



"My soul glorifies the Lord" Luke 1:46

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy
Belgrave Avenue, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1HT Tel: 01260 274690
E-mail: admin@saintmaryscongleton.co.uk

Thursday 12th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy and productive term and I would like to provide you with an update on the work and progress that has taken place.

Phonics

All staff have received the appropriate training in Monster Phonics and the programme is now delivered consistently and effectively. Miss Small has been routinely monitoring the teaching of phonics and has been providing coaching and training where needed for staff. This has had a positive impact on the children's engagement and progress in phonics.

Reading

Reading has taken a higher profile across the school with children keen to achieve '100 reads' so that they can receive their wristband. There has been much more engagement and enthusiasm for reading which is being supported well by parents and carers.

After careful monitoring, it became evident that the school library was rarely being used. A significant number of books in the library were very dated and/or in poor condition. Over the past few weeks, with the help of parent volunteers, we have sorted and cleared the library. All the remaining books have been distributed to classrooms to create exciting and stimulating reading areas. With the generous support of the PTA, we have purchased over £1500 worth of items such as chairs, cushions and shelves to develop and enhance the class reading areas. They are still a work in progress but all class reading areas will be ready for January. There is already a great buzz from children about these areas.

Curriculum and Progression

Teachers have been working hard at developing Saint Mary's long term and medium term plans to ensure that learning is appropriately sequenced and covers the National Curriculum. They have also developed their use of formative assessments to ensure that previous gaps in teaching and learning are addressed and that no further gaps develop. We will continue to review and revise our curriculum offer to ensure that it meets the needs of Saint Mary's children.

Behaviour for Learning

The full implementation of Class Dojo has had a really positive impact on behaviour and in most cases on behaviour for learning. There is a real desire in Merit Assembly to be the Dojo winning class. There is still an apathy from a small minority of children and a number continue to address adults in a rude tone with confrontational body language. We would appreciate parents' talking to their children about this to ensure that all adults are given the respect they deserve when being spoken to.

Subject Leaders

Subject Leaders have been working with an external advisor to support and develop their curriculum leadership. There are clear action plans in place to drive forward all areas of the curriculum and Subject Leaders are much more confident in their own leadership ability and work.

EYFS

Working alongside colleagues within the OLHOC Trust, EYFS staff have developed a cohesive, sequential curriculum, which lays the foundations for future learning. We are keen to ensure that children who attend Nursery become 'school ready' and want to ensure that Reception and Nursery can work collaboratively as an EYFS unit. This has been challenging with Nursery being on the far side of school in the mobile classrooms. We are excited to share that from January, Nursery will be moving into the main school building and will be rehoused in what was the library. The current Reception outdoor area will be extended during the Christmas holiday and a new EYFS outdoor area created. This move will enable more effective and efficient use of EYFS staff and will allow continuous provision, including the outdoors, to be utilised more readily.

From 6th January, Nursery will be accessed in the morning and at the end of the school day via the external door in the EYFS outdoor area. Staff will be on hand to direct parents and carers. Any access to Nursery throughout the school day will be via the main school office.

It is clear that Saint Mary's staff are committed to the education of your children and to the school. They are a strong team and without their dedication and hard work, none of this progress and change would be possible. I am very grateful for the support I have received from the whole Saint Mary's community in helping the school to develop and flourish.

Kind regards,

Martine Gum
Executive Headteacher