



Our Lady of Light Catholic Academy Trust

Christ the King R.C. Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mr M Ryan
School Business Manager: Miss P Allan

NEWSLETTER - September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school after the holiday. A special welcome to all the children who are starting school for the first time. It is obviously a new start for the school in many ways. I look forward to working with you now and in the future.

Leadership

I am sure you will be aware that the school had gone through a period of uncertainty with its leadership, but I am delighted that it has all been resolved. I am proud to be the Headteacher of this school and of St. Patrick's Primary, Thornaby. For those of you that didn't know anything about me: I began my training here at Christ the King under Mr Eddy about 23 years ago. I was first employed as a teacher at St. Patricks in Thornaby 22 years ago, and have taught here ever since. I have worked at St Patricks since that time and have been part of a very successful leadership team for approximately 12 years. I live in Thornaby and I am proud to do so. It made me feel quite old when I saw past pupils, who I had taught, and their children in the playground this morning.

I have been appointed Executive Headteacher over St Patrick's and Christ the King, and will oversee and lead the work in both schools. To support me in my role and to help lead the schools, there will be Head of School at each school.

Miss Helen Lickess will be joining the school shortly as Head of school, and until she joins us, Mrs Josie Wilson will be interim Head of School. When Miss Lickess joins Christ the King, we will work closely together to ensure that it gives the best possible education it can to your children.

It may please or disappoint you, to know that when Miss Lickess comes I will not be simply leaving. We will lead the school together. This is a fantastic opportunity to bring the strengths of both schools together to help the community of Thornaby.

I hope this clarifies the situation for all of you.

The key to us working together successfully is the relationships we have. I am certain that there will be difficulties, good days and bad days, but what is important is how we resolve problems. I know as a teacher, and as a parent of four children, not everything went perfectly and I made mistakes - I still do. What matters is how we resolve problems and the example we give to these children. We are their role models. If you ever have any concerns or worries, you need to speak to us and we will work together to resolve them. Hopefully, we can work together to build upon the past successes of the school to shape a new and exciting future for the children and the school.

Buildings

The major building and expansion work has finally been completed. I would have to say that the additional teaching space created is a great asset to the school and the children will benefit greatly from it. The staff have worked very hard over the holiday to make sure that the school is ready for the children coming back. I am extremely grateful to them for all their hard work.

Unfortunately, the large Christ the King frontage which used to grace the wall at the front of School was damaged during the works and is therefore not able to be re-positioned.

A big thank you also to the Site Manager, Mr Layton, for his extra work over the summer holiday to keep the builders on track.

Fencing

I am sure most of you have noticed the damage to the outer fencing along Tedder Avenue. Sadly, it was struck by a car and we have been left with the damage. We are waiting for the insurers and building contractors to allow us to repair it. I am sure it will be back to its best shortly.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

I am very pleased to inform you that Miss Newby the SEND coordinator from St. Patrick's will also be working across both schools. There is nothing more important than ensuring our vulnerable children are given the very best support they can. She will be working alongside the staff and parents here to ensure that all children receive the very best of care.

Healing Mass

On Friday, some of the children will be attending the healing mass at Christ the King Church at 2pm, this is a beautiful mass where some of the sick from our community receive a special blessing. Parents are of course welcome to join us. We will let you know which children will be attending later in the week.

School Holidays

All of the children have been given a small plastic card with the school holidays on. This should be handy to put in a wallet or purse. The dates for the school year are:

School Opens	School Closes
Monday 4 th September 2017	Friday 20 th October
Monday 30 th October	Friday 22 nd December
Monday 8 th January	Friday 9 th February
Monday 19 th February	Thursday 29 th March
Monday 16 th April	Friday 4 th May
Tuesday 8 th May	Friday 25 th May
Thursday 7 th June	Friday 20 th July

School Lunches

I think it's important to say to all parents that the standard of meals offered by the school cook is simply amazing. I haven't decided whether to enter her on the next series of *Masterchef* or *Bake off*, she is that good! If I were a parent here I would, without any hesitation, have my child on school dinners. If your child is in Key Stage 1 or Foundation Stage school lunches are free. If any parent wants to change from packed lunches just let the office know. Some children of course may be fussy eaters and parents can worry - my advice would simply be to make your concerns known and we will work with you.

Sad news

Finally, and sadly, some of you may be aware of the sad passing of one of St. Patrick's parents during the holiday - Emma McDonald. Emma was a bubbly character around the playground, always very supportive of the school and will be sadly missed by all. A loving mum in every way possible and a very valued member of our community. Could I please ask you to keep the family in your prayers at this difficult time?

Thank you for welcoming me to this school, I look forward to working in partnership with you.

God Bless

Mr M Ryan