



Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of a very busy first term at Our Lady and St John, could I take the opportunity to thank you for your support over the term. There have been many highlights including educational trips in over seven different subject areas, an excellent Carol concert at St Albans which had the highest attendance of parents to date, increased participation in our varied extra-curricular programme and a great deal of charitable fundraising activities, often initiated by the students themselves. We are excited that our new 3G pitch is completed and will be officially opened next term. We have really been living our mission statement of developing all the gifts and talents of our students.

You will be aware that increasing the attendance of our students is a major priority. We all know that there is a direct link between attendance and achievement as absent students cannot learn or make progress. We have made excellent progress this term with much higher attendance, currently 2.5% higher than the same point last year. This tells me that the students want to be in school and are happy here. I know that parents also play a big part in this by ensuring that students attend every day, do not take holidays in term time and arrange medical appointments so that they do not miss their AM and PM mark. Thank you for all you are doing and please keep it up. Could I remind you that the first day of term is a normal teaching day? We do not ease the students in gently – we start with important learning right from the start. Please ensure that your child is on time when school reopens on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018**.

I mentioned at the beginning of term that communicating better with parents is a major priority for us this year. Students who make the most progress across the country have one feature in common: the engagement of their parents. With this in mind, we have launched a school app which is available for you to download from either the App Store or Google Play store. You will need to have versions of IOS 8 & Android 4.2 or later and you will need to use the mobile number/email address which is priority 1 on the school system. I have included a flyer which outlines how to download the app and what you can expect from it. Could I encourage you to try it and feedback so we can develop and improve it? Should you have any difficulties accessing it, please let Mr Kelly know at school and he will assist.

The students have continued to impress me this year with their attitude, good behaviour and smart uniform. Thank you for your support in sending them in to us like this. They are a credit to you. Could I ask that you ensure they all start the New Year with a full school uniform? All students need to have the correct school shoes on the first day back or will be issued with a school pair. Any students who have lost their tie will need to purchase a new one from Grays, Whittakers or the school office.

Finally, could I wish you and your family a happy and peaceful Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Tite  
Headteacher





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