

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



**Coombeshead Road
Newton Abbot, TQ12 1PT
Telephone: 01626-352559
Email: admin@sjna.uk**

Headteacher Appointment

5 May 2017

Dear Parents and Pupils

I am pleased to inform you that following an interview on Wednesday 3rd May 2017 Miss Dunne accepted the post of Headteacher at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Until yesterday Miss Dunne was acting as an Interim Headteacher on a short term contract. She has now committed herself to leading the school forward on a permanent basis.

This is such good news for the school, and we thank God for Miss Dunne's commitment to lead our children. For too long the leadership of the school has been uncertain; now we have certainty for the future. We also benefit from having a Headteacher who has previous experience of successfully leading a school, one who is held in high regard and respected by colleagues across the Diocese of Plymouth. We are in a very fortunate position.

At interview Miss Dunne outlined her vision for the school, setting out her plans for helping our children reach their full potential within this Catholic Christian Community. A great deal has been achieved in the two terms Miss Dunne has been at the school, but this is only the start of a long process of improvement. Many challenges lie ahead but we now have a strong leadership team determined to achieve the best for the children. The Governing Body and the Diocese of Plymouth Academy Trust, CAST, are delighted with the appointment of Miss Dunne, and are united in their support for her plans for the school.

Listed below are some of the key areas which the Leadership Team are working on to bring about change for the benefit of the children of our school:

- The school's data from 2015/16 showed key areas of underperformance. Improving the quality of teaching, particularly in Mathematics and English has been a key focus of the school's work this year. This work has included:
 - development of clear and targeted plans for improvement
 - whole school training to improve staff skill and expertise
 - a commitment to new resources to support pupil progress
 - investment in developing accurate assessment and the introduction of a tracking system
 - improving the school's approach to supporting children with SEND.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure it's money is well spent, that the school's finances are properly managed, with the sole aiming of improving outcomes for pupils.

- The school has worked hard to support parents in improving pupils' attendance. At end of the previous academic year, pupils' overall attendance and rates of persistent absence were well below national figures. Systems are now in place to ensure that the school's Attendance Policy is effective and that improvement and good attendance are recognised and rewarded.
- Improving the effectiveness of Governance has been a key area for school improvement this year. Governors had an external review, as recommended by OFSTED, in December 2016 and this led to an Action Plan regularly reviewed by Governors. The school appointed a Clerk of Governors who has transformed the administration for governors.
- Establishing systems and procedures so that the school works effectively and with clarity has been essential. This work has included the improved school website, regular newsletters, revised school policies and an open invitation to parents to Friday's Prayer and Praise and school events. Restoring a culture of high expectations, scholastic excellence and professionalism to the work of the school has been key.
- Strengthening our school as a Catholic community, making it clear that Jesus Christ is the role model for all that we do within the school is essential in ensuring that our work is a living witness to the Gospel. Engaging parents, children and staff in reflecting on the school's mission will always be a priority.

We recognise that we still have a way to go, but there is a plan and a commitment to improve and I look forward to updating you on future success and achievements.

I am sure that you will join me in congratulating Miss Dunne on her appointment.

May God Bless our children, staff and families.

Yours faithfully

Deacon Tim van Kroonenburg

Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Governing Body and CAST