



St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Revd. Daniel Norris MBA NPQH
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19th July 2019



Dear Parents and Carers

I write to you after the publication of yet another set of excellent academic results by our pupils. As in previous years, the school continues to outperform local and national averages in all subject areas and our first Key Stage 1 results are particularly encouraging. Although Ofsted indicated concern that we have deliberately chosen to teach mathematics in both English and French, I note with interest that KS1 Mathematics was an area the school's students particularly excelled compared to other schools. This notwithstanding, the school is committed to improving from this strong base and has formulated a thorough strategic response to all areas identified as requiring improvement in the Ofsted report, much of which has been detailed in this week's Quill newsletter.

Our French curriculum continues to go from strength to strength with many bilingual schools we once looked to as inspiration before we opened our school now considering us as the example to follow. We received a glowing response from French Government when they visited and oversaw some of our Year 2 pupils taking part in the DELF examination (our pupils took the examination many years before their peers at other schools) with our children being complemented as having some of the most natural and authentic accents they have experienced in a British school.

From the very beginning, our vision has been to go above and beyond that required by the national curriculum; achieving excellent academic results are part of this journey but not the destination - our aim is to prepare our children for a lifelong love of learning, encourage inquisitiveness about the world around them, equip them with an excellent grasp of multiple languages and instil in them an awareness of Christian values which are often countercultural but are desperately needed in healing our currently divided society.

I would like to end by congratulating all the members of staff for everything they have been able to achieve this past year and thank them for their selfless dedication, often outside of school hours, to ensure all children can and do achieve their full potential. I would like to thank in particular those staff who will be leaving us this year for helping our school start on such a strong footing, and to also offer a warm welcome to the new staff members who will be joining our school in September.

May I also extend my gratitude to the members of the governing body who have given countless hours to our school through the year at monthly governor meetings, sub-committee meetings, visits to the school, sitting on admissions and interview panels, and lending their legal, financial and educational expertise to a variety of different matters, and all on a volunteer basis. Parents can learn more about who the governors are and how they support the school on the school website www.stjeromebilingual.org/our-community/governors.

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Finally I would like to thank the many parent volunteers who have helped the school throughout the year including supporting reading with children, categorising our extensive library of French books, translating texts and hosting French students in their homes, and also our PTFA for the huge amount of time and effort they have dedicated to raising money to support the school's work and arranging a variety of events at the school that have helped to create a wonderful parent community. Many of the things the school has achieved would not have been possible without the support of volunteers.

I wish you all a very pleasant summer holiday and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Ian Fernandes

Chair of Governors
St Jerome Church of England Bilingual Primary School

*My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:
So was it when my life began;
So is it now I am a man;
So be it when I shall grow old,
Or let me die!
The Child is father of the Man;
And I could wish my days to be
Bound each to each by natural piety.*

*William Wordsworth
English poet*