



St Charles' RC Primary School

23 December 2016

Together we follow Jesus' footsteps in our living and learning

Dear Families

I just wanted to thank all of the children for their hard work this term, particularly this week. They have been meticulous in helping us prepare for the coming of Jesus, and helped us all get into the Christmas Spirit. The Early Years performance of 'The Nativity' and Key Stage 1 'Born in a Barn' were absolutely fantastic. I was also very proud of all the Key Stage 2 children on Wednesday evening with their version of 'Hosanna Rock' – it was fabulous. Mrs Brady, the choir and the Mini Vinnies hosted their annual 'coffee and carols' morning on Wednesday for Grandparents and retired people of the Parish, and this was a lovely celebration with wonderful singing.

Progress Reports

You will have received a progress update for your child this week. If there is anything you would like to discuss regarding the content, please contact your child's class teacher on their return to school in January.

PTA

Thank you to the PTA for all of their support this term, particularly helping with the coffee after the performances this week. I am improving the lighting in the library in the New Year and I am sure that with the continued support of the PTA the library will be a vibrant enjoyable space for your children.

Mrs George

Mrs George who currently works in Early Years and Key Stage 1 will be leaving at the end of January. This is really sad news for all of us at St Charles'. I am sure you will agree Mrs George is amazing and will be truly missed by all. She has cared for many of your children, led the Rainbows and Sunbeams groups over the last two years and has contributed to make our school a warm and friendly place.

Mrs George will leave to work for the Percy Hedley Foundation. She will be working with pupils who have special or additional needs, and I am sure she will continue to support the children there as much as she has helped the children at St Charles'. She hopes to become a teacher for children with special needs and this is part of her journey to achieving this ambition. I am sad to lose a valued member of the team but I am delighted that we have helped progress her career and wish her every success in the future. We are currently recruiting to replace Mrs George at the end of January.

Use of Social Media

SOCIAL MEDIA ADVICE: Do you know how active your child is on social media?

Here is some information and sensible advice, with questions to consider in order to ensure your child's safety online.

Did you know?

Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Facebook, Pinterest and most other Social Media outlets have a minimum age restriction of 13; Whatsapp requires verification that the user is 16 years and over, and YouTube requires those who post to be 18 (or 13 with parents'/carers' permission). To set up an account with a lot (but not all) of these platforms, dates of birth must be given to verify age and compliance with their terms and conditions.

Some key questions to ask yourself:

Is your child actively using these platforms, and if so, are you aware of this?

Do you monitor the content of what they post, and what they are able to view from other posters? What 'friends'/followers'/subscribers' does your child have - do they know who all of them are personally?

Do you and your child follow sensible, best practice when it comes to posting content online, e.g. No personal information, no visible links to where a child may live, go to school or spend regular amounts of time particularly if unsupervised by an adult, not engaging in chats with unknown followers friends etc.

Have you considered what information can easily be obtained about your child, and what the potential outcomes of this may be?

All pupils in school learn about e-safety as part of their Computing curriculum. As a school, it is something we take very seriously, and aim to support pupils and parents/carers as best we can. We have held information sessions this term, in conjunction with local Safeguarding advisors, to share current information and best practice for parents/carers with regards Social Media and the Internet. If you were unable to attend these sessions and would like further information, please explore <http://www.childnet.com/> which has plenty of information and top tips regarding e-safety.

I am aware of various school social media groups and I know they are a great way of communicating, however I would urge all parents that if they have any concerns regarding their child that they come directly to school and speak to the class teacher or any of the leadership team. Thank you for your co-operation.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas with your families and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

With best wishes,



Mrs Nealings

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