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Executive
Headteacher
Clare McFlynn

Head of School
Angela Noronha

Thursday 12th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is almost Christmas and the first term of the current school year is nearly over. In the less than four months since the start of term, many things have happened.

Our new children in Nursery and Reception have settled in very well to school life, and so have other children who have joined St. Joseph's in other year groups.

As I wrote to you earlier this term, the Diocese's RE inspection of the School resulted in a glowing report, of which all staff and the children are proud.

We have said a fond farewell to Fr. Pat, who has been transferred to Paris, and given a warm welcome to Fr. George.

Our children have broken a world record! In October Blue Class were given the opportunity to work with BT on a coding project. Their task was to code 160 drones to create a record-breaking display of lights which was shown in a Jess Glynne concert at Wembley Arena. Perhaps you saw it on the news or read about it in the national press. Not many schools can claim a place in the Guinness Book of Records!

We have continued to improve the premises so as to make them safer and a better environment for the children. Despite unexpected delays resulting from the local authority's planning procedures, we now have an impressive new entrance to the School on Highgate Hill which opens up the front of the School. The new entrance is due to open shortly.

As governors, we continue to be very involved in the life of the School. At a recent Governor morning, we gained a detailed insight into the teaching and learning of history. We visited lessons and spoke to children from different classes and year groups. It was very interesting to see how different techniques are used to deliver history effectively to children at different levels of development. In particular, it was rewarding to see how teachers engage the children and enable them to articulate their own ideas about the topic they are studying. In future Governor mornings, we intend to cover other aspects of the curriculum.

I would like to thank those of you who have contributed to the School Fund and have supported our "Giving Tree" this year. After our success last year, we brought back the "Giving Tree" as a way of raising additional funds for school resources. Despite what you may read in the media, the reality is that school funding is decreasing and our need for alternative sources of money is on the rise. Our focus this school year is to work towards getting more art and craft resources to support that area of the curriculum.

St. Joseph's is a really great school. We have a lot to thank the Passionist Order for in terms of their support of the School, particularly the spiritual support and guidance from Fr. Pat and now from Fr. George. Under the leadership of the Executive Headteacher, Ms McFlynn, the School has been transformed in terms of the state of the premises, the enthusiasm and

hard work of all staff, and the general, friendly atmosphere at the School. Everyone works very hard to enable your children to grow and develop in the best possible learning environment.

On behalf of the full governing body, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Lasok', written in a cursive style.

Paul Lasok QC
Chair of Governors