



St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual Primary School

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Thursday 19th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the entire team at St Jérôme Church of England Bilingual School for your support in making our second year such an enormous success.

It has been a great pleasure for our team to continue to get to know you and your children and to see them making so much progress in their learning. We are very proud of the children's excellent behaviour, their positive attitudes to learning and the enthusiasm they have shown to speak and communicate in French. Children at St Jérôme School have again outperformed local and national averages for achievement at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage and in Year 1 and have also achieved beyond our expectations in French. This is a real achievement and reflects the combined commitment and dedication of our staff team and the unfailing support of our families and Governing Body.

I thought it would be good to share with you some of the comments that visitors to our school have made this year:

'Leaders have a really good knowledge of the pupils; leaders are passionate to implement the bilingual curriculum; the vision of the school is communicated well; the reputation of the school attracts many visitors to observe practice. Regular progress meetings ensure each and every pupil is achieving well. The curriculum is exciting: the innovative bilingual nature has meant the school becoming a national beacon of excellent practice.'

Senior Education Advisor from the Department for Education

'The school has a warm and welcoming school team and there was a real buzz around and about the setting. Children are polite and showed respect to each other and adults. Ethos in the school was extremely positive between the staff team and expectations for positive behaviour were high. Arrival of children into the dining hall was remarkable. The children were calm and considerate to one another. The quality of respect to one another was exemplary. During my visit I met children who were thoughtful and caring and who were already learning to become active citizens both in school and in the wider community. When talking to children they were keen to tell me they were in a Christian school where;

"Everybody understands different faiths."

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“You have to speak French lots and lots.”

“If you need help you just ask a teacher.”

The learning environments seen during my visit were spacious and very well equipped. Teachers used iPad and Apple Macs linked to their new interactive whiteboards to deliver learning material. Progress was very evident in the children’s books that were seen. The writing progress books with samples of children’s work over time were particularly impressive.’

Primary School Advisor, London Diocesan Board for Schools

‘Following my visit last week, I once again congratulate you on your investment and that of the entire St Jérôme educational team in favour of teaching French and bilingualism in the United Kingdom. What you are achieving is truly outstanding and we are delighted to wholeheartedly support you.’

French Government Language Attaché, Institut Français, London.

Alongside our academic performance, I have been delighted to see how the school community has worked together raising funds for important causes and coming together in the wonderful events led by our PTFA. I would like to extend an enormous thank you to all those who have tirelessly worked to make the events this year such a success. We are extremely grateful for the funding raised to benefit the children at St. Jérôme School.

We are extremely fortunate to have continued with our strong partnership with Revd. Barry Hingston and the community at St. John the Baptist, Greenhill. Our worship this year has been significantly enhanced by the opportunities the children have had throughout the year to visit the Church. Barry, Marj and the team at St. John’s have made us extremely welcome and we are very grateful for their presence in the school and the pastoral care they have offered to staff, children and families throughout the year. It has also been a great joy to meet Revd. Ajay More, recently appointed Associate Vicar, and we look forward to getting to know him better next year.

The Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team of St. Jérôme School have very much valued the feedback we have received from parents during the year and we are grateful to all those who have spoken with us or offered suggestions via our suggestion box. Your positive feedback and thanks is a source of great encouragement to the staff team and your ideas of how we can further improve is essential to ensuring our school continues to grow and flourish. Reflecting on the last year, we would very much welcome your comments and feedback and I now encourage you to take part in our end of year survey. We are required to demonstrate to our funding bodies and regulators the effectiveness of the school in meeting the needs of children and families and your feedback also

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helps us to prioritize our development plans for the future. The survey is anonymous and is completed online by following this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/stjparents18>

Over the last couple of weeks, it has been a delight to welcome our new children and families who will be joining our Reception classes in September. I know you will join the staff team in extending the warmest of welcomes to them and will support them in settling into life at St. Jérôme School.

I would like to extend particular thanks to all members of our community for your understanding, love and care this term during Mrs. Walton's bereavement absence. Your positive wishes and prayers have been a source of encouragement and strength for Mrs. Walton and the entire team.

I would like to wish all of our families a safe and relaxing summer break and I look forward to all the excitement and opportunities of the academic year 2018-19.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Norris', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

The Revd. Daniel Norris
Executive Headteacher