



Highgate Hill
London
N19 5NE

T: 020 7272 1270
E: office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk
W: www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk

Executive
Headteacher
Clare McFlynn

Head of School
Angela Noronha

10th December 2020

Dear Parents and 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 children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Children and setting up systems for remote learning 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 2020 we saw all our children arriving back to school, happy and excited to be in their new year groups and with their new teachers. The school must be commended for the way in which the children settled back in so quickly. Procedures to keep the children and all staff safe were put in place, without losing the warm, bright, creative and welcoming environment for our children that makes the school such a pleasure to visit.

We welcome our new children this term, those new to Nursery and Reception and other year groups and new parents to our school community. I am sure they already feel very settled and are enjoying being part of the St. Joseph's family.

September saw staff changes at the school. Clare Moore, our Assistant Head and SENCo was seconded to St. Alban and St. Stephen School, St. Albans, from June 2020 and has since been appointed the new Head Teacher of that school from January 2021. We are delighted for Clare's success and thank her for all that she has contributed to St. Joseph's in her nine years with us. I am sure you will join me in congratulating her as she begins her new role and we wish her well for the future. We were delighted to welcome new staff to the school in September. It is so heartening to see how well they have settled into St. Joseph's school life already, keeping in mind the year we have had.

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. During the lockdown, the idea of sending your children to school to be taught by a teacher was quickly replaced by remote learning opportunities that took much getting used to. Your kitchen and living space became the new classroom and in many cases 'you' became the new teacher. Well done! It was a time like no other we have experienced and through it all you have been a wonderful support to your children and to the school staff and for this we are very appreciative.

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

I hope you have a safe, happy and peaceful Christmas break with loved ones and I wish your celebration of the coming of our Saviour to be festive as well as prayerful. May the beginning of a New Year bring us all much happiness.

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

Paul Lasok

Chair of Governors