



December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing this letter to you all when the first of the Advent candles have been lit, the first boxes on the Advent calendars opened and we are once again at the end of another very busy, but productive autumn term. As we move further into Advent, life in school will be filled with events and festive period activities, heralding the prospect of Christmas cheer and lifting our spirits away from the cold and dark.



It has been great to see the children settled into school, engaged and enthused in lessons, learning new concepts and making progress throughout the term. Each child contributes to the school's improvement journey and they should feel very proud of their achievements.

While they continue to develop as learners, the school is also mindful of nurturing those qualities, that we hope all our children will develop; to help them grow into good citizens and enable them to achieve their hopes, wishes and dreams. The pupils' behaviour in and around school, their care of each other and concern of their wider community is a credit to you as parents, the school and the Catholic community.

The end of the calendar year, is a time of reflection for us all, including the Local Governing Body; what has changed, what achieved and what must be tackled next. And so, how has this Advent Term gone? It has been a term when we have welcomed a number of new teaching and support staff, as well as 32 Early Years pupils. We welcome them all and hope that their time at ST. Francis is a very happy one.

The Governors have looked at a number of areas in the school, including pupils' participation in the school's collective worship, their readiness for learning, the development of writing across the school, the school's safeguarding procedures and SEND with our new SENCo, Mrs. Burgess. The Governors have also been mindful of the impact, on the school and our families, of the current economic situation and considering how the school might further support our school community.

Many of these areas will be reviewed further throughout the school year, along with others that become evident later. The school is never complacent; openly reflects on its work and sets challenging next steps targets, with the sole aim of bringing to a reality our collective vision of enabling every person, both pupil and adult, in our school community to fulfil their potential. The work continues.

But, I am sure you would wish to join with me as I thank Mrs. Brown, as well as all the teaching, support, premises and office staff for their hard work this term. Their total commitment to the children, not only in the day to day life in school but in providing additional experiences, shows their dedication to St. Francis School. We are very blessed to have such people working with our children.

As we are in having those who volunteer within the school, supporting pupils and staff in a number of ways and also the small, but dedicated band of parents who work, through the PTA, to provide those much appreciated extras for the school. They all give their time freely and fully and we "Thank You".



In addition, the governors would like to take this opportunity to say a special “Thank you” to Mrs. Marraffino, who will be leaving the school this term. Mrs. Marraffino has worked at the school for 18 years and is the ever smiling face of the office and the welcoming voice at the end of the line. We thank you for all your hard work and commitment to St. Francis and wish you all the best in your new job. You will be missed.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow governors. All our Governors are volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure that our school is the best it can be. So, a huge “Thank you” for the commitment and support that you have each given this term.

So, as Christmas approaches, on behalf of the Local Governing Body, may I wish you and your families the gladness of Christmas, which is hope; the spirit of Christmas, which is peace and the heart of Christmas, which is love.

“A very Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year”

Best wishes
Helen Webb
Chair of Governors

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

