



The Heads Up



July 2017

Dear Parents,

This is our last newsletter of the year. The end of a school year brings both joy and sadness. We are ready to finish for the summer, but it is also the time to say farewell to those who have given such outstanding service to this school.

Each year brings in own challenges and this year has been no exception. We have been working closely with Holy Trinity. Mr Crehan has been over there as their Head teacher. This situation will continue next year and for a total of three years. Our work with Holy Trinity has been mutually beneficial to both schools. Archbishop Ilesley like every other school has had to tighten its belt as the impact of reduced budgets has hit. WE have made many savings this year and as a result we have been able to set a budget and avoid deficit. Thanks here should go to the work of the School Business Manger Mrs C. Burge and the Governing Body. I can state confidently that all classes will continue to be taught by qualified specialist teachers. This sadly is not the case for all schools.

The Archbishop has made it clear that all schools must prepare to become Academies. We have explored this pathway and make decisions in the best interests of the school community. We are well down the road to forming a Catholic MAC (Multi-Academy Company). We will be working with other catholic school on this adventure. The formal process of consultation will begin in September and we are likely to become an Academy at some point in 2018.

Your child attends a good school with outstanding features. . I want to say a big thank you to you as parents because your contribution to the achievement of the school is significant. I thank you for choosing Ilesley you made the right decision, and I thank you for staying loyal and believing in us through some difficult times. Hold you head with pride when other parents look down on Ilesley, because you now know it's a school that is rapidly improving. And will continue to do so. I wanted also to thank your children who are an amazing group of young people.

Finally a big thank you to all those who work at the school, teachers, teaching assistants, the admin team, technicians, cleaners, caretakers, dinner ladies, everyone. They all work so hard to get their school to this stage. I say their school because it is, like you and the pupils. all who work here are so proud of Ilesley. I cannot conclude however without remembering that very special person Mrs Carole McGuire who was so sadly taken from us earlier in the year. She will not be forgotten.

Staff leaving our Family

It is always sad to say farewell but we have a number of staff leaving us at the end of the year.

Ms. T. Doyle retiring after 40 years in the teaching profession and over 25 in Catholic schools

Mr A. Shafiq taking up a teaching post in Manchester

Miss C. Hall moving away from teaching

Mr. J. Dowse taking up a teaching post in London

Mrs J. Langston gained promotion and moving to a school in Telford.

Mrs C. Doherty

We have replaced all of these teachers and I will introduce each of them to you in the autumn.

Website

Please have a look at the school website. We have worked hard to make it helpful to you as parents. We have put a Video Newsletter on which tries to keep you up to date with what's going on here at school. However we would welcome your feedback on anything else that you think would be useful. Please let us know. We are looking to revamp the website next year.

Inset

The summer holidays begin on Friday 21st July-Please check the school website for return date

Litter

There have been significant improvements but I am concerned about the amount of litter in school. Pupils should not bring food out of the canteen as there is plenty of space to eat inside. I am amazed at what some of our pupils eat on the way to school. Farm Foods is going a roaring trade in Jaffa Cakes and 2L bottles of Cola. Can I remind you that the school canteen is open before school serving healthier options? It has been proven that young people who eat a breakfast and walk to school perform better in their exams. Encourage your child to do both.

Awards Evening

We held our fourth awards evening at Villa Park earlier this month. It was great to see so many parents present over 500 and to be led in an inspirational address by Prof Carl Chinn. Carl is a professor of history at Birmingham University and will be well known to you as a media personality and the face of Brum. He has been working closely with the school this past year.



Well done everyone.

Archbishop Isley is a good school