

13 December 2019

Dear Parents

We come to the end of another very busy term and I sit and wonder at the benefits our three new aspects have brought the children in terms of learning experience and enjoyment.

Firstly, the Nature Garden continues to provide a different and varied outdoor experience for those children who yearn for those opportunities. Even on the worst wintery day when the heavens have opened and the winds are blowing we've been down to collect eggs, give the chickens a hug and go fish watching. The gazebo, donated by Tesco One Stop, is completed thanks to some weekend work by the ever faithful Mr Clark, and now the garden is even more winter worthy of our presence. Secondly the STEAM Room has been graced by all, with children working on art, technological and engineering projects, building model houses of the great Fire of London (year 2), Bronze Age replica boats out of clay (Year 6) making Emoji cushions (Year 5), painting self-portraits (Year 4), making Roman mosaics (Year 3) and animations (Year 1), to mention but a few. For the first time, our Year 2s won a National ISA Art competition with their Lowry Mural, the best in the country, I am able to boast. Lastly, the newly equipped Computer Room with a Surface Go for every child promises to stretch and challenge our children in this aspect of the curriculum to their maximum potential and way beyond mine.

This term saw yet another bumper band of children who have qualified for a grammar school place and now we eagerly await the many potential scholarships in the new year. Throughout the year, our children consistently exceed and meet National averages in numeracy and literacy which is a true reflection of the high standards our teaching team continue to achieve. I was so proud of our Maths team that won the Mathletics competition at Sir Roger Manwoods for the first time ever. I quote a parent earlier this term, who had been to look at a myriad of secondary schools for his Year 6 child, "If only St Faith's would go to Year 8, there isn't a school we have visited that can boast the exemplary behaviour and work ethic which is evident at our school".

Sport continues to flourish and our boys and girls maintain a tenacity and determination to win and compete, often punching above their weight against larger schools, and some who play sport every day. I've stood on the touch line with many equally proud parents and delighted in displays of sportsmanship, teamwork and camaraderie. Both boys and girls are topping their local leagues at the moment and I am hopeful that they will maintain our 'top of the league' status of last year.

Music romps from strength to strength with our choir 'biting at the bit' to repeat another magnificent performance at the Carol Concert with the orchestras combining to impress all who have the privilege of hearing them. The children continue to gain merits and distinctions in the ABRSM exams and we were thrilled to have our second Grade 5 instrumental Merit but this time from a mere Year 4 flutist, an outstanding feat for one so young. There is a possibility that she might even achieve Grade 8 by the end of Year 6!

Over the holidays there is some considerable work to be done, refurbishing the office block and staff toilets and I look forward to new carpet throughout this area on our return.

Finally, after two weeks of Christmas carols, Nativity Plays, Christmas lunches and parties, I wish you all a very safe and happy holiday. Those that are headed off to the ski slopes be careful and respect the mountain, and those that are off to seek the sun, make sure you protect yourselves from the damaging rays, and those of you like me who are staying at home, make sure you relax and enjoy the good old Christmas spirit that I so missed and yearned for during my years in New Zealand.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L B R Groves', written in a cursive style.

Lawrence B R Groves
Headmaster