



23 March 2018

The statement to live by this week was:

'I can learn from my mistakes and failures.'

Dear Families,

We had a brilliant STEM week last week and the children have all been amazing. Thank you to those of you who were able to join us to see the children's work despite the terrible weather. We received so much positive feedback from parents about STEM week and I am sure you will agree that the children gained so much from the experience. We must say a special thank you to all of the parents who gave up their time to go on trips with the children and to talk to the classes about their STEM jobs. Thank you to all of the teachers for being such good sports in the final.

Well done to Year 1 – Winners of Dragons Den 2018 with their space boots.



### **Sport Success!**

We have had great success with some of our sporting teams over the last few weeks. The Year 3/4 hockey team won their heats and are now taking part in the county final.

Some children from Key Stage 2 took part in the swimming gala this term. They were amazing and I am so proud of all them all. They brought home some medals but most importantly the children demonstrated great teamwork and were a credit to their families.

The children who entered the Catholic Primary Schools' Cross Country Championships this week were fantastic. They all received great results and came home with lots of medals. We

are delighted at their success. Three children took part in the Boccia School Games and they won their heat and are through to the final next week. They were delighted, as were we.

We have celebrated with a special sports themed assembly this week to recognise all of their achievements.

Please look at our Sport at St Charles' Blog on the school website.

### **Thank you from Alan**

Alan has asked me to pass on his thanks to all of the children, families and the PTA. He has been overwhelmed by the love, support and kindness you have shown him. We don't anticipate Alan returning to his post but we hope he continues to visit as we all miss him very much.

### **Attendance**

We aim for 98% attendance and we know poor attendance and punctuality affects your child's progress. We are continuing to monitor attendance and we will be accessing external support from an attendance officer next term. They may visit some families to try and support them to improve their child's punctuality and attendance. If you need any assistance with attendance please don't hesitate to contact us.

### **Parent Views March 2018**

Thank you for completing our Parent View survey. We did take on board feedback after last year's collection, and we have changed the way we collect your views as a result of this. We appreciate constructive feedback to enable us to improve to make school an even better place for your children. The results of the latest survey are shown below:

<b>Question</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither agree or disagree</b>
My child is happy at this school	100%	0%	0%
My child feels safe at St Charles'	100%	0%	0%
My child makes good progress at St Charles'	86%	3%	11%
My child is well looked after at St Charles'	95%	2%	3%
My child is taught well	84%	5%	11%
My child receives the appropriate homework for their age	55%	9%	36%
St Charles' makes sure its pupils are well behaved	94%	0%	6%
Bullying is dealt with effectively	64%	5%	31%
Governors, Head Teacher and Leadership team lead and manage the school well	84%	2%	14%
The school responds well to concerns I raise	73%	0%	27%
I receive valuable information from school about my child's progress	68%	5%	27%
Would recommend this school to another parent?	91%	4%	5%

### **My child makes good progress at St Charles'**

We aim for all children to make at least expected progress. If you do have any concerns regarding your child's progress please speak to the class teacher, Mrs Higgins or me. School leaders have focused on improving the quality of teaching throughout the school to ensure that all pupils make progress.

### **My child is taught well**

Leaders continually provide training for all staff so that the quality of teaching across the school remains good. This is monitored externally each term by current serving Head Teachers and the Gateshead School Improvement Service. This is to validate the school's self-evaluation. Children will move groups, particularly in phonics, as they make progress. This is so that no child is held back in their learning and given the opportunity to make as much progress as possible.

### **My child receives the appropriate homework for their age**

In February 2017, leaders asked the parents of Year 1 and 2 children to give their views on homework in Key Stage 1. At that time, all of the responses received said they did not want homework for their children. This was then followed up in a newsletter later in the year asking for parental responses, after no homework had been in place for a while. School did not receive any additional responses to this request.

#### Education Endowment Foundation Research - Homework Primary Schools

*It is certainly the case that schools whose pupils do homework tend to be more successful. However it is not clear whether use of homework is a reason for this success. A number of reviews and meta-analyses have explored this issue. There is stronger evidence that it is helpful at secondary level, but there is much less evidence of benefit at primary level. There is some evidence that when homework is used as a short and focused intervention it can be effective in improving students' attainment, but this is limited for primary age pupils. Overall the general benefits are likely to be modest if homework is more routinely set.*

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/pdf/generate/?u=https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/pdf/toolkit/?id=132&t=Teaching%20and%20Learning%20Toolkit&e=132&s>

Leaders are happy to seek parental views on this and a survey will be sent out again during Summer term. Please take the time to respond so that leaders can take account of as many views as possible.

### **Bullying is dealt with effectively**

We strive to ensure that all children are happy and treated with respect. We will continue to plan into our curriculum Anti-bullying and Internet Safety coverage for all year groups. We collect pupil views in school and we try to educate them on how to respect others.

### **Governors, Head Teacher and Leadership team lead and manage the school well**

Leaders are aware that there has been high staffing turnover in recent years. Historically, we have struggled to attract high numbers of applications to our school which resonates with the

national recruitment shortage. To address this we have changed our recruitment process to ensure that we get the right people at St Charles' who can teach your children well.

During autumn term parents' evening, we collected your views on communication. These views were really positive and we do try and give as much notice as possible for events in school. Diary dates are sent out a term in advance so that families can plan ahead. We only change things if absolutely necessary. We currently use the newsletter, class blogs, school website, Twitter and text messages to communicate with our families. If you can think of a more effective way to keep you up to date please let us know.

## PTA

Thank you to Mrs Gates and the many volunteers who organised, and supported the PTA Easter coffee afternoon yesterday. £200 was raised for our school. Many thanks to all the families who baked, gifted cakes, or attended.

## Lent



Thank you to all of the families that have joined us this half term for our weekly morning Lenten reflections. We hope you can join us at 2.30pm every day during Holy week for daily acts of worship.

Have a happy and Holy Easter with your families.

*Nealings*

Mrs Nealings

Head Teacher

Newsletter 10 2017/18

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