



# St Adrian's Catholic Primary School



Watling View, St Albans. AL1 2PB

Headteacher: Mrs Aideen Porter

Deputy Head: Mr Alex Sallis

Tel: 01727852687

Website: [www.stadrians.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stadrians.herts.sch.uk)

Email@ [admin@stadrians.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stadrians.herts.sch.uk)

*"To learn, to love, to live as a community of God with Christ as our teacher."*

Tuesday 19th July 2022

To the Community of St Adrian's,

I honestly cannot believe that we are here at the end of the term. It genuinely feels like yesterday that I started here, but my goodness, so much has happened. We have had countless dress up days, workshops, trips, assemblies, Masses, end of year productions and so much more!

Since January, I have had nothing but support and encouragement from the parent body. I have been bowled over by your supportive gestures, kind words and general 'Can do!' attitude that makes this community work!

It has to be said also, I have never met a staff quite like it. You are the most hardworking and dedicated team that I have had the pleasure of working with. Honestly, you go above and beyond - you are a team of absolute superstars! I have learnt so much from you and you have helped me really get to know how St Adrian's ticks and for that, I am forever grateful.

I will be sad to say goodbye to the staff that are leaving, including Mrs Kihara, who just yesterday, secured a job closer to home in St John Fisher. Congratulations Mrs Kihara and thank you for your hard work. I know that all the leavers will continue to be AMAZING and make an impact in their new schools too. It is only fair that they get to share their passion and expertise elsewhere and enrich the lives of so many other children.

To Mrs Palmer, you have done an incredible job in Early Years. The children have grown and thrived. Thanks to Mrs Mc Mahon who also worked so hard in Reception this year. Much appreciation has to be said for Mrs Brunt who has worked across the school for many years and used her training on wellbeing to great effect. Finally Mr Sallis, you have been a rock! I wouldn't have gotten through this year without you. You will be an incredible Headteacher - of that, I have no doubt.

I am very pleased to say that, although we are losing some, we are gaining others. We will have 3 new support staff and 2 new permanent office staff come September. We welcome Mrs Sophie Parrett, Miss Emily Parkes and Mrs Katerina Mc Allister to join our team of teaching assistants and also Mrs Rachel Mc Namara and Mrs Caroline Bigham to join our office team. I have even recruited a sports apprentice, Miss Georgia Cartwright, who plays for the Saracens ladies rugby team and is keen to run a club here after school - more information to follow.



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To the staff that remain, you have been fantastic and I really look forward to working with you in the next academic year. You can tell that you do everything for the kids and they are at the forefront of your mind - so thank you!

A special mention has to be said for Mrs Felicity Salem, our School Business Manager, who has been pivotal in getting the funding and also working incredibly hard with Mr Bedford in regards to the roofing and flooring in the school, as well as many other projects. She has kept our school office going through so many challenging times. All the great changes she has achieved have already made a huge impact in the school and there are many more improvements to come. All the staff in the office are amazing and I am truly grateful for the work you all do - Felicity, Jilly and Caroline - You are invaluable!

The school will continue to be a hub of activity over the holidays with works I have planned, thanks to all your very much welcomed contributions to our Governors' Building Fund. This will help with the upkeep of the building itself. We are gradually hauling ourselves out of the 1960s and into the 21st Century. We will have brand new flooring in Reception class, as well as decoration and also new carpets in Year 5 and 6. We will continue to complete work in all classes eventually through flooring and decorating projects. As well as this, the hall will be painted and we will have a brand new 86" screen donated to the assembly hall. None of these projects could happen without all of your help! Thank you also to our great site manager, Paul Lowther, who will be overseeing the projects and painting rooms too. He has worked like a trooper over all of the holidays since he started here.

When the children come back in September, and everything looks shiny and new - that doesn't happen by magic! Thank you to Lindsey Hayes and Greg Sallis who do just about everything and also make our school SPARKLE! You work tirelessly to make our school lovely and clean and a great place to work in- so thank you.

To the kitchen staff - Sophie and all her crew who make sure your kids are well looked after and nicely fed, for that we are grateful.

It goes without saying that I thank all of the Governing Body for their support in helping me lead this great school. I appreciate all the time and effort that you volunteer for the many meetings that we have and as a school, we are forever grateful.

To the PTA - Mrs Smith and Mrs Pickering and everyone who has contributed to PTA events this year. Thank you so very much. You have contributed so much to the library and many other projects for the school. Keep it up - parents - we are always looking for any new willing volunteers!



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Don't worry, although it seems like it - I haven't forgotten about our library!! Things take time. We have Hertfordshire Children's Library Service coming to audit our existing books over the summer and we can then use the money you've raised to buy the furniture and pay for the books.

To all of our parent volunteers, helpers and readers. The hours you give of your free time is very much appreciated. Keep supporting and helping our children, we really value it.

To say I am proud of this great school, would truly be an understatement. I hope that we will continue to strive and achieve. I know together that we can do a great many things to make this school the best possible place for your children to grow and thrive. We will build upon the great foundations that have already been laid and make this school AMAZING! I have no doubt about that and I relish the opportunity to make this happen in September and onwards.

Last, but by absolutely no means least, I need to say thank you to the children.

You are truly MAGNIFICENT! You are the reason I get up in the morning. I want to make your primary school years the best years of your life! I have loved getting to know each and every one of you. I know all your names now through chats at lunches and breaks and coming into your class to see all your great work. You are so polite, funny, silly, witty and charming! You make me laugh regularly and that's what makes this job so fulfilling. Keep being YOU!

However, on a serious note, as we break up for summer, I need to say something. Children, as a mummy myself, I need to ask you a favour.... please don't drive your parents too crazy. Listen to what they say and do as you are asked the 1st time round - that helps! Tidy up after yourself and don't give them any attitude! I know you will have a great time but please be kind to your parents, they deserve a holiday too. (They are not your servants!)

Finally, I wish all the Year 6 and their families a wonderful end of year celebration and I wish everyone in the St Adrian's Community a very blessed, happy and healthy summer holiday.

God Bless.

Mrs Porter and all the staff of St Adrian's Catholic Primary School.