

Newsletter – January 2018

I hope you all have recovered from the Christmas festivities and weren't effected by the bout of flu that hit Teesside. I proudly was boasting to staff that germs just bounce off me. The next day I was coughing and spluttering and reaching for the lemsips! Definite 'manflu'.

Sorry in advance for my long ramblings in this letter, but I think I should share some good news with you.

It was an extremely busy term for the school and I am really pleased with all of the hard work that has taken place to keep the school moving forward. I am now working equally across both schools – Christ the King and St. Patrick's. At times, I feel a bit like a Boro Cars taxi driver dashing up and down Thornaby Road. Christ the King have now appointed a permanent Head of School, which means that I can now work equally across both schools. Hopefully, the schools can work more closely together so that the best features of both schools can be shared to help all of the children.

Teaching and Learning

Part of my role is to obviously make sure that teaching and learning is of the highest standard. To do this I work within the school to observe lessons, look at behaviour, speak with the children, look at the work the children do, look at the curriculum and look at how the school is performing. I would have to say that the standards in the school are, in my view, the highest they have ever been.

I think it's important to share this with parents. We always seem to tell you about what is going on within the school so you are informed, but we are very modest when it comes to telling you how well the school is doing.

If St. Patrick's is the only school you know it is hard to compare as it's the only school you know and it is very easy to take things for granted. It is easy to think that all schools must be the same.

The teachers would never tell you how good they are so I think I should. I will try to sum up where the school is at the moment:

The relationships between staff and pupils is exceptional. The staff clearly care for the children and provide excellent opportunities for the children to learn.

All adults are used extremely well throughout the school. They know their role, they support children sensitively and appropriately and are used in a way that helps children lean and overcome barriers.

The learning atmosphere in lessons is outstanding. The culture of learning is outstanding. Staff clearly go the extra mile and this is evident throughout the school.

The children's books are probably the best I have ever seen. The children have every right to be proud of their work. Handwriting, presentation and pride in work are simply outstanding. The children obviously work hard in all that they do. It didn't matter what book I looked in: Geography, Science, RE... the standard of work was incredible. Children know what to do, how to do it and work hard in all that they do. Children know how to present the work, organise their ideas and they have every right to be proud of themselves. The work the children do looks creative and imaginative. Amazing.

I have been teaching for over 20 years and I don't think I have ever been as impressed with the standards in a school. I have never looked at so many outstanding books in one school.

On one of my 'learning walks' I was with a head teacher from another school and they simply asked: How is it so good? How do the children produce work like this? I don't think I had a simple answer because there isn't one.

What I would like to say is this:

To the children – well done, your work is amazing. You produce work to the highest standard and you should be very proud of yourselves. Your attitude to learning is exceptional. Keep it up!

To the staff: Well done! What an incredibly talented, hardworking and dedicated group of people you are. Thank you

To parents: thank you for your amazing support and the love you show your children. Thank you for always working with us in such a positive way so that when things aren't right we can work with you to make them better.

To Governors: thank you for your many years of dedication and support to the school. It would not be the place it is today without all of the many hours you give of your time to help it.

My guiding principle is always: would this be good enough for my children. Well I can honestly say I would be banging on the school door asking if my children could come here. Well done everyone.

So parents can see what happens in the school in lessons we are planning a few open days so you can come in and see for yourself. Dates to follow!

Finally....

I noticed we weren't in the top ten schools in Teesside according to the Gazette (my favourite newspaper). Sadly this ranking doesn't actually look at the standards of work and the attitudes of the children. How can it? Academically the results are very strong throughout the school, but I won't be having an assembly to tell the children off for not being in the top ten. I will be having one though to tell the children and the staff how well they are doing.

Thank you parents once again for all the support you give to your children and the school.

Please keep in your prayers those in our school community that are unwell at this time.



Mr Ryan
Head Teacher