

# SCHOOL REPORT - October 2020

St. Margaret's Primary welcomed back all of its pupils and their families on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. Everyone was happy to be back in school and to begin a new academic year and although adjusting to the new "normal" has sometimes been a challenge, the children and staff have been wonderful at adapting to the changes.

It was fantastic to see the confident, excited faces of all the children returning even those returning after an extended period of time off due to lockdown measures and the phased return to school.

We have seen changes to classroom layouts, playtimes, lunchtimes and our routines to ensure we can all be COVID 19 safe and prevent the spread of the virus. Mr Ryan has introduced the children to a new way of collective worship by using Zoom. We have also had our very first Zoom celebration assembly in which children who have been trying their best in maths, English and being a good role model in their class are given a certificate to celebrate their efforts.



St. Margaret's Primary would like to extend a warm welcome to 16 new Reception children in Russet class who have been absolutely fantastic in their phased transition. They were not able to come into school and meet Miss O'Connor or Miss France before the summer and, as you can imagine, this was a very anxious and scary time for the children and staff. However, they have settled in beautifully after having 2 days of staying until midday, a week of staying until 1pm and a week of being full time. There have been very few tears and the children have adapted well to having to leave parents at the door, being independent and walking into class all by themselves. We are very impressed and proud of the resilience and confidence they have shown.

One of the children commented, "This school is much better than my preschool. It doesn't have these toys." (Action figures)

While another said, "I love it here because it has a tree house I can climb."



We have lots of tired but happy children who have been exploring their new environment, making friends with their peers; especially the Year 1's in Russet class, who are being very respectful, mature and good role models.

The children have been able to use the inside and outside areas of their classroom. They have met their new class mascot Rainbow Bear, enjoyed lots of creative work, explored outside and used the mud kitchen to create lots of delicacies! As well as enjoying small world and the bikes. They cannot wait to use the new sandpit built for us in the summer by Mr Collins.



We are looking forward to our next academic year at St. Margaret's, growing and working together with our children, families and the wider community after a very positive start to the year.