



Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Schools' Federation  
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13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are almost at the end of this academic year, undoubtedly the strangest one we have ever encountered in education. This pandemic has brought many challenges to our school community in ways we never imagined. We have tried hard to navigate a way through this crisis and hope and pray that all members of our school community remain safe and well.

We were delighted to welcome back so many children to join our key worker children this term. To date we have almost half our children back in school on a permanent basis and have organised transition days for the remaining year groups so children who are still being home-schooled have the opportunity to meet their new teacher for September and reconnect with their peers. Our children new to Nursery and Reception will have transition days at the beginning of next term and will hopefully settle quickly into school life.

And so, as the year draws to a close, I wanted to update you on a few changes.

You will all be aware that when we return in September, we arrive back at the NEW Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Primary School – what a wonderfully exciting time in the history of our schools!

As a staff and governors, we appreciate all your support to us during the consultation process and in recent months when a lot of 'behind the scenes' work has been undertaken to make this change possible. Uniting the two schools under one name has brought so many benefits already and it isn't September 1<sup>st</sup> yet! Staff have had opportunities to move to other Key Stages to further develop their skills, resources have been shared across schools, children will have great continuity in their learning with staff working in small groups to support individual subject areas and the energy, positivity and enthusiasm for our new school in September is palpable.

You will be aware that the change to the school's status means that there will be initial changes to the leadership team for the Autumn Term. I will remain in my temporary role to support the school and the governors with this transition. Mrs Moore, Head of School at the Infant site (who replaced Miss Cannon in May 2020) and Mrs Porter, Head of School in the Junior school, will both now take on the role of Joint Heads of School with responsibility for the full school – from Nursery to Year 6. They will work together during this time to support the many changes and ensure that the school meets the needs of all children, staff and parents returning in September 2020. We thank those staff members who took on temporary leadership roles in recent years at both schools, namely Mrs Bates, Mrs Smith and Mrs Murphy. We thank them for all they have done and continue to do in their senior roles in our school. Mrs Murphy will also take on the role of full-time SENCo in September for all children.

Our Governing Body has also seen recent change in the appointment of a new Chair, Mr Gerry Dolan. The seamless transition of this change to our expanded school is testament to the hard work and dedication of our Governing Body who strive to make the school the best it can be. Governors were initially looking to appoint a new Head Teacher for September 2020 but COVID-19 has put these plans on hold for now. They will continue to update you on developments as the Autumn term progresses.

At the end of this year we sadly bid farewell to some members of staff who move on to pastures new. We thank them for their contribution to our schools and wish them every success in the future.

We also welcome some new staff in September. I feel sure you will support them as they settle into their respective roles and become a part of our great team here at Ss Alban and Stephen.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of both schools for all the hard work over these past few unprecedented months. I have had the pleasure of working in many schools during my career and I can honestly say I am so overwhelmed with the dedication of the staff I have met here. They are completely child-focussed, positive, loyal and flexible and I have no doubt that the school will continue to go from strength to strength with such an amazing team.

And so Parents and Carers, as your children return to us next term, please be assured that many measures are in place to support their physical safety and their mental well-being, not to mention additional support in educational terms. We are very aware that some of our children will have spent the majority of the year being home-schooled and it is pivotal that we provide the support needed with reintegration at every level.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your unwavering support. I am so excited about our return in September when we will be able to rebuild our school community once more after recent events. I wish you and your families a lovely Summer break and a safe and happy time together. I look forward to meeting you at the school gates in September and welcoming you all back to Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Primary School!

Yours sincerely,

Clare McFlynn

## Your loving care

Lord Jesus, when you walked with us on earth  
you spread your healing power.

We place in your loving care

all who are affected by Coronavirus.

Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.

Bring relief to our sick, console our bereaved,  
protect those who care for us.

We lift our prayer to you Lord,  
and trust in your infinite mercy,  
as we wait for the daybreak.

Amen.