



# St Maria Goretti Newsletter

16th December 2016 Autumn 8



Dear parents and carers,

What a truly memorable week we have had to end the autumn term and prepare us all for the Christmas season. The performances of our Early Years Foundation stage, key stage 1 and 2 were excellent and the quality of their singing was beautiful; the children also enjoyed every moment. It was especially nice for the staff to sit with the children for our Christmas meal and I want to say a special thank you to our kitchen staff for preparing such a lovely meal and midday supervisors entering into the spirit of the occasion by dressing-up as elves for the children.

The choir sang at the Donna Louise Hospice and the Royal Stoke University Hospital and we had wonderful feedback. Their singing touched the hearts and minds of so many on the day. Thank you children and colleagues.

I am pleased that Mrs Perkin has returned after maternity leave, although she has continued to join us for some key events, including our recent inspection. We say farewell to Mrs Shenton, who was appointed as a temporary teacher in Year 3 this year, but has been absent for the last few weeks due to illness. Mr Sykes will teach in Year 3 alongside Mrs Long until a permanent appointment is made over the next term.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff for their exceptional hard work and contribution to the quality of education and achievements of our pupils. The Ofsted report was excellent and has secured the reputation of our highly regarded school. Christmas came early for us as it is such wonderful news which we can all celebrate together.

Wishing you all a very happy and holy Christmas.

Mrs M Yates  
Executive Headteacher



**BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO YEAR 4 WHO ARE LAST WEEK'S  
WEEKLY ATTENDANCE WINNERS WITH 99.3% - FANTASTIC! WOW!**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO YEAR 4 FOR BEST ATTENDANCE FROM  
7TH SEPTEMBER 2016 TO 9TH DECEMBER 2016**

**WITH 98%**



**THE OVERALL SCHOOL  
ATTENDANCE FIGURE IS 96.8%**

**It is essential that you ensure your child gets to school on time.**



**The school doors open at 8.45 and close at 8.55**

**Registration is taken at 8.55am prompt**

**School finishes each day at 3.15pm**



### **HEALTHY LUNCH BOX.**

As part of the school policy we promote healthy lunchboxes.



Please ensure that your child's lunchbox contains healthier options such as sandwiches, fruit, non-fizzy drinks and a small snack/cereal bar.



### **My Baby Time**

Sessions run in school  
9:45–10:45 Thursdays  
£3.00  
per family



### **Journey in Faith 2016-2017**



- for a deepening of our Catholic Faith
- for those who want to know more about the Catholic Faith
- for those who wish to become Catholic

**Thursdays 7.30–9.00pm**

**From Thursday 29th September 2016**

In the Parish meeting room at St. Gregory's Longton Entrance facing Matalan Car Park entrance with free parking for the journey in Faith course

### **STAFF CAR PARK**

Parents are asked NOT to drive on to the staff car park in a morning for Health and Safety reasons.

### **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY'S**

School Closes Friday 16th December

Children return to school on Tuesday 3rd January 2017



### **DINNER MONEY FOR SEPTEMBER 2016**

School Meal prices from September are

Nursery — £2.30 (£11.50 per week payable on a Monday)  
Key Stage 2 — £2.40 (£12.00 per week payable on a Monday)



## ACADEMY COMMITTEE REPORT DECEMBER 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

During the Autumn Term both St Gregory's and St Maria Goretti have received a visit from OFSTED. An important part of their scrutiny of a school is to ensure that the staff is supported with good governance. To test this, interviews with members of the Academy Committee and the Board of Directors of the multi academy take place as part of the inspection.

The report for St Maria Goretti has been published with the comment, *"...governance through the board of directors and at local level is effective because there is a good balance of support and challenge (from people who) know the school well ... the system of link governors ensures ... first hand knowledge of standards. They have a good understanding of how funding is spent and its impact on raising standards."*

The comments are most pleasing and I anticipate similar remarks when the report on St Gregory's is published in the New Year.

These inspections can prove quite stressful for the staff involved and I would like to pay tribute to their dedication and professionalism, which is clear for everyone to see.

The Academy Committee met for their termly meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November when the main item on the agenda was to receive a report from the Executive Headteacher for each of our schools.

The reports are an opportunity for the staff to demonstrate to the Committee that progress is being made against the priorities that were agreed in the School Development Plan.

The OFSTED report for St Maria Goretti was also reviewed and staff congratulated on the positive outcome, which clearly demonstrated the level of progress made in all areas since the last inspection.

The Achievements and Standards Group met this term where they reviewed the results of the summer SATs examinations and their comparison with national results.

The Finance Group met to consider spending, which I am pleased to report is within Budget, whilst the Resources Group considered Risk Management and Health & Safety reports from both sites.

Both schools are very popular and the Admissions Group has already had to consider applications from the parents of 37 children for places since September. Of these 15 have been admitted to various year groups at each school.

Link visits have taken place at each school to look at Safeguarding, Special Needs, Pupil Premium and English. Further visits on other subjects will take place throughout the Spring and Summer terms.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff at St Gregory's and St Maria Goretti for the tremendous job they do in providing outstanding education for our children and wish them and you a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

Ray Chadwick  
Chair of Academy Committee  
1<sup>st</sup> December 2016

