

2nd November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of all three schools in the St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust. I hope that your child or children have settled well into their new class during the first half term and are enjoying their learning experience in West Didsbury CE Primary School, Didsbury CE Primary School or St Wilfrid's CE Primary School.

We have as a Trust been focusing on the quality of our curriculum. Evaluating how well we equip your child/children for the future with the knowledge and skills they are learning at school within our curriculum. We aim to inspire and enthuse your children to become active learners.

As a Trust we have also set up a mental health and wellbeing group across all three schools to share ideas and strategies to support the emotional wellbeing and development of all children in our Trust Schools, because we firmly believe that children learn best when they are happy and enjoying school. This new initiative focuses on how well we live out our vision of Belonging, Believing and Becoming and looks at the resources we use for our general personal, social health and emotional curriculum but also at specific strategies that we have found useful for children facing emotional difficulties and links with outside agencies who have provided good support in these matters.

These sessions will also consider the effectiveness of the 'ethos' groups we have set up in each school, where the children input ideas and actions to further support our Belonging, Believing and Becoming vision.

Keep an eye out during December for the Together magazine, to which all our Trust schools have contributed. The Together magazine will be shared with all our school and church communities but also distributed to many houses in the Didsbury and Northenden areas.

Finally, I said that I would keep you informed about the due diligence process that our Directors were carrying out with regard to the approach from St Hilda's CE in Trafford to join our Trust. After numerous visits to the school and a comprehensive due diligence procedure which dealt with human resources, finances, I.T, premises, curriculum, governance and safeguarding, our Directors formally declined the approach at their last meeting just before half term. This means that our Trust will remain with the current three schools at present and St Hilda's CE will remain as a Trafford and Manchester Diocese voluntary aided school.

Should you have any questions about our Trust please feel free to make an appointment to see me at one of our schools.

Yours sincerely

Matt Whitehead