



St Albert the Great Catholic Primary School

Acorn Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP3 8DW

Tel: 01442 264835 e-mail: admin@albertthegreat.herts.sch.uk

www.albertthegreat.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs K Little



26th April, 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new term – although the warmer weather seems to be reluctant to arrive, so I think the children will be in their winter uniforms for a bit longer than expected.

A huge thank you to all of the families who took part in our Easter homework ‘challenge’ and brought in their Easter Gardens. There is a very impressive range of gardens and they are on display around the school so that everyone can see and enjoy them. It is so lovely to see how you have captured the Easter Story through the use of grass, plants, stones, wood and other natural materials – in particular the representations of the tomb and the hope provided through the resurrection of Jesus. There are also examples of Easter gardens that capture the ‘seasonal’ aspect of Easter and these are lovely too. Thank you again for spending time to create these gardens. I have asked Fr Derek to pop in to make sure he sees them and then we will be able to send them home. We have taken photographs and Mrs Small has uploaded them to our website – you will see them on the home page. We will also post them to the ‘Catholic Life’ section of our website under the ‘Our School’ tab. If you would like to see the gardens, please pop in to the front entrance as many of them are on display in the entrance hall.

I am delighted to be able to inform you that I received the final report this morning from our Ofsted Section 8 Inspection and we are a ‘Good’ school. A Section 8 inspection takes place where a school was previously judged to be good and is a 1 day, very intense inspection. The school usually receives a telephone call during the lunch break – we had our phone call on Monday 13th March at about 12:20 and then the inspector arrived for a 1 day visit the next morning at 7:30. During the day, the inspector audited our safeguarding procedures and statutory documentation, observed the quality of teaching, learning and assessment through a learning walk with me that also included the Forest School provision, met with pupils to interview them, listened to pupils from a range of ages and abilities read, met with myself and with the members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to scrutinise the progress in all of the books of the Pupil Premium children, held discussions with governors and also met with our School Improvement Partner from the Local Authority. She also took account of the responses to the staff and parent questionnaires including Parent View and the free text responses. The inspector looked at the areas for development from the last inspection and also our current achievement data. From there, she developed what is referred to as ‘lines of enquiry’ and the report identifies her findings linked to these. I am sure you will appreciate how exhausting the whole inspection process can be and I was so proud of how our SLT and all staff and children worked together to ensure we were able to demonstrate that we are indeed a ‘Good’ school. The report does not follow the same format as a Section 5 (2 day) inspection as it takes the form of a letter addressed to the Headteacher.

In the first section, I am so pleased that our inspector recognised the significant challenges we have had in recent years and the actions that have been taken to make sure we provide



‘The more I learn about the world in which I live, the closer I grow to God.’



a good quality of education for our children. It is particularly pleasing to see specific mention of our Forest School and our 'Learning Powers' in relation to how children learn within our culture of high expectations, our inclusive ethos and our creative curriculum. Our focus on pupil progress is already having a positive impact but as a fairly recent focus, needs more time to fully embed to ensure that all groups of pupils make good progress.

The next section of the report takes the form of 2 paragraphs that link specifically to safeguarding – for example our children reported they feel very safe and that incidents of bullying are rare. The rest of the report takes the form of bullet points that identify the key findings linked to the lines of enquiry. The inspectors' findings mirrored our own self-evaluation and she acknowledged the improvements and successes that have taken place as well as areas for continuing development.

Overall, the report is very positive and I am delighted that the hard work and determination of all the staff and the pupils is reflected in the inspection report. The Senior Leadership Team have already put together an improvement plan to address the next steps identified which include making sure our Pupil Premium statement on our school website complies with the very latest guidance, ensure all staff know the starting points for all of the children in their classes and ensure that the parents understand the fully inclusive nature of our school. Over the next few months I will be including information in my newsletters and other communication to parents to ensure they are aware of the rigorous systems and procedures we have in place to support our most vulnerable children and what makes our school a very inclusive school.

The report is attached to this letter and will be uploaded to our school website tomorrow morning. It will also be published on the Ofsted website within 5 working days – so should be there by next Thursday.

Finally, our theme of the week this week has been 'hope' to link with the messages from our Gospel readings. Next week's theme will be 'responsibility'. Award winners for this week will be announced during the Year 1 Sharing Assembly this Friday and the rest will appear in the May newsletter, which will be sent out next week, and other letters/notices throughout the next month.

Please also note that the school will be closed on Monday for the Bank Holiday – enjoy the long weekend and forecasted better weather.

Kind regards,

Mrs K Little
Headteacher



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