December 20th 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I sincerely hope that this message finds you and your families safe and well and that your advent preparations are going well.

As we reach the end of another busy year I am writing to you all to thank you for your continued support in making sure your children are truly unlocking their potential together in faith and love as they continue their journey at the Cathedral Catholic Primary School.

As a Governing Body in a Catholic School, our role is to ensure that the Catholic Vision and Ethos is clarified in the strategic guidance and setting of aims and objectives for the school and then reviewing the progress of those aims and objective. In particular, to ensure that educational performance and Catholic Character of the school is delivered as set out in our aims and objectives. We also have a role in adopting policies and for the financial performance.

As a full Governing Body we recently met and I can assure Parents and Carers that we are satisfied that the school is operating how we would expect.

One of the huge benefits of being a Governor is to see the wonderful examples of how the school is delivering its aims and objectives in providing the best opportunity for your children and families.

Governors get to witness some truly wonderful examples of how the school is supporting, nurturing and teaching your children whether in the school setting or at external events.

Once again I was fortunate to attend events presented or supported by the school, your children with their impeccable behaviour, as always, are a credit to you at all events.

I must mention to you how wonderful the children sang at the mass for the National Diocesan Education Commissioners in October at Lancaster Chaplaincy. There were so many comments from people from all around the County not to mention our own Bishop Paul on the beautiful singing and also on how well your children present themselves, especially after a busy day in school. I would also like to thank our Parents and siblings that attended too, your support did not go unnoticed.

I also attended the Nativity this year, which was so beautifully presented in our stunning Cathedral, it was great to see our youngest children following the story of Christmas through song and prayer and also how well the school include every child.

There are so many events that I have been able to attend and witness how wonderful the Cathedral Catholic Primary School is in including every child in everything it does, this has also been recognised by Lancashire County Council. Lancashire County Council have decided to show how inclusion should be in schools and out of every Primary School in Lancashire chose our school to show what true inclusion looks like. A film was taken and I am sure that will be available in the new year so you can be proud of the school that you have chosen for the Catholic Education of your children.

Unfortunately, for personal reasons, I did miss the Christmas Fair this year but I understand the fair was another successful event and would like thank the PTA for their continued support. We have a very strong and loyal group of PTA members that are working so hard especially to fund raise for our school. Don’t forget as a member of this school community you are automatically a member of the PTA. I do urge you all once again to get involved in the events in one way or another, please speak to Gemma or Duncan on ways that you can get involved.

This week was a great example of how the PTA’s efforts impacted the children as every child in the school enjoyed a trip to the pantomime.

As a governor on the Finance and Buildings Committee I was so pleased to see that the school had the much need works to repair and enhance the windows in the school. This was much needed work and makes our building much warmer and safer. We thank the Diocese for their support in making this happen.

I would like to thank Mrs Holt, Mrs Grierson and the leadership team for their continued hard work in leading the school but also all the teachers, support staff, Liam and his team and Anetta and her team for the very tasty food (I hope I haven’t forgotten anyone) that make our school not just an great place to learn but also for the children to have the best opportunities and to be safe and happy.

Father John is now the Cathedral Dean and is providing the school with tremendous support especially to continue to enable us to embed the Catholic Ethos in everything we do but in also providing support to all our families in the Cathedral Community. We are truly blessed to have Father John at the Cathedral. Father John is also supported by Father Phillip so we really are very lucky to have two priests that can provide support to school.

Some of you will recall Father John in a recent sermon encouraged us to place the Crib in our homes reminding us of the importance of Christmas and a place to reflect on the true meaning. I loved this time as a child when the crib was brought out and we could pray as a family around the crib. It would be great to see images of your cribs in your homes or even better if you could encourage your children and families to make their own crib and we can display them when they return to school in January.

Before I close I would once again like to encourage you to attend Mass during Christmas as Bishop Paul Quoted a couple of years ago, “One of the greatest treasures parent show, teach and share with their children is how to try and live a life of faith” the times of Mass during Christmas are on the school letter, it would be wonderful to see as many parents as possible

I would like to wish all of you and your friend and family a truly Happy and Peaceful Christmas and I look forward to meeting many of you again in the New Year.

Yours most sincerely

Clare Nolan-Barnes

Chair of Governors