

## Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Academy



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*'Love of God, love of learning, love of life'*

## MRS TESTER'S FINAL NEWSROUND (2022/23)

### *The End of Another Year!*

It's quite hard to believe that we find ourselves at the end of yet another year. It has absolutely flown by! Our last day of term is today, **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July** and the first day of our new autumn term is on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September**.

As you all know, I am retiring and therefore will be leaving this wonderful school and a very special community. It has been an absolute privilege to have supported your children on their journey through primary school and to have worked with such an amazing team! I would like to thank you sincerely for all of the support you have offered me whilst I have been here, and I wish you the very best as you move forward into a new adventure. Have a wonderful summer break filled with laughter and fun.

Many thanks, Mrs Tester

### *Goodbye and Thank You to our Y6 Children and Parents!*

This time of year can be quite difficult as we say goodbye to our Y6 children. It is tinged with sadness as we have to let go, but we are also very excited about the new and exciting journey ahead of them. We are incredibly proud of the young people they have become and of their many achievements. We also say a sad goodbye to some of our parents who will be leaving us as their children move into Y7. We have been so grateful for your support and wish you well.

The Y6 children led our liturgy at Mass and said goodbye to the rest of the school through their Leavers Assembly. There were tears and laughter in equal measure.

We wish you all good luck as you move on to pastures new knowing that you will all achieve wonderful things!

**Staff Goodbyes:** We would like to say a huge thank you to Miss Sutton who has been working with us all year in Y4. She has done an amazing job and her contribution to our school life has been immeasurable.

Thank you also to Miss Galloway who has supported us once again this year. She is always welcome at Holy Rosary, in fact, she is becoming part of the furniture! Our good fortune.

**Welcome:** We would like to extend a very warm welcome to **Mrs Flaherty** who will be joining our school family in September as Head Teacher. She is very excited to meet you all, and to work alongside you as your children journey through primary school. We would like to say a huge hello to **Miss Fagan** who will be teaching in Y5 from September. Our children have already met her during their transition morning, but it is lovely to officially welcome her to our school community. We also welcome **Mr Griffith** as he joins our team as our new Site Manager. You are all very welcome!

### *Mr Murgatroyd—Site Manager Extraordinaire!*

I don't think any of you will mind if Mr Murgatroyd gets his own special goodbye! He is moving on to pastures new and we all wish him the very best. He has worked tirelessly for over 13 years making sure our school looks amazing and ensuring we meet health and safety regulations. I cannot even begin to list the numerous roles he is responsible for and on top of that he has supported us with school trips, sporting events etc. You name it—he has done it! We are all so grateful Mr Murgatroyd.

**GOODBYE, THANK YOU & GOOD LUCK!**

## Our Faith

Our children love going over to Mass every week and leading us in prayer during our Candle Times and House gatherings. Our Mini Vinnies and Mini Chaplains have supported our children in their spiritual journey across the year and our Year 6 children have earned their first award through 'Faith in Action'. We have raised funds for those less fortunate than ourselves through CAFOD, we involved ourselves in 'Mission Christmas' again and we gathered together as a community for Remembrance Day. We try very hard to put 'Faith into Action'.



## A Journey Through Our Year

Here is a flavour of the experiences the children have had across the year.

### *Educational Visit & Enrichment 22/23*

**Early Years:** Animal Story/Ugly Bug Ball/Little Red Riding Hood day etc

**Y1:** Piercebridge Organic Farm

**Y2:** Beamish

**Y3:** Danby Lodge National Park

**Y4:** Beamish

**Y5:** Youth Village Residential/Team Building

**Y6:** Carlton Camp Residential

### *Careers—When I Grow Up!*

We have had careers events for all of our children from Early Years to Y6. These included...

**Cleveland Police:** (Call handlers, police dog handlers, police helicopter pilots, police vehicle drivers etc)

**Local PCSO:** We learnt about their importance in the local community in keeping everyone safe, and the many roles involved.

**RAF:** Sargent Gemma Kimble explained to the children her role and the importance of it for our country.

**Fire Service:** The role of a firefighter was discussed and the important part they play in the local community to keep us all safe. Our younger children got to sit inside a fire engine and use the hose—exciting!

**West End Theatre Workshop:** A performer from the West End came into school and worked with the children to create a performance based on Alice in Wonderland. The children learnt what it was like to be a performer in the theatre and the many other roles involved to create a production.

**Author—James Harris:** This local author worked with children across the school and even stayed after school for a book signing!

**Poetry Day:** Poetry workshops took place across the day—the children loved this!

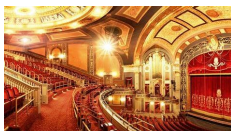
**Physiotherapist:** Years 4 & 5 met with Sarah, a physiotherapist from Aycliffe Physio. She showed the children different parts of the body and explained their function. She then explained what her job entailed. This was a fascinating visit.

**CSI—Forensic science:** The children used forensic science to re-open 'Cold Cases', they learnt about chromatography and even took fingerprints. This was an amazing workshop!

**Mini-Medics:** Years 4 & 5 took part in this First-Aid session and began to understand the role of a first-aider, paramedic etc.

**STEM Workshops:** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) Y3 children were involved in this workshop as part of careers week. They discussed careers paths in these fields.

**Dogs Trust:** The children loved learning about the many roles involved in this area.



James Harris



*Fundraising Events:* Thank you so much for your support in helping us raise funds to further enhance experiences for the children in school. We have been able to offer rich learning opportunities as well as beautiful outdoor equipment such as gazebos, outdoor reading chairs and fitness equipment etc. Our art installations are fantastic! (KS2 reading window , Healthy Eating in the dining hall and our Trust Virtues Tree in our main entrance) Our recent 'Colour Run' raised over £1300 and our Sumer Fayre over £1000. This year alone, you have helped us to raise £4982.82. Quite amazing! This will all be put back into school funds to further support the children next year. Without your generosity, we would not be able to do this so a huge, very genuine, thank you to you all.



### *Personal Development/Enrichment*

Y6 Enterprise Week	Y5 Team Building day	Animal Story	World Book Day
Pantomime	Bikeability	Mini-Medics	Chinese New Year
Sunderland Theatre	Animal Encounters	Dance	King's Coronation
Safer Internet Day	Children's Mental Health Week	Holy Rosary's Got Talent!	

### *Sporting Activities*

Football competitions	Stockton Athletics	Quad Kids	Dan the Skipping Man
Drumba	Cross Country	Sports Days	

Can we count the 'Colour Run' as a sporting activity? We were all very tired after it and our hearts were pumping, so we will!

### *After School Clubs*

KS1 & 2 Book Clubs	Y5 Pokemon Club	Y6 Booster Club	Cookery Club
KS1 & 2 Football Club	KS1 & 2 Art Club	Easter Craft Club	STEM Club
Netball Club	Computer Club		

### *Magic Mathematicians*

Four of our Year 5 children entered a Maths competition hosted by St Michael's. Guess what? They only won the whole competition and brought back an amazing trophy! They worked so well as a team—We are so proud of them.



### *Debate Mate*

Debate Mate provides opportunities for young pupils to become independent thoughtful learners who communicate well with each other, engage in the curriculum, and the world around them in a meaningful way. The skills developed through the Debate Mate approach to debating; critical and creative thinking, communication, leadership and teamwork, are vital for the 21st Century world. These skills enhance confidence, resilience, empathy and emotional capacity.

Mrs Holt attended the training for us and will begin to develop this programme in the new academic year. She is very excited about this. Other colleagues across the Trust also attended the training and our eventual aim is to host debating opportunities between our schools across the Trust. Very exciting!



*Whilst our main focus is, and should be the children, we thought you might like to hear about some of our staff celebrations/news.*

**Mr Bradley** has now completed his ECT which is the official induction period for new teachers. He has worked so incredibly hard, he is an amazing teacher and we are all very proud of him. Well done Mr Bradley.

**Miss Whalen** has completed her NPQLTD which is a National Professional Qualification accredited by the DFE. This qualification is of the highest level and is extremely hard to achieve. Well done!

**Mrs Holt** has completed her CCRS which is a Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. This takes many years to complete and is extremely hard work. Well done!

**Mrs Leather** is back with us after her maternity leave. We welcome the lovely baby Millie into the world. Congratulations!

**Miss Barker** got married and is now Mrs Walker. Congratulations!

**Mrs Harrison:** Thank you for coming in to read with our children every week without fail to support Love of Reading! They have loved it.

**Daniel Cobby:** Thank you to Daniel who has volunteered in our Y4 class all year. Thank you so much!

Whilst our lives are full of wonderful things, sometimes things can be hard. This year has been particularly hard for our school family. Mrs Wilson tragically lost her dad very suddenly, Mrs Murgatroyd lost her mam, Mrs Lowe lost her father-in-law and I lost my mam.

For the very first time since I arrived here, we so very sadly had to say goodbye to one of our colleagues. Marian, our lovely lunchtime supervisor, sadly passed away in March after a short illness. She was an absolute delight to have on our team, so hard working, so supportive of the children and always made sure she made you laugh out loud at least once a day! She has been a great loss to our school family and we miss her dearly.

We ask that you keep all of our loved ones and their families in your prayers.

Thank you and God Bless.

