# THE ST. UNY—VERSE

'Let your light shine before others.' Matthew 5:16

# **ISSUE 868 VOLUME 24**

Friday 14 December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is my final newsletter as Acting Head of School. I have really enjoyed being with you all this term. Thank you for all your patience, support and understanding.

There is a great sense of teamwork here amongst staff, pupils and parents. Together, I know you will ensure the school builds on its many strengths and keeps improving the areas for development.

The school's greatest strength, as I see it, is the way that the chosen Christian values of friendship and forgiveness really do characterise relationships here between everyone. There is a great deal of respect in evidence too but a few pupils struggle with this quality and the staff team know they need to keep teaching, modelling and discussing what this looks like.

The grounds, local area and teaching in the classroom often provide exciting and motivating opportunities for children to learn but these could be even more challenging and more frequent. This is part of the seasonal curriculum development plan for this year and beyond. Hopefully, the Friends will achieve their goal of an outdoor classroom next year.

Teaching of reading and writing is generally good throughout the school, with some development needed of the teaching of spelling and reading comprehension, as well as improved handwriting and presentation. These areas are part of the English action plan and Miss Griffiths and Miss Wetherelt, our English leaders, will be sharing this with you in newsletters, parent workshops and information leaflets over the course of the next two terms.

Teaching of Maths is the major area for development and the school will be receiving regular support from the Aspire Maths team to develop a consistent model of teaching that meets all pupils needs. Of all the subjects taught in the Primary School, Maths has undergone the most changes over the last five years, with little time for teachers to be trained on and absorb the new ways of working and the greatly increased expectations at the end of each year group. Although there are strengths in Maths teaching here, it is not yet consistent for all children in all classes. Miss Hill, our Maths leader, will be sharing the development plans with you and providing some parent workshops and leaflets to keep you informed of what good teaching in Maths looks like.

Another area for development is the school's provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs. A lot of work has already been done this term, with all staff having accessed training in different areas such as supporting children with autism, emotional and behavioural needs and communication difficulties. Next term, there will be further training in supporting children with ADHD and dyslexia. All the strategies learnt will improve teaching and learning for all children as well as ensuring that the needs for individuals can be met.

As all schools do, we have a few pupils whose behaviour can occasionally be very challenging due to their individual emotional needs. These children may well have experienced significant trauma in their lives and it is central to our Christian ethos to offer them, as we do all our pupils, unconditional love. There is an emotional development and behaviour management programme called TIS 'Trauma Informed Schools' that some of our staff are being trained in which will help us support, nurture and enable the progress of these few children. Again, the strategies learnt will help the personal, social and health education and well-being of all our children.

Facing challenges together, with appropriate support and training, will make the school stronger and more effective in all areas of its provision. The staff team here relish this challenge and Mr Hoskins, the new Head of School is fully informed of all the improvement plans and is looking forward to leading St Uny CE Academy from strength to strength so that it's light really does 'shine before others.'

I will continue to visit the school regularly to support Mr Hoskins and the leadership team. There are four dates already in the diary for the spring term and I hope to attend some of the school's special events too!

Thank you for talking to us this term and raising any concerns with the right person constructively. The first person you talk to about any concern about your child should always be the Class Teacher. The parent questionnaire responses from Parents' evening have been positive with points for improvement that are all fair comment and will be discussed and addressed. If you have not yet completed a questionnaire and would like to do so, they will be available at the office until next Wednesday. Class Teachers here are determined to meet the needs of every child and happy to meet with parents. Mr Hoskins will continue to be regularly on the gate at the beginning and end of each day and will always be glad to meet and listen to parents.

I am really looking forward to the Christmas celebrations over the last few days and wish you all a joyous and peaceful Christmastide.

With very best wishes, Jo Osborne, Acting Head of School.



### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

## **Tuesday 18th December**

- KS1 Nativity 2pm in school
  Wednesday 19th December
- KS1 Nativity 2pm in school
- KS2 Carol Service in school 6pm

# Thursday 20th December—END OF TERM

 Christmas jumper day and finish early at 2pm (No After School club today)

# **Monday 7th January**

Inset day (school closed for staff training)

#### Tuesday 8th January

Spring term begins



The Friends of St Uny Academy are delighted to tell you that we raised a staggering £1713.87 at

the Christmas Fayre. We would like to thank everyone again for all of your help and support in raising so much, which will go towards the new outdoor classroom next year.

Also, we have received some beautiful "Make a Wish for 2019" entries this week. Entries are open until Monday 17th.

If anyone has any event ideas or fundraising suggestions for 2019 we would love to hear from you.

From all the team at The Friends Of St Uny Academy

# Attendance—our target for overall attendance is 96%

92.9%
95.3%
99.1%
97.3%
92.8%
100%
94.6%
94.8%
92.6%
95.3%



#### **Attendance**

It is good to see this improving. Thank you for your support. There will be 100% attendance certificates and pencils given out on the last day and stickers for all those with attendance of 98% or more. Schools have very clear legal and formal duties regarding the monitoring of attendance. It is important that we recognise and reward good attendance as well as keep parents informed about those children whose attendance is below 90%. We do understand that this can be for unavoidable reasons but need to keep raising it in case there is anything we can do to support you or mitigate the lost learning time.



### **Christmas lunch**

The children enjoyed a fantastic christmas lunch on Wednesday made by Chef Andrew and the team. The crowns and crackers were a great success!