



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Mather Lane, Leigh, Lancs WN7 2PW

Tel: 01942 606395 | Fax: 01942 766682

Email: enquiries@admin.saintjosephs.wigan.sch.uk | www.saintjosephs.wigan.sch.uk

Headteacher: Miss M Daley BA Hons PGCE NPQH

Friday 16th September 2022

NEWSLETTER - Autumn 1 Week 2

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back everyone! We have enjoyed a wonderful first two weeks. The children look very smart in their school uniforms, have got used to their new classrooms and are back with their friends enjoying their new routines. Our Reception children have settled in and will begin together as a class, full time, next week. Well done pupils, parents and staff! Thank you all for attending your 'Meet the Teacher' meetings this week, which set out the expectations for the year ahead.

Despite this positive start to the new academic year, it is tinged with great sadness. I am sorry to inform you that **Mrs Angela Blenkinship** died yesterday. Mrs Blenkinship was Chair of Governors and supported our children, staff and parents for over 36 years. She absolutely adored St Joseph's children: listening to them read; helping out with school trips; attending class assemblies, collective worship and parents' meetings. Mrs Blenkinship was involved in appointing most, if not all our staff. She loved being around the children and has been a huge part of St Joseph's life for many years. Angela was an important support to me in my first year of Headship and became a dear friend, who was a great listener, full of thoughtful advice and wisdom. I will certainly miss her, as will all the staff and the school community as a whole. We pray for Beth and Rachel as they grieve the loss of their loving mum.

This afternoon a number of staff will attend the funeral of **Mrs Francine Cooper**. Fran was the Chair of the Friends of St Joseph's (PTA Group) for many years: who organised a great number of events; including the colossal Summer Fayre, raising thousands of pounds for school over the years. Her son Tyler, turned 18yrs last week and her youngest daughter Abigail, left St Joseph's in Summer and has just started High School. This was a shock and is devastating for such a lovely, kind and generous family. Our prayers and strength go out to Tyler, Abigail and husband John, along with the rest of her family and many friends.

Also, with the death of **Queen Elizabeth II** it certainly does feel a very sad time at the moment. However, Queen Elizabeth II was a truly magnificent monarch who has been a role model to us all. We can learn from her, how to stay strong through difficult times and remember her poignant words which she used in her Covid speech:

'Take comfort that better days will return.

We will be with our friends again.

We will be with our families again.

We will meet again!'

We must also try to remember that in such times of sadness, the Lord is there to watch over us and more importantly take our loved ones by the hand and reunite them with their loved ones in heaven. The Scripture on which we base our Mission Statement is taken from St John, "I have come so that we have life and live it to the fullest." We must remember to live our lives to the full and not to worry about the small things.

They will be missed but never forgotten.

*Eternal rest, give unto them Oh Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

May they rest in peace. Amen.

Have a restful Bank Holiday weekend. School reopens on Tuesday 20th September

God Bless

Miss Daley

Headteacher