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Dear Parents

Thank you so much for the positivity about school when we talk with you. Your children achieve so much better when school and home work with each other. One of the great strengths of our school is the parent group, you always seems to support us and you are happy to come into school and together we work things out in the best interests of your children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given to us throughout the academic year so far. It is a privilege to do the job that we do and we are very grateful for your support, challenge and friendship. If you need to, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Evaluation Reports

In the coming weeks our school advisor, Margaret Armstrong, will visit school to evaluate the effectiveness of the Infant School and the Junior School. She will do this by examining books, completing a learning walk and meeting with staff, governors and leaders. Alongside this she will analyse the 2017/18 school data and look at next year's projections. We always put our evaluation reports onto our school website for you to examine. Please have a look the historic ones because they read really well. We are proud of our school and our children's achievements.

Staff News

Mrs Dunn, our brilliant Assistant Head Teacher, will be leaving our school at the end of this term. She has been with us for five years and has been promoted to the position of Deputy Headteacher at St Joseph's, Jarrow. She will be a great miss because she is a fabulous teacher, she is also a great leader and her responsibilities have included RE, Maths and Teaching Trainees. I know that she will thrive at her new school and whilst I know that we will all miss her friendship and excellence, she deserves this opportunity.

Mrs Firth who currently works with us for one day a week will also be leaving us in December. Throughout the last four years Mrs Firth has taken a variety of roles including working with Y4 (alongside Miss Rowe), supporting the Y6 curriculum and taking the place of a variety of class teachers when they are off on maternity leave. She is a wonderful, outstanding teacher and will be missed by all.

Finally, Miss McCullough will be leaving Y5 at the end of the term. For the last term she has been teaching Y5 whilst Miss Barrett (Mrs Fenwick) has been on maternity leave. Prior to this, she taught in Y3. It has been a pleasure seeing Miss McCullough thrive. I have seen her confidence in the class develop rapidly and she is very well thought of by pupils and colleagues. I know she will continue to do well throughout her career. Mrs Fenwick returns to us in January following her maternity leave.

PTFA - Winter Fair

Last Saturday the PTFA organised a brilliant Winter Fair which raised over £1,500 for their funds. It was really well supported with a brilliant community atmosphere. We are very lucky that we have dedicated parents and grandparents who are willing to organise events like this. Alongside this, they also provide children with gifts at key times of the year and provide significant donations to the school. Typically, they have been able to donate up to £6000 per year. This helps to pay for things like the mini bus which is used extensively throughout the school, the EYFS new play area and more recently the upgrade to the Wifi in the Junior School.

Enterprise Group

Well done to Mrs Dow and Mrs Welsh's enterprise children (Y4-Y6 children) who took part in the Alnwick Garden Winter Market, selling what they have been making. They won a prize for having the best decorated stall, selling the most interesting items. They won a prize of an annual School pass for Alnwick Gardens which will come in very useful across a number of classes.

Class Liturgies

The last few weeks we have enjoyed some brilliant year group liturgies. We have had liturgies from Y2, Y1 and Y4. They are always a great opportunity to invite parents into school and see how beautifully behaved our children are. Thanks also for coming to our parental English workshops, they are always very well attended and parental feedback is consistently strong.

Liturgical Dancers

On Friday evening a group of children from Y5 and Y6 were asked to participate in a beautiful celebration at St Aloysius Church. The theme was NORTHERN SAINTS, A CELTIC JOURNEY. Our children participated alongside two other local schools. The children and parishioners used storytelling, drama and dance to explore the lives of the Northern Saints. Mrs Dunn, who coordinated on behalf of the school, told me how proud she was of our fantastic children.

Sporting Achievements

Our talented children have had a very successful term on the sports field. The Tag Rugby teams competed in a tournament, the A's winning and the B Team finishing in 3rd place. 24 children from Year 4 through to Year 6 took part in the South Tyneside Schools Cross Country event, at Temple Park, with around 400 other children from across the borough. We were delighted to come first in this event, with lots of individual achievements and team successes too. The A and B boys football teams have made an outstanding start to their season, with the A's holding the prestigious and coveted place at the top of the league. The girls football team have also enjoyed a great start to their season and are improving with every game. We wish our Year 2 children the very best of luck in their Mini Tennis Tournament today at Temple Park.

Anti-Bullying Week

Last week was Anti-Bullying Week and the theme of the week was 'Choose Respect'. Throughout the week the children talked in class about what bullying was and what they could do to stop it. They discussed positive and respectful ways to treat others and be good friends. For more information visit <https://www.bullying.co.uk/anti-bullying-week/>

Shoebox Appeal

Thank you so much to everyone who was able to support us with the shoebox appeal this year. 186 boxes were collected by Samaritan's Purse to be sent to Eastern Europe. We know that this appeal will make a huge difference to the lives of vulnerable children.

The internet

I'm sure that lots of children will be asking Santa for lovely gifts, some of them will include electronic devices with access to the web. The internet is an exciting and powerful resource but it is vital that we safeguard our children. There are lots of useful links on our school website (under the parents section), it is called keeping your children safe. Please do check it out.

Teacher Training

If you know anyone who is interested in training to be a teacher then we have an open morning on Wednesday 28th November from 10.30am to 10.00. It is an opportunity to see the school in action and an opportunity to ask any questions. Representatives will be present from Carmel Teacher Training partnership who support us in our Teacher Training provision. We will also have current St Aloysius teachers who have recently been through this route. If you want to check out any information about the training year please see www.carmelteachertraining.com

School Admissions

If your child is due to start Reception or Year 3 in September 2019, please ensure that you have completed your application by the deadline date of Tuesday 15 January 2019, 4.30 pm.

Please check our up to date dates for the end of the term. You will find these on the website and school app. Events are updated regularly.

Thank you for all you do for making our school successful, if we can help in any way please let us know.

Yours sincerely



Mr N Conway
Headteacher