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Dear parents and carers,

Firstly - welcome back to all at St Joseph's from all of the staff - I hope you enjoyed a lovely summer with your children. I am delighted to be able to write this letter as the Interim Head of School at St. Joseph's Pontefract. I feel extremely honoured and privileged to have been chosen to continue to build upon the success the school has already achieved.

It has been so wonderful to see the children come into their new classrooms, and start the school year so happy and positive. Thank you for ensuring that they look so smart in their uniforms – complete with black shoes! As ever at the start of the new school year, there are changes for all of us. Here are a few of the headlines (and I will keep you posted further as we strive to ensure our children have a happy and inspiring time at school).

There is a lot going on as usual at St Josephs!

Curriculum Development

As part of our continued commitment to extending our provision of a broad and balanced curriculum, we have a number of exciting curriculum enhancements for our children to enjoy this year.

We are delighted to welcome the Diocese of Leeds Keyboard Studies programme, who will be working with both Year 5 and 6. In addition to this the Diocese of Leeds School Singing Programme, will be back in school to work on the angelic singing of Years 4 and 5. Year 3 will continue to dazzle with their percussive skills under the expert tutelage of Mr Wilkinson from the Wakefield Music Service.

We have a variety of coaches coming into school to work with our children for their PE sessions. Staff will also be using the new 'Real PE' resources to teach their PE sessions throughout the year. This half term year 5 and 6 children will experience yoga sessions on a Tuesday afternoon with Faye Bolton. This will move to year 3 and 4 next half term and then year 1 and 2 in the spring so all children get to enjoy this experience throughout the year. In addition to this, Year 1 and 2 will experience tennis sessions provided by Ackworth Schools on a Wednesday afternoon. Ackworth Schools will continue with year 5 and 6 in Autumn 2 to provide table tennis sessions.



Elite Coaches will come into school on a Thursday to work with year 3, 4 and 5 for Multi Skills sessions. This will continue in Autumn 2 on a Wednesday with year 1 and 2. As well as supporting PE sessions Elite coaches will also work with 10 year 6 children at lunchtimes to support them to become 'sports ambassadors.' These 10 children will take part in a 12 week training program at lunchtime on Thursdays and will be trained by Elite to deliver play sessions to their peers on other days in the week. These children will receive a free Elite Hoody for taking part in the training. Year 6 children will have swimming sessions at the new Pontefract pool on Thursday mornings and Year 4 children will have squash sessions on Thursday morning at Pontefract Squash Club. Premier Education will be providing the majority of our after school clubs this year. This half term we will be offering a football club to year 1 and 2 on Mondays, a football club to year 3 and 4 on Tuesdays and a Netball club to year 5 and 6 on Wednesdays. Life Style Martial Arts will also continue to offer a Kick Boxing Club to year 5 and 6 on Thursdays this academic year.

Staffing

There are some new members of staff as you are probably aware. We are delighted to welcome Miss Peat as our Y4 teacher for this academic year. We also have Miss Smith who is working to support the children in Y3. They have been working closely with the whole staff team over the holidays to ensure that we are up and ready to go from the very start of the term.

You can be assured that as Head of School, I will strive to help ensure that we deliver the best education for your child/children whilst they are members of our school family.

For now, thank you as always, for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Sandbach.