



THE ST CHARLES' NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th January 2023

"Bring Forth Christ"



Determination Friendship Good Manners Respect Responsibility

***** SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3:30PM ON FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY FOR HALF-TERM *****

HAPPY NEW YEAR – WELCOME BACK

A warm welcome back to a new term here at St. Charles'. It has been lovely hearing all the children's stories from the Christmas break and all the fun things they've been up to. Today we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany and were joined by Frs. Ethelbert and Peter this morning who celebrated Mass in our school hall. The children were brilliant and impressed with their reverence and singing. We look forward to continuing to celebrate Mass as a school community in 2023.



This term we have welcomed Mrs Suzanne Lord as Deputy Head teacher. Our staff and children have been quick to make Mrs Lord feel at home and I'm sure she'll become a familiar face to all in the coming weeks and months ahead. I want to take this opportunity to put on record my thanks to Mrs Dewhurst and Mr Holmes for the support they have given to me and our school through their roles as Acting Assistant Head teachers. They have done an amazing job. Thank you!

SCHOOL HALL DEVELOPMENTS

I wrote to you in the Autumn Term to inform you of the Bishop's decision to close St. Charles' Church building as it stands and recommission the school hall as the heart of the parish of St. Charles, Rishton. Following this decision, I have met with representatives from the Diocese and a local building company to discuss the first stage of this development which will be the removal of our current school stage and side rooms. This will give the surveyor better access to plan what the sanctuary will look like.

It was thought that this work would start in a couple of weeks however a meeting I had today indicated that it could start in the middle of next week. This first stage will only last a couple of days but would mean our school hall will be out of use. This will result in PE lessons being outside (weather dependent) and lunches being eaten in classrooms. We are well versed in operating in this way following the recent restrictions placed on us during the Covid-19 pandemic. I will write to all members of our school community next week once there are firm plans in place for this first stage.

This is an exciting new chapter in the history of St. Charles' as our school hall reverts back to accommodating Mass for our parish which was its original function. There are very few pictures of our school hall as the church and so if anybody knows of any photographs in existence, please can you share them with me via e-mail (head@st-charles.lancs.sch.uk). I'll share some of the historic pictures I have over the weekend.

CLASS INFORMATION SHEETS

At the beginning of the school year, we shared class information sheets which detailed important information for your child's class. As we start a new school, I have asked class teachers to update these with any changes that have occurred. These will be shared with you over the weekend so that you are up to speed with what's going on in your child's class.

WRAPAROUND CARE

From the start of this term, our Wraparound Care is being managed by the Play and Learn Scheme (PALS). Thank you for registering and booking places through the new system. As always when you transition to a new system there are niggles which need to be ironed out. I want to say thank you to you for your patience in this process and a special thanks to our office staff who have been busy transferring payments and bookings over to the new system or issuing refunds where this hasn't been possible. More time with the handover period would have made for a smoother ride however illnesses and personal circumstances have impacted on this.

As we move forward, this new partnership will bring some fantastic opportunities for children attending our wraparound care as the PALS staff are keen to get sports coaches into school and providing different activities and opportunities for our children to take part in. Watch this space!

STAR OF THE WEEK AWARD WINNERS

REC	Ebben	YEAR 4	Wilson
YEAR 1	Charlie	YEAR 5	Theo
YEAR 2	Rachel	YEAR 6	Wade
YEAR 3	Ava		

PARENTS' EVENING – ADVANCED NOTICE

On Tuesday 7th February we will be holding a Spring Term Parents' Evening. More information to follow in the coming weeks.