



# St Leonard's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter no. 4

17<sup>th</sup> December, 2021

Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the Christmas holidays, excitement levels have risen across the school. We have tried our hardest to make the run up to Christmas as 'normal' and enjoyable as possible, whilst maintaining necessary protocols in order to keep our staff and pupils safe. I am delighted to have seen the pleasure shared by all pupils and staff during our Christmas celebrations and relieved that restrictions allowed for a visit from Santa Claus himself – socially distanced of course! By now you will have had the opportunity to see the pictures and videos of the different celebrations and worship that have taken place across the week; I would like to thank the children and staff for their hard work in the preparation and presentation of these events.

### **A message from Alison Aisbitt, Chair of the IAB**

*As an experienced governor, I was proud to be appointed as the Chair of the Interim Advice Board at the end of September. I have worked in Sunderland, for over 25 years, but this is my first governance role in a school in the city, and I am committed, along with a skilled team, to giving my time and passion to support St Leonard's to become an outstanding school.*

*I would like to echo the assurances that have been given to you over the term regarding the changes being brought about to improve the quality of education for all the children, and to create a school environment that we can all be proud of.*

*I must thank the children for the warm welcome I have received whenever I have come into school and have had the pleasure of seeing first-hand the enthusiasm and desire to learn growing in all classes. You are lucky to have a committed and professional team in school, and I want to thank them for the dedication they show to the welfare and education of all the children in their care.*

*Finally, I would like to thank you as parents and carers for your support of the school, and the patience and belief shown, as we continue with our plans to develop and create the very best environment for all your children to thrive and achieve.*

*I hope you all have a wonderful, happy, and safe Christmas, and look forward to meeting you in 2022.*

*Alison Aisbitt*

### **A reflection from Nick Conway, BCCET School Improvement lead for Primary.**

*In my job in education, I regularly say to parents and children that I have the best job in the world. The reason I passionately think this, is because I get to work with a team of very dedicated staff who put your child at the centre of their decision making. Over the last few months, the staff of St Leonard's, working closely with the BCCET team, have worked hard to ensure the pupils of St Leonard's receive a much-improved education. I appreciate that this takes time but I guarantee that in the new year we will continue working with the team to maximise the potential of the lovely pupils of St Leonard's. Silksworth is a community I find to be very welcoming and ambitious. I have enjoyed working alongside your children regularly. On a daily basis, I see your children being challenged and supported; enjoying their learning and embracing new opportunities: it is a joy to work at St Leonard's. Thank you for all you do to enable your children to succeed. I look forward to meeting you in our next 'meet the parents' opportunity on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 and take this final opportunity to reassure you that we are doing all we can to improve the life chances of your children. Please keep on being honest with us because together we can make St Leonard's an exceptional place to be, and the pride of Sunderland.*

*Nick Conway.*

### **And finally...**

The recent weeks have been challenging for all members of the school community in one way or another, but it is the way the school has pulled together to overcome each challenge that makes me so proud to be a part of the St Leonard's family. I am looking forward to 2022 and the next steps that we will take on our exciting journey together. Until then, on behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish each of you a happy, healthy and holy Christmas.

### **Merry Christmas!**

**Dionne Dunn**

**Acting Head Teacher**

