



Do Everything with Love
(1 Corinthians 16:14)

January 2019 Newsletter

A note from Mrs Christopher

Welcome back to the Spring term 2019 and happy new year everyone! I am delighted and honoured to be the new headteacher for St Mary & St Joseph's and am looking forward to getting to know all the children, staff and parents this term. Having been in the teaching profession for over thirty years, I have found it to be a most positive and rewarding experience- every day being different with new challenges and new joys. As some of you may be aware, Mrs Brown and I have had several meetings last term to ensure that the handover has been as smooth a transition as possible for everyone. I would like to thank Mrs Brown for this support, and I wish her God's blessings in her new role within CAST.



I was born and educated in Northern Ireland and, after my teacher training in Belfast; my work life first began in Yorkshire, then later continued in Dorset. Prior to St Mary & St Joseph's, I have worked in four primary schools and I am committed to and highly value the continued journey of Catholic education in our diocese.

This school has a history of excellence and I am looking forward to working with the whole school community team so that, in this new chapter, we can continue with a child centred approach, adapting our teaching in an ever changing world, so that all children are consistently encouraged, listened to, praised and challenged in order to achieve their full potential.

From my experience, I know that parental involvement makes an important contribution to children's achievements at school. Consequently, we need to have opportunities to get to know each other. I will be outside on the school doors most mornings and at the end of most days (unless attending pre-arranged meetings) so please use this opportunity to say hello to help us get to know each other. Should you need to speak to me on a more personal matter, please either email, telephone or speak to Mrs. Heath via the main office reception area.

Finally, I would like to share a personal favourite Bible quote which encapsulates all I would ask from anyone who enters our school and works with our precious children:

'As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.'

Colossians 3:12-17

Happy new year everyone. May it bring good health and God's blessings to us all.

Gerardine Christopher

New Year Mass
Wednesday 16th January
9:15am in the church

Please join us and Fr Tim for our New Year Mass. After Mass, there will be tea and cake available so that you can get to meet Mrs Christopher and she can get to know you.

Parking Reminder

Please remember to park considerately near the Doctors' Surgery and not in their staff or patient car park.

Contact Details

Have you changed your contact details recently? If so, please inform the school office of any changes including your preferred point of contact on the occasions we cannot get hold of you.

Morning Routine

As you know the doors are opened at 8:40am for the children to come in and get organised for the day ahead. All children should be in school and settled by 8:55am not at 8:55am.

Please ensure that your children are on time. All classes have morning **MUST** activities organised for children to secure and develop their skills and understanding. Also, if you have a message for your child's teacher please tell the adult on the door who will deliver the message for you. If you need to speak to your child's teacher about a concern, again please tell the adult on the door and they will inform the teacher who will arrange with you at a more convenient time to meet.

Winter Weather

Please ensure that your child comes to school with a coat every day and don't forget wellington boots for 'Welly Wednesday' if you are in Maple, Elm and Sycamore Class. Before Christmas, the school council also agreed that on a Friday Beech, Oak, Willow and Rowan class can bring their wellington boots in to school if they want to go on the field on that day.

New Year's Resolution reflection for us all:

'Do things for people not because of who they are or what they do in return, but because of who you are.'

Quote from St Teresa of Calcutta (formerly Mother Teresa)

