

St John the Evangelist Catholic Primary School



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20th December 2018

Dear All,

As we lit the pink candle on Gaudete Sunday (the third Sunday of Advent) we were reminded that we have almost completed the waiting for the birth of Christ and the coming joy. Of course all our Advent Liturgies in school are reminders for the children of the true meaning of Christmas, although we understand that of course that the children are excited at the anticipation of all their wish lists coming to reality on Christmas morning!

My own anticipation is tempered with sadness as I prepare to handover the leadership of St John's, after over 14 years as the Head teacher, to a new leadership team, one who I know will nurture and care for the school community just as I have tried to do.

I have said on many occasions over the past few weeks how I have felt that it has been my privilege to lead such a wonderful school and I am extremely proud of everyone who strives to make St John's such a special place in which to learn and work, it is only through this hard work and the partnership with yourselves that we are successful.

I consider that this school was a gift which I received 14 years ago and I have done my best to ensure that everyone who walks through the doors of our school, both children and adults, feels the presence of Christ.

I thank you for your support over the years, and I also thank all my staff, governors and parishioners, I will miss everyone as I go into the great unknown of a retired life, but there is one group of people I will miss above all others and that is the children. I will miss their enthusiasm and energy, their honesty and their confidence, because they have made coming to St John's as a place of work every day an easy task.

Thank you for all your gifts, words and cards which I have been overwhelmed with in the past few days. I hardly feel they are deserved as it has never been a chore, rather a joy to call myself the Head Teacher of St John's, but I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I leave today with a heavy heart but with a sense of anticipation for my own future but most important for the future of St John's School and its community. I ask that God will shower each member of our community with his blessings, and that the new leadership of the school will appreciate the gift of this very special school.

I wish you all a very happy and Holy Christmas and many blessings during 2019.

God bless

Kath Spillane

