



Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Gladstone Street, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 8NE

Executive Headteacher - Mr P Ackers

Headteacher - Mr S D Groarke

Deputy Headteacher - Mrs S Rudd

15 February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a real privilege working at Saint Mary's over this half term. I have been made to feel very welcome and the children are a real credit to you all and the school. The conduct and behaviour of the pupils is superb and they speak so positively about **their** school which is just fantastic.

As highlighted in the recent report from the Chair of Governors, Sam Buller, there has been a lot of a hard work undertaken over the past few weeks and we are making positive strides in securing the best possible educational experiences for our children. The staff are working incredibly hard to achieve these goals and bring a sense of togetherness to Saint Mary's.

We have spent considerable time looking at the curriculum and we have been fortunate to secure the services of Clive Davies from Focus Education who will support our drive to introduce a questioning based curriculum in the form of 'The Learning Challenge' We want to bring the curriculum to life for pupils and allow them to become resourceful and critical thinkers who are able to apply their knowledge across a range of subject areas.

It has been lovely to meet a number of you informally at the beginning or end of a school day and more formally during the parents meeting. I am very keen to ensure that effective lines of communication between home and school are in place; that dialogue is a two way process which is honest, open and transparent. A shared voice is crucial to ensuring continuing progress for Saint Mary's.

Many thanks to everyone returned the communication and homework questionnaires; once they have been analysed I will write to you with the findings and next steps. There are lots of exciting events and activities taking place over the coming weeks including an Open Morning where we will be opening the doors of Saint Mary's to you and you where will have the opportunity to spend time in your child's classroom, have a tour of the school and meet with members of the Leadership Team over a coffee. Year 5 will be taking part in a Roman workshop as well as a number of Easter celebrations and services which you are invited to; this is just a flavour of what is going to be happening this term. Full details of events, up until Easter, including dates and times can be found in this weeks' Friday letter.

Once again, many thanks for your continued support and I look forward to keeping you all updated on a regular basis.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Ackers

Mr Paul Ackers

