

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Christmas

The end of term is nearly here and the children break up for Christmas on Thursday 16th December at the normal time of 3.15pm. This letter gives you some important information for the end of term, and most importantly to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas!

Your child's Christmas assembly on Vimeo

You will be sent the link to your child's assembly on Vimeo and a password to access the link. Please only share the video with your own trusted family members and please don't post the video online, e.g. on Facebook, as none of us have the authority to post videos of other children online. We really hope you enjoy your child's assembly and that other family members enjoy the opportunity of sharing it with you. The children worked really hard on their assemblies and we hope that you enjoy watching them.

Thank you for your school fund donations

Thank you very much for your donations to our school fund through the Jumper Day last week and thank you also for your contributions towards the cost of the Disco. We really appreciate your contributions. Thank you to everyone who has donated to the school fund online via Schoolcomms – this is very much appreciated. If you would like to donate to School Fund you can do this on Schoolcomms. Every penny makes a difference and our school fund has all been spent, so we really appreciate any donations you are able to make. All of the money is used to pay for extras for the children that the school budget does not provide for. Thank you very much for your support.

Thank you for your charitable donations

Thank you for sending money in on our first Jumper Day – each class collected their money in, and the children chose which charity they would like to send their donation to this Advent.

Nursery chose to donate to McMillan Cancer Support

Reception chose to donate to Make a Wish

Year 1 chose to donate to Good Shepherd Shelter

Year 2 chose to donate to World Wildlife Fund

Year 3 chose to donate to Beacon Centre for the Blind

Year 4 chose to donate to Unicef

Year 5 chose to donate to CAFOD

Year 6 chose to donate to Cancer Research

Goodbye from Mr Hinton

As you know, I am leaving my position as Executive Headteacher of St Chad's and St Joseph's at Christmas. I will work closely with Mrs Bickley and the staff of St Chad's in my new role as Primary School Improvement Leader for all of our primary schools.

I want to thank you very sincerely for all of the support and kindness you have shown towards me over the past two years and I want you to know that every kind word and gesture has meant the world to me.





I hope that you and your children enjoy and benefit greatly from the many positive improvements we have made to the quality of provision at St Chad's, and I look forward to working with the school as it continues to improve in the terms to come.

Thank you once again for being a wonderful community to serve, and I wish you and your family every happiness, peace and good health for the future.

Miss Polito has been appointed as the Assistant Principal at St Chad's

I am delighted to let you know that Miss Polito, our senior teacher and Year 6 teacher, has been appointed as the school's Assistant Principal. Miss Polito will continue to teach Year 6 and will take up the responsibility of being the Assistant Principal after Christmas. Miss Polito is looking forward to serving all of our families and is based at St Chad's full time, permanently.

Mrs Bickley will be the interim headteacher after Christmas

The Directors of our multi academy company are recruiting a permanent full-time headteacher for St Chad's but this will not be possible (due to teacher notice periods and recruitment processes) until at least Easter, if not September.

Mrs Bickley has been appointed as the interim headteacher for St Chad's until a permanent head is appointed. This is fantastic news for St Chad's because Mrs Bickley is an excellent headteacher with lots of experience. Following several years of very successful Catholic headship in Sandwell, Mrs Bickley now serves Catholic education as a consultant leader and interim headteacher, who looks after schools and helps drive them forward during periods where a permanent head is being recruited. Mrs Bickley is not simply a 'caretaker' headteacher – she is a highly effective, dynamic and devoted leader who will certainly build on the existing strengths of our school. She very much looks forward to meeting you out on the playground and you can be more than assured that St Chad's is very safe in her hands. Quite simply, Mrs Bickley is here for the children and she will do everything she can to look after them and provide a first-class Catholic education. The children met Mrs Bickley in school last week.

Mrs Hunt is retiring from her full-time post but will be working with us on a support teacher basis

As you know, Mrs Hunt is retiring at Christmas and we would like to thank her once again for nearly twenty years of dedicated service at St Chad's. Mrs Hunt is staying with us as a supply teacher and support teacher part-time and will be supporting Year 6 alongside Miss Polito for three days a week next term.

Miss Wood is replacing Mrs Hunt as our new Year 4 teacher

We are delighted to welcome Miss Wood as our new Year 4 teacher. Miss Wood is an experienced Catholic teacher with many years of experience teaching in Catholic schools in Sandwell. Year 4 met Miss Wood last week and she is really excited to be their teacher in January.

Back to school – Thursday 6th January 2022

The children return to school on Thursday 6th January 2022.

Keep in touch

The safety, happiness and educational progress of your children is the reason we are here. Never hesitate to contact the school to ask for help in resolving any matter – big or small. We would never wish for you as parents or for any of our children to be unhappy in any way.



Mrs Bickley will be the **headteacher** after Christmas, Miss Polito will be the **Assistant Headteacher**, Miss Oakley is the **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCO)** and Mrs Smith is the **Early Years Senior Teacher**. They are all here to serve you and will do everything they can to help, support and resolve any issues you or your child may need support with. Never hesitate to get in touch.

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year

I would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy new year from both myself and the staff and governors of the school. I hope you enjoy a wonderful time together.

Every kind wish as always,

Mr M Hinton
Executive

