



*'Walk then as children of the light'*

Monday 19th June 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

It was lovely to see the children enjoying the sunny weather last week. It has certainly made a big difference to us all! I hope it comes back soon!

Last week was another great week for our children with a visit to Hemlington Library for Year 5; a second week of swimming for Year 4; cricket competitions for Y3 and 6, a bronze medal for the Y6 cricket team; a trip to Billingham Forum for Reception and Y1, water play and ice lollies in Nursery; exciting PE lessons in Y2 and a super science lesson in Y3. Some classes also enjoyed class Liturgies in our lovely prayer garden.

#### **Staffing Update**

With only 5 weeks of the school year left, we have begun making arrangements for September. Please see below for next year's teaching structure:

- **Nursery** – Mrs Robinson
- **Reception** – Mrs Eilbeck & Mrs Hall
- **Year 1** – Miss Brown
- **Year 2** – Mrs Haddon
- **Year 3** – Miss Bedford
- **Year 4** – Mrs Muttrie-Wijesinghe & Miss Thompson
- **Year 5** – Mrs Renwick
- **Year 6** – Miss Doyle & Mrs Taylor

As you can see, there are a few changes, one of them being **Miss Muttrie's name change** to Mrs Muttrie-Wijesinghe. I am delighted to tell you that Miss Muttrie and her partner will be getting married in August! I am sure that you will join me

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in congratulating them and wish them all the best for their future together. **Miss Thompson**, who has been with us since the beginning of the academic year, joins us on a permanent basis. With Mrs Taylor's change in role, **we welcome Miss Doyle** to the school as Year 6 teacher. Both teachers bring lots of expertise to our staff and we are thrilled to have them join our team. Unfortunately, **Mrs Foster will be leaving St. Gerard's** in the middle of July to take up a post within governance with the Central Trust team. She has only been with us for a short time but has worked incredibly hard and has got to know our school so well. We wish her lots of luck in her new role.

### **Help with St Gerard's PTA**

In addition to our curriculum offer, our children benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities from sport to cultural visits. This year our children have been lucky enough to take part in a number of educational visits to the theatre, the local farm, the library, Danby Moor Centre and Carlton Outdoor Education Centre, to name a few, and we want to keep this going next year. As with everything else at the moment, the cost of these trips continues to rise. As much as possible, school has always subsidised the cost of trips with the help of donations from the school budget and from PTFA, however the pressure on school budgets now makes this so much harder. Now more than ever, PTFA fundraising events are essential if we are to be able to keep the costs down. Our PTFA is made up of a small group of incredible people who volunteer their time to help organise events such as movie nights, the school discos and Christmas and Summer Fairs. If you are able to help out in any way, please contact school and a member of the PTFA will be in touch. Our Summer Fair will take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July so it would be great if we had some additional volunteers to help set up and run stalls on the day. Please contact Mrs Porritt or Mrs Foster if you are able to help. We will continue to give you as much notice of school trips as possible so that you are able to pay the cost in small amounts.

### **'Saints in the Making'**

On **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**, children in Years 1 to 6 will spend the day at the Cathedral for a day of retreat entitled '**Saints in the Making**'. Canon Paul has planned the day so, knowing the brilliant work he previously did leading the Youth Mission Team, I have no doubt that the children will enjoy the day and find it very rewarding.

Have a lovely week, may God bless you and your family. Yours sincerely, Mrs. J Coe, Head of School

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