

ST JOSEPH'S



Headteacher  
Mrs L Payne

Westminster Diocese  
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## St. Joseph's RC Primary School

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16<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

Dear Parents and Carers

As usual, a lot has happened in this school year ending July 2019, so to try and catch up I have looked at my letter to you from 2018. To start, we have had another 'outstanding' year here at St Joseph's, so I take this opportunity to thank Linda Payne and her staff for all their hard work. The school continues to develop and flourish in the class rooms and on the sport's field. We will continue the planned routine of decorations in and outside of the school, over the summer holiday, to maintain our clean and bright class rooms. We have replaced all the windows in the Nursery / Reception areas and the new windows are in and look great. We are hoping to replace the windows in Year 1 and 2 over the summer holidays.

The school's financial details/statement from the Governors' Resources Committee are attached to this letter.

We continue to impress our visitors, from many schools in Hertfordshire and elsewhere with the good behaviour, courtesy and enthusiasm of our children. I visit St Joseph's on a regular basis and I am always impressed with how the school operates.

Our school attendance has improved from the 95% of last year to 97% this year. A big thank you to all our parents and children. Keep this up.

Linda Payne has taken on a new role, this year (as from May 1<sup>st</sup>) as Executive Head of Sacred Heart School in Bushey whilst remaining Head of St Joseph's. Sacred Heart is a larger school than St Joseph's, so Linda is now responsible for over 600 children; this is a challenge for her, which she has taken on with her usual great gusto and enthusiasm.

I would like to thank my fellow Governors for all their hard work over this past year, it is all the hidden work between the staff and Governors that helped to make St Joseph's School a great and outstanding success.

A good summer holiday to all.

Adrian Ramsden, Chair of Governors.

## Resources report for 2018/19

The Resources Committee of the Governing Body works with the Headteacher to ensure the effective operation of all those behind-the-scene activities – finance, buildings, staffing etc – which are needed for the school to provide effectively and efficiently your children's education.

A key role for the Resources Committee is setting and monitoring the school budget. It takes well over £1 million to run St Joseph's. You will be aware that there is ongoing public concern about the financing of education and many schools have considerable concerns about the resources available to them. While St Joseph's could always do with more funds, we are in a sound financial position and have benefitted considerably from the careful management of our funds over the years by Mrs Payne and her team. We started the last financial year in April 2018 carrying forward a surplus from previous years of almost £95k. By March 2019, we ended the year with a surplus of £77k so in theory we overspent during the year by around £18k. But the reality is that we also put aside special funds for IT equipment renewal – we operate on a 5 year planning basis but need to set aside funds from the annual budgets since IT equipment is so expensive to replace – and for more general unforeseen repairs etc.

So, 2018/19 in financial terms was a prudent year, in which we largely balanced our budget and made provision for future needs while at the same time ensuring the financial resources for the school to continue the excellent education that makes it such an outstanding school. We go into 2019/20 with a healthy budget, well placed to meet any challenges in the coming year.