

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



Rowden Hill, Chippenham, Wiltshire. SN15 2NF

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Interim Headteacher: Mr Stuart Telling

25th June 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

At the recent Parents' evening, the IEB gave you an outline of our plans for the leadership of St Mary's Catholic Primary School and a promise that, as soon as we were able, we would give details of how our plans for restructuring of the School's staff would impact on the allocation of teachers to classes.

We are now delighted to tell you that we have appointed Mr Paul Bacon as the School's interim headteacher for the next two years. He will start work on 1st August to prepare for the new term in September, but will be visiting the School on a number of days during July to meet with staff and get to know our children and the School.

Mr Bacon is an experienced school leader who has previously worked in a church school and a school in special measures. He also knows Chippenham well. Mr Bacon has the full support of the IEB, and his appointment is endorsed by the Diocese of Clifton and Wiltshire Local Authority.

Attached to this covering note is a letter from Paul to you all telling of his plans and commitment to the School.

We are also pleased to be able to include a note from Mr Telling, with details of the allocation of teachers to classes for September. We are aiming to implement these arrangements before the end of Term 6 to give teachers and our children time to settle in.

We are sure that you will see this news as further evidence of the progress being made in restoring St Mary's to its former standing as a Catholic school.

We hope that you will join us in welcoming Paul Bacon to the School and look forward to meeting him at the School gates.

Yours sincerely

The Interim Executive Board

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

I should like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and say what a huge privilege it will be to work with the staff, IEB, children and families of St Mary's School.

I have been a primary school teacher and head teacher for the last 28 years. Most recently I was headteacher at Frogwell Primary School, Chippenham and prior to this was headteacher at St Nicholas Primary School, Bromham. These positions followed five years as headteacher in a country called Gabon in West Africa. For the last year, I have been at university in Cardiff, undertaking a Masters' qualification in Sport and Exercise Science where I studied, among other things, the benefits of healthy active lifestyles on children's learning and wellbeing.

When the opportunity arose for the interim headship at St Mary's, I had no reservations about applying and was honoured to be selected for this role. Having been the head of both a church and a Chippenham school, I recognise the important place St Mary's has in the town's Christian and Roman Catholic communities. I also understand the responsibility all town schools have, to ensure that each Chippenham child achieves the best they can. I therefore feel privileged to be St Mary's new head teacher and look forward to being part of the next chapter in the school's history.

During the remainder of this term, I hope to meet the children and staff at St Mary's, so that we can make a very positive start to the next academic year. I will also be working with Mr Telling, the IEB and key subject leaders to fully understand the school's improvement plan. In September, I will make sure you can all meet me, and I would love to hear your views about how you see St Mary's evolving over the next two-three years.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Bacon