



We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together

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Dear parents and carers

Today we have reached the final day of the Autumn term and what a term it has been! I must take this opportunity to thank the entire staff team who have gone above and beyond each day to ensure that your children have the very best opportunities to learn whilst remaining safe and secure. I would also like to thank your children for their amazing commitment to their learning and to the sense of community this term - they have been amazing and are a credit to you! Finally, my thanks turn to parents and carers for your cooperation and consideration and for your support for the whole community. It has been hard not to have events where you are able to be present in school but we are hopeful that these times will come even if we have to wait a little longer than expected. Please do watch out for ParentMails over the Christmas period in case there are any changes to plans in relation to school operation in January

This week has been particularly busy with so many creative Christmas activities. The school is covered in sparkles (but no new glitter as one of our COP26 commitments!) and there is a beautiful sense of excitement and expectant joy as we travel through the school. This week saw some noisy Christmas party games in each class and all children have watched a lively virtual pantomime in their bubbles this week courtesy of the PSA.



We were sad not to be able to welcome you to our usual nativity play and our ever-popular Christmas in Song event again this year. On Wednesday Year 2 families will have received a link to their children's brilliant nativity and on Thursday all families will have received a One Drive link to our whole school 'Christmas in Song' video. I am sure that you will enjoy watching every moment of it!



Please keep these videos for your own personal use and do not share them beyond your home as we do not have permission for this. This is why we are not sharing them via any social medial platforms.

Today the school community has paid tribute to **Mrs Sherry** who is retiring after clocking up an amazing service record:

- 30 years as a teacher
- 27 years teaching in Stevenage education (primary and secondary)
- 17 years (over two periods) at ST Vincent de Paul School
- 14 years as a Deputy Headteacher, including a stint as Acting Headteacher
- 21 years a Governors (including 12 years at JHN) and a further 10 years as an ex-officio Governor whilst Deputy Head

Mrs Sherry was delighted this morning as parents and pupils gathered outside to wish her farewell before school; and although the internet didn't allow us all to join together for a zoom farewell, she was able to visit each class who presented her with beautiful handmade cards and a traditional blessing:

*May the Lord bless you and keep you, Mrs Sherry
May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
May the Lord turn His face towards you
And give you peace forever.
Amen*

Mrs Sherry even had a special famous visitor today!



We thank Mrs Sherry for everything that she has gifted to our school and the wider community over many years. Mrs Sherry's legacy will live on – I have promised her this, not least in an annual 'Mrs Sherry Laudato Si' award which will be presented each Summer to an individual who has shown great commitment to the environment. **Good luck and God bless you, Mrs Sherry!**



On behalf of the staff team and the governors of the school, may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. May the festive season for you mirror the beauty of the child in the manger and may your family be blessed with peace, happiness, love and joy. Thank you for your kind words, messages, gifts and cards – they have been much appreciated by all!



We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the Christmas break on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

May God bless you and those most dear to you.

Yours sincerely

Jon White
Headteacher

