

Summer 2021

Newsletter



A big thank you to all our wonderful schools

Following 18 months of a pandemic, I was determined to use my recent round of visits to schools to celebrate the great things which have been happening across the schools, in spite of the challenges of COVID-19.

I learned so much as I visited the schools. During a number of visits to Forest Schools lessons, I saw safe use of bow saws and whittling knives – children trained first using potato peelers! I was introduced to bug hotels, tadpoles and snake corner (which I don't think actually had any snakes). I was given a cabbage and a nature man and learned what happens around a fire pit!

Inside, I took part in some wonderful liturgies, planned and led by children; watched reception meditating as part of 'mindfulness', took part in a Take 5

session to calm me down and saw Irish dancing, drama groups, art galleries, a Banksy display and a photography project.

I met different groups of children who told me about a trip to river dip at Perlethorpe and about a visit to White Post Farm. I heard about a loneliness project where some Year 5 children worked with residents of a local care home during lockdown to cheer them up via Teams! I played basketball (badly) with Year 4 and recited poetry with Rappaman.

At the secondary schools, I had discussions with high achieving students, Chaplaincy teams and a group of Year 7 children who told me everything they were proud of despite lockdowns. I met staff who have been leading on key

projects at schools. I even sat in a well-being chair!

I had tours of the schools, during which I saw active, creative learning and staff, children and young adults really enjoying themselves back in school. I saw how resilient young people are and how committed and caring staff are. It really made me happy!

James McGeachie, CEO





St Margaret Clitherow sporting superstars

Children at St Margaret Clitherow are celebrating after becoming Nottingham City Sport Superstars Challenge winners.

After a successful first round in a city-wide athletics competition in March, Year 5 and 6 progressed to the second stage in June. Organisers ran the event at the school and the classes took part in a shuttle run, standing long jump, speed bounce, hoop jump challenge, chest push

and target throwing. Out of the 21 Schools, 42 different classes and 1339 pupils that entered – Year 5 finished first place for their year group!

Staff were really proud of the way in which they handled the challenge and even more enjoyable was the look of disbelief on some of their faces when they were told they had won the overall competition. Cue lots of smiles and a huge celebration!



Creative computing at Blessed Robert

From digital dinosaur visits in Foundation (yes, a real T-Rex visited the unit – there were footprints as evidence!) to marvellous mosaics in digital art – a range of creative computing projects have had our children brimming with excitement.

Children thoroughly enjoyed using their D&T and problems solving skills combined with Lego building to create a range of programmable designs – from Roman Chariots to toucans and frogs to ferris wheels.

The school also teamed up with Google to champion their 'internet legend' to enhance the children's understanding of internet safety. Code Club has also gone to strength to strength with Year 5 children easily being the next generation of gaming engineers, creators and legends! Watch this space!



Pentecost activity day at St Mary's

On Monday 24th May, the school enjoyed a special day of spirituality and well-being. Children listened to the story of Pentecost - when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples and gave them the confidence and strength to go out and spread the Good News.

The focus of the day was how we as Christians, can care better for our common home.

Children also explored the video 'Eyes of the World' from CAFOD.

As non-uniform day, the school raised money for The Briars Youth Centre. The school have missed their annual visit this year, so thought it was a good opportunity to remember this very special place for our Nottingham Diocese.

Sacred Heart climate heroes

Supporting CAFOD's *Eyes of the World* campaign, children from KS2 have sent letters to the Prime Minister to show how the school is doing its part to protect our planet.

They have raised over £1000 by supporting CAFOD's *Walk for Water* and more recently raising over £700 during the Sacred Heart Mountain Challenge – where the whole school walked to climb the height of mountains.



During the Lent and Pentecost terms, the school has focussed their commitment to Missionary Discipleship – ensuring the way we live, reflects the HEART values and commitment to the Word of God.

In all the campaigns, the school spread the Good News with family and friends.

All Year 4 children have become climate heroes by earning Green Blue Peter badges and will hopefully continue this work in school to ensure Sacred Heart becomes a more eco-friendly school, helping to save God's beautiful planet.



HOLY CROSS COMMUNITY CHAMPION

Congratulations to Teresa Horden, Office manager at Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy for all the voluntary work she does in her local community.

Teresa runs The Huthwaite Hub – a community building where residents of all ages can develop new woodwork/craft skills and avoid social isolation. The fantastic project gives older people a chance to share their expertise to teach young people useful skills.

Last year, she helped raise £9,000 to build a new roof for Sutton Scouts and Guides building, ensuring that young people can continue to enjoy this activity.

Throughout lockdown, Teresa continued fundraising for various organisations and even found time to help residents with gardening projects.

Well done Teresa for your continued dedication in supporting your local community!



Margaret Williams says goodbye after more than 20 years

As a former pupil, parent, and now headteacher for the past 20 years at The Good Shepherd, Margaret Williams will be retiring with a lifetime of memories connected to her long history with the school.

Margaret joined the school speaking English as a second language – her parents made Nottingham their home after being forced to flee their native Hungary during WWII. The warm welcome she received at that time stayed with her, continuing in her commitment to The Good Shepherd Parish community.

Raised with a strong work ethic, Margaret initially trained to be a nurse but after a year, realised her true vocation was in teaching.

After qualifying, she first went on to teach at a Catholic boarding school in Barlborough and then left to continue in Catholic education

in Glossop and then St Augustine's in Nottingham. Her career with The Good Shepherd began as a job-share, becoming a full-time teacher, RE Coordinator, a Deputy Head and then eventual Head of the school.

Margaret's legacy includes the redevelopment of the St Joseph's building, where she helped to secure vital Government funding after continually rallying with the local MP. She leaves at the end of another successful project – a new nursery – which will support her vision of providing an early introduction to a school-setting for younger children in her parish.

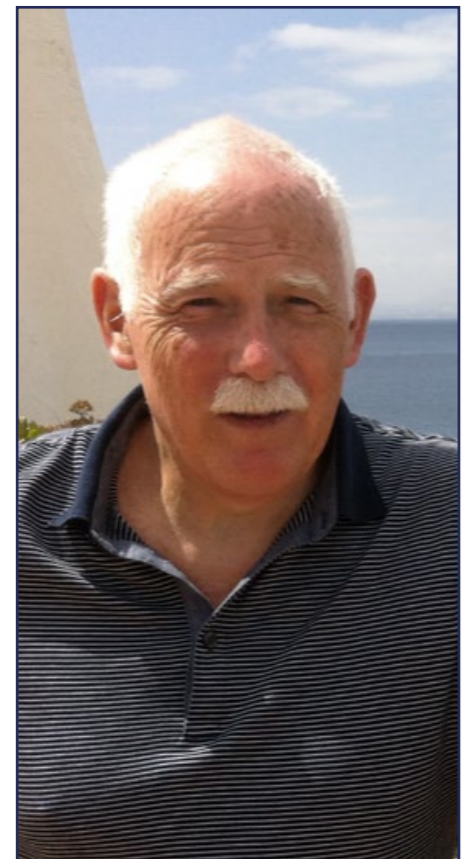


Margaret with her siblings in The Good Shepherd Primary uniform

Margaret's next challenge will be to explore Canada and New Zealand by wild-camping!

"I feel so privileged to have been part of such a wonderful school community. Education is more than the classroom experience and I've always tried to ensure that our children feel safe, secure, valued and loved. I will miss the people who make up this wonderful community, and especially the children who have entertained me with their stories and who I have tried to catch-up with individually and give them the confidence and self-belief that are both so important in daily life," said Margaret.

An end of a rewarding era for Ken Daly



After an incredible 47 years, Ken Daly is retiring from Catholic education in Nottinghamshire.

Having qualified as an English teacher in 1974, Ken was offered two jobs on the same day. Fortunately for Nottinghamshire, the role at All Saints, Mansfield offered wider opportunities to teach GCE and 'A' Level.

This decision led Ken to work at the school as a Deputy Head and Headteacher and then have roles in Nottinghamshire Catholic education as Governor, Building Officer, Academy Director, Chair of South Nottingham Catholic Academy Trust and latterly Chair of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

Ken's years of dedication in educating and supporting our young people is exemplary. Driven to help young people develop the skills to achieve their aims in life, several former pupils are teaching and have senior roles in our schools and across the country.

Ken's next role will be to look after his grandchildren as well as enjoying a stadium tour of the new Spurs ground and supporting them to do a lot better in future seasons!

"One thing I will take away from my career is to never underestimate the resilience of a child, they surprise you in so many ways. I am a great believer in always treating everyone with the same respect and dignity, irrespective of age or role – you're guaranteed to get the best from people," said Ken.

Karen Taylor retires after 22 years, but it's not quite goodbye

Karen Taylor is retiring after a rewarding 22-year career spent at Sacred Heart Primary, Carlton.

Karen began her journey into teaching after joining the Sacred Heart Parish. Seeing so many Sacred Heart children regularly attending and leading parts of the mass, motivated her to consider working in primary education. This came as a huge surprise to herself and her family as she struggled at school due to dyslexia.

After five years of studying, she joined the school as an NQT in September 1999 and then went onto become the Foundation Leader, Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and five years ago, the Headteacher.

As a member of the parish Eucharistic and catechesis team, Karen is a well-known face in the community, helping to promote Catholic life and welfare to all families by encouraging engagement, participation and belonging with each other. Some

of her proudest moments are being part of so many families lives during First Holy Communion masses and celebrations.

At Sacred Heart school, Karen has led the school to achieve 'Good' from both Ofsted and the Diocesan Canonical Inspection. She felt humbled when inspectors told her that she was truly making a difference – this was something so important to her given her own education experiences.

"I have been greatly honoured to have been given all of the opportunities I have. Being part of the Sacred Heart Academy has been a huge part of my life and it has been a difficult decision to retire. I am looking forward to spending more quality time with my family and I am very excited about our new parish centre and all the opportunities that will bring. I know I will still play a very active part in the Sacred Heart community's life, and I hope this will keep me close to all of our wonderful children and families," said Karen.



Anne Killingworth retires after an incredible 36 years

Joining St Edmund Campion Primary, West Bridgford in 1985, Anne Killingworth has taught multiple generations at the school and her work as a PGCE and work-experience mentor, has seen her support many next-generation teachers.

While at sixth-form college, Anne had initially considered becoming a radiographer, but it was during work-experience at a local school, that she decided that her future lay in teaching.

Anne has gone on to enjoy many roles at the school including leading the Foundation Key Stage, part of Senior Leadership, a Designated Safeguarding Lead and a Specialist Leader of Education for the Trust.



Following her retirement, Anne will take on a new role as a grandparent as well as travelling to Australia and New Zealand. She will also continue learning by exploring her love of photography.

"Looking back on my career, I am so thankful of the support I've had from my colleagues and grateful to have had the privilege to teach so many wonderful children over the years," said Anne.

Lesley Iacovitti retires after 20 years with Sacred Heart

Lesley first became involved at the school by volunteering as a mum – helping every Wednesday to support a class. Loving the environment, she went on to complete a Level 2 & 3 NVQ in Early Care and Education and secured a job at the school.

As an invaluable Teaching Assistant, Lesley is really proud of seeing children progress using her Post Office maths intervention scheme – something she set-up to make maths fun.

"Over the years, my role has made me step out of my comfort zone and perform tasks that I would normally have shied away from. One major thing I've learned is not to judge which has helped me support the behaviour and development of our children," said Lesley.



Streaming live Mass to our Trust schools

On Thursday 13 May, we celebrated the feast of the Ascension with a Mass here in school.

We were very lucky to have Fr John Martin come into school to celebrate the Mass for us, a former pupil of the grounds and one of our local priests.

Not only did we stream the feast around our school, but we also actually streamed it for all the schools in the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

We had some input from the other secondary schools who kindly sent in videos of them reading the penitential rite, readings, and intercessions so that we could really make it a celebration.

Some of our Year 9 students introduced the Mass and then stayed in the Chapel to allow us to have a small congregation present with the Eucharist.

A big thank you to Mr Gillett and Mr Day who helped to run the technology side of things and ensure that nobody was muted or cameras turned off, and once again thank you to Fr John who said our Mass.

It was a privilege to celebrate the special feast with so many people, and the recording has now been uploaded to YouTube if you wish to watch it back.

Celebrating the feast day of St Peter and St Paul



Tuesday 29 June is the feast day of St Peter and Paul and is a Holy day of Obligation.

While this year, the obligations have been temporarily put on hold, we still celebrated Mass as a community within school.

Fr David Palmer kindly came in and said Mass in our Chapel, and we live-streamed it to everyone in their form rooms.

We had some Year 10 students who came and read for our Mass too, so a big thank you to them.

It was a lovely celebration, and hopefully next year we can celebrate this wonderful feast day in person!

Made for Greatness!

On 15 June 2021, we were lucky enough to be able to hold our annual Year 8 retreat day on the theme of: *Made for Greatness!*

The whole of year 8 spent the day off timetable and in non-uniform taking part in lots of different fun activities that celebrated our individuality and greatness.

We made mascots that represented our forms, pretended we were in the Crystal Maze and wrote affirmations to build each other up. We then finished with a liturgy all about trusting in God and His help.

It was a lovely day full of excitement, faith, and fun and a great time was had by all. We already can't wait to do it again next year!

