19 July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another school year, we have again plenty of things to reflect on.

We said goodbye to Mrs Gibson and Mrs Burke last year on their retirement but have had much pleasure welcoming them both back again as volunteers! We are always grateful for all our volunteers who give up their time to help our children.

Our lovely lollipop man Sam is also retiring after serving our school community for many years.

With regard to your Governing Board, Mrs Bateman, Ms Briers, Mrs Lewis, Mrs O’Leary and Mrs Rowe have been reappointed for a further four-year term. Currently there is a vacancy for a parent elect governor and, if you are interested, please ask Mrs Tonks in the office for a form.

Nominated Link Governors have been into school termly to monitor their specific responsibilities. You can find details of Link Governor roles on the Governors page on the website.

Demand for places at St Joseph’s has increased considerably.  Families who have moved away this year, have made room for the Admissions Committee to offer places to families from our waiting lists or who have submitted in-year applications.

Unfortunately, some requests for places had to be refused as we were at our maximum number.

Another matter to report on is the Diocesan Academy Strategy. Mrs McLeary and myself have attended many meetings with staff from the Diocese, Head Teachers and Chairs from Lichfield and Tamworth Primaries, St Francis of Assisi and more recently also with the Walsall and Cannock Primaries. The Diocesan proposal is for a MAC of 19 primaries (including St Joseph’s) and 3 secondaries. Governors have responded to the Diocese asking questions and expressing some concerns we have with this model and are waiting a reply.

This year the school has received two sets of funding:

**Building Fund**

St Joseph’s, as a VA school, receives this funding from the Birmingham Diocese. To qualify for any expenditure, 10% must be met from parental contributions and we thank you for your continued generosity.

During the summer break the flooring in Y3 and Y4 will be replaced. Unfortunately the upgrade of the Foundation Stage playground cannot now take place during the summer break as originally planned, because the drawings had to undergo some amendments. However, we expect the final plans to be available in school in the autumn and then the project will go ahead as soon as practicable.

**LCVAP** (Locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Project)

Our Funding Governors bid for this annually and we are pleased to report that this year we were successful in securing £142,000 towards upgrading the entire heating system which will greatly improve the energy efficiency (as did the previous project to replace the doors and windows). These major works will take the whole of the summer break.

We have held two fundraising events to support the above projects: the St Patrick’s Dance and the Summer Ball. Both evenings were great fun and we thank you for your invaluable support and all your lovely comments afterwards.

Please do have a look at the short video that has been added to the Parents tab on the school website under Building Fund and also on the Governors page of the website.

All that remains now for us is to wish you all a lovely summer holiday

Tina Rowe and your Board of Governors