordinate charitable contributions in the wider community.

Finally, I would like to thank Clare McFlynn for her exemplary leadership during the transition to Primary school status and the challenges of this year.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas break. May the beginning of a New Year bring us all much happiness and hope as we look forward to a safer 2021.

Best wishes,

Gerry Dolan
Chair of Governors