

St. Joseph's RC Primary School

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11th January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our children and families back to school and wish you all a very happy, peaceful and healthy new year. The staff were very humbled by your generosity at the end of the term and appreciate all the gifts they received for Christmas. You are extremely generous and this is much appreciated.

I'd like to extend my personal 'Thanks' for the support you afforded both Mr Norman and Miss Haggart and the rest of the school staff over the last term during my absence. I'm sure you'll agree they all did a wonderful job.

We are joined this term by Miss Tweddle, who will work alongside Miss Clothier in year 6 as she continues her Teacher Training. She has already established herself within our team and we know she will work hard to support the development of each and every one of the children she teaches during this time.

Those children making their First Holy Communion in the summer will celebrate their First Reconciliation on January 30th at St Joseph's Church. The service is at 5pm but further details will be sent home closer to the time. They will then continue their faith journey towards First Holy Communion. As I'm sure you're aware, it is essential that children are present at all of the preparation sessions for First Communion - there is a lot of work to fit in and the children really can't afford to miss any of the sessions.

Children in Y1, 2 and 6 will be taking external tests this year. We will soon be holding information meetings for parents about these. Please check the 'What's On' notice for these dates. Additionally - check out your child's class page on our website for news about events your child participated in during the Autumn term.

Attendance

Class	% Attendance
Rec/Year 1	95.2%
Year 1/2	95.2%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	95%
Year 5	97.4%
Year 6	98%



It is vital that children attend school on a regular basis as you know. We aim for all children to end the year with 96% or higher! Well done to Year 6 who have the highest attendance thus far!

It is important that if your child is not going to be at school for any reason that you contact the school office to inform us. Where we cannot contact parents about their child's whereabouts we will have no option but to carry out 'Welfare checks' in line with advice from Durham Children's Safeguarding Board. Whilst this is an extreme measure – our utmost priority is the safety of our children – so please support us with this. Any medical appointments should be made outside school hours wherever possible.

Social Media

We appreciate that many parents and children have social media accounts. We would like to reiterate the need for parents to check the privacy settings on their child's account(s) if you have not done so already. Children nor parents should try to make contact with staff members and vice versa. Please note that the school has an active Twitter account @StJGilesgate where you are more than welcome to 'follow' the day to day activity within school.

Contact details

Please ensure you contact school to update your contact details if you were fortunate enough to receive a new phone for Christmas. It is vital that we have up to date contact details for all of you, just in case of emergency etc. The office staff will be happy to help with this.

The staff and I, are looking forward to the next term and all it brings with it! We will no doubt catch up with you all over the next few weeks.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Clarke

Headteacher

