## Westminster Diocese Hertfordshire County Council

## ST JOSEPH'S

Headteacher Mrs L Payne

## St. Joseph's RC Primary School

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Well, what a year St Joseph's School has had from a flood, to a wonderful visit from Cardinal Vincent Nicholls.

Our school reopened in September last year, after the Summer break, with a brand new time line in the hall, depicting our Catholic History. It looks superb. Several class rooms / halls / offices had been decorated and the school looked in fine fettle. The school kitchen had also had a complete revamp so we were able to develop further a full range of food.

The teaching staff remained dedicated with no staff changes to report for the start of the Autumn term and our non-teaching staff continued to fully support the school in all ways, so we could offer a safe, positive, Catholic ethos throughout the school. The Winter came and went and Summer arrived. Then on Thursday evening, June 23rd came the cry... please bring mops and buckets to the school as it had been flooded. A splendid response from parents and somehow we managed to clear up the worst of the water. Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> the school was closed. After a very busy weekend, ripping up carpets / flooring, deep cleaning and drying out of classrooms (as I write the hot water boiler, in the boiler room, is still broken, hopefully soon to be replaced) the school reopened on Monday June 27<sup>th</sup>.

A big thank you to all for our 'clean up' so that we could get the school up and running for Cardinal Vincent's visit on June 29<sup>th</sup> for our 60<sup>th</sup> celebratory Mass. It was a wonderful occasion and our children 'did us proud' with their singing and answering his questions during his Homily. After Mass when chatting to the Cardinal he remarked that if he had any grandchildren, then St Joseph's would be the school that he would want them to attend. A fantastic comment for Linda and all her staff.

After another very successful teaching year throughout the school our year 6 are soon to be at their new Secondary schools, and we wish them all the best for the future. I now take this opportunity to thank Linda and all her staff for their excellent work in educating St Joseph's children.

Of course, underpinning all this excellent work are sound finances. Educational budgets are tight and central government funding for the future is uncertain. However, St Joseph's finances are sound. Last financial year (2015/16), the school completed the main work of refurbishment of the school, while at the same time meeting day-to-day running costs for staff, educational material, heating, etc. We carried a healthy surplus forward into 2016/17 which will help us in the next few years as funding becomes progressively tighter. All this is down to Linda's personal skills in managing resources, finding additional sources of funding and sound budgeting.

As a Governing Body we have helped and encouraged Linda throughout this past year and for the future we are looking at the pros and cons of Academy Status. Again I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Governors for all their hard work.

Have a great Summer, Adrian Ramsden, Chair of Governors.