



St Winefride's Catholic Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs Nicola Brosnan



9th December 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Open letter to the Parents and Carers of St Winefride's 9th December 2020

Father Sean and I are writing to you on behalf of all members of the Governing Board, the Head Teacher, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the staff of St Winefride's. We think that it is vitally important, at this time, just to share our thoughts with the parent & carer community.

Over the last few months, the school has worked hard to ensure that all pupils and staff have been able to return to school safely. We are so proud of the hard work of all the staff, the SLT and the Head Teacher, who have worked tirelessly in all their best endeavours to keep everyone as safe as it is possible to do so.

Our risk assessment, and the steps we take every day to keep everyone safe, are backed by the Local Authority (LA) and we have reviewed our risk assessment regularly since the children and staff returned. When we had to make the decision to close a class bubble, we followed the advice of the LA, Public Health England and the Department for Education's dedicated helpline, to help us make an informed decision based on the science and the information we possessed. We didn't make this decision without proper consultation and would follow the same protocol in the future.

We all know just how anxious the unknown and the uncertainty about COVID-19 can make all of us feel. We know that your children are your most precious treasure, they are ours too.

So, please be assured that we will always act in the best interest of our children and staff. We have met with the school's SLT and I have held our Governing Board meeting for this term and I am delighted to report that we continue to deliver high quality outcomes through our broad and balanced curriculum. We have an exemplary remote learning strategy that supports our children's learning when they cannot learn in school due to isolation.

As your Chair of Governors, I am even more pleased to report that we are now delivering all subjects within the National Curriculum and that our recovery curriculum is now complete. May I remind you that, as per government guidance, unless your child is unwell or has been identified as someone who needs to self-isolate they should attend school as normal as it is vital for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development.

I was delighted to read the outcomes of the recent pupil survey; your children told us that they feel safe and happy at school. Our safeguarding of all pupils and our most vulnerable pupils continues to be effective. We have worked hard throughout the lockdown period and still continue to support all our parents including our most vulnerable. I am proud of the work Mrs Brosnan and her exceptional team of teachers and staff do on a day to day basis.

I know you will join me in showing our support and appreciation for the amazing work Mrs Brosnan has done to date and for the professionalism she shows at all times. The school continues to be the exceptional school that puts the children at the heart of everything.



Now I am aware that many of you will be concerned about some recent posts on social media, and I would like to thank the countless number of parents & carers who showed unwavering support of the school and our Head Teacher through letters, emails, phone calls and the positive face to face messages you have given our brilliant Head Teacher and her team.

Please be assured that we are seeking the correct advice and have these matters in hand. I want you to be reassured and confident that we are determined as ever to execute our duties as a Governing Board. This means that we will be unwavering in our determination to protect the institutional reputation of our outstanding school and everyone who works there.

I also want to take the opportunity to thank the Parents and Carers Forum for their fantastic contributions over the term.

Now, to the most important people in the building, the young people who we work for to ensure they have the best life chances, our pupils. Please continue to be such amazing, resilient pupils who are having to learn in ways we never thought or imagined. You make us so proud to be governors of the school you attend. Your hard work, tenacity and ability to cope shows just how well you are learning to adapt.

We will be sending you an electronic copy of our school admissions flyer for you to share with families and friends as we work together to build our school community.

Finally, as we look forward to celebrating Christmas, Father Sean and I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families God's richest blessings over this festive season.

I believe that 2021 will be the start of new beginnings filled with the promise of better things to come.

On behalf of St Winefride's Governing Board



Tony Fernandes
Chair of the Governing Body



Father Sean Connolly

