



Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Primary School

" We learn to love everyone as Jesus loves us. "

20 December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

We can do anything at all!!

Am I alone, I wonder, in finding November a strange, dull month. The glorious colourful landscape of autumn was fast disappearing and the expectation and excitement of the approaching Christmas festivities had still to begin. Yet, this year November was different. It was the 100year celebration of the end of World War 1 and there were reminders everywhere with British Legion poppies and the special silhouettes appearing in the local communities. As I expected, the children remembered and respected their own relatives by contributing some special artwork in a memorial at the Cenotaph in Victoria Park – a very wet occasion - and even encouraged me to venture onto twitter to view the photographs of the poppy-making, and to ponder thoughtfully on the display of home-made poppies in the school prayer garden. The children showed that they cared and it was impressive to know that no-one was forgotten. Aspects of social justice shone through our school when children kindly helped to take donated food to the foodbank and provided hampers to give some pensioners a little extra this Christmas. We can learn a lot from the actions of our children.

Last week we shared in the children's Nativity. Just like 'the curious sheep' children throughout the world gaze in wonder and joy at the scene in the stable at Bethlehem, they never tire of playing a part in the birth of Jesus and of sharing the message of peace and love. Perhaps, we too can stop for a moment to spare a thought for those children and families throughout the world who will suffer this Christmas, fearful of what tomorrow may bring.

As always, the children's behaviour has been exemplary. Whether they were celebrating the Queen's visit to Widnes or taking part in the Advent Service at the Cathedral, the children were a credit to the school and received many deserved compliments. Of course, it helps when parents and school work together to provide suitable role-models, demonstrating their respect for each other. Together, we can provide the education, the Catholic values and the ethos to support and help our children progress their education and grow into well-rounded, responsible and caring members of society. Thank you all for joining us in our vision – we make an excellent team!.

Our children are an inspiration ... their successes become our successes, their hopes and dreams become our hopes and dreams and we share in their joys and sorrows. The theme for the Year 6 leaving celebration in the summer was 'belief in oneself' and they sang this song.

I can do anything at all,
I can climb the highest mountain,
I can feel the ocean calling wild and free.
I can be anything I want,
with this hope to drive me onward,
if I can just believe in me.

I share these words and sentiments as a reminder that this is what we hope for our children, a belief in their own self-worth. All children need to believe in themselves, in their abilities and their gifts and talents and it is our job, parents, staff and governors to ensure that all of the children at Our Lady's school experience this belief.

Governors have been very impressed with the improved progress that the children have made during the past year. Our school Advisors have noted that our standards have risen and in many areas are 'at or above' National Standards.

It would be remiss of me to not to take this opportunity to thank Mrs McGuffie and ALL of the staff, both inside and outside of the classroom, for their continued support. There is no question that their

hard work and commitment make a significant contribution towards the well-being and the education of our children.

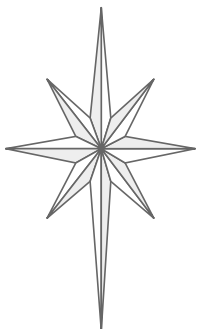
To finish, I would like to thank you all for your support during my 11 years as Chair of Governors. You now have a new Chair, Mr Susan Williams, who will bring fresh eyes and impetus to the role. Over the years I have become very attached to Our Lady's school and children so I will still be haunting the corridors as a Governor!!

I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to you, the parents and carers, for the consideration you have given to supporting the standards and the Catholic values that we promote in Our Lady's School, values that we hope will remain with the children throughout their lives.

Together, we can do anything!

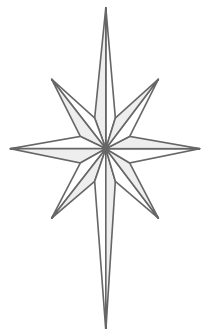
Wishing you all a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas

Carol Houghton



Christmas

*May you be blessed
with peace and joy on Christmas Day
... and on each day that follows
may life be good and kind to you*



O come, O come Emmanuel



He comes in
humility, poverty
and simplicity.

He is King of Glory
and we bow down
and worship.



May the coming
of the holy babe
bring you and
yours every joy
and blessing this
Christmastide.

