



**Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School**

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**Headteacher: Mr T Claxton**

4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy new year. I hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break and that you were able to spend time with family and friends and share in the joy of the arrival of Jesus.

This week marks one full year since I joined Sacred Heart and I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to you all for making it such an enjoyable year. This school truly is a very special place and I am privileged to be able to lead such a wonderful community. I know that 2024 will see us continue to grow and thrive as we work towards our strategic aims.

I would like to take this opportunity to share a few reminders about our expectations at school. All children should be in full school uniform, including on PE days where children should wear their assigned house t-shirt and plain bottoms and jumper, if needed. Ties are available for purchase from the school office or through Wisepay. May I also remind parents that good attendance is the number one thing that you can do to support your child's education, this includes being in school on time at 8:45am.

I am pleased to make you aware of a new addition that we have joining us in school from this term. There is much research on the impact that animals have on pupil's well-being and behaviour. With this in mind, I'm pleased to inform you that Mrs Valentine's new dog, Guinness, will be serving as a school dog to support children with their social, emotional and mental health as well as acting as a comfort for those children that need it. A risk assessment for this is in place and he is currently going through extensive puppy training which will be followed up by therapy dog training. He will be based in Mrs Valentine's office, but all children, should they wish, will have the opportunity to meet him once he is settled in school over the coming weeks (I've attached a picture below!).

Finally, over the Christmas break, Nathan Murdoch (Street Arts Hire), completed some more artwork in school, this time focussing on developing the Catholic environment around school. I have attached some photos for you.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed 2024!

Tom



**TeachFirst**  
Partner School



**Together we live and learn; we play and pray**

