



Headteacher
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Dear Parents,

6th January 2023

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a very Happy New Year!

2023 looks set to be another busy year full of opportunity, promise and importantly hope. Christ himself was the new hope 2000 years ago and remains so today.

The precious gifts that the Wise Men travelled so far to bring the newborn King were the focus of our Epiphany service in school today. Fr Roshy reminded us that we too have many gifts that we can lay before God this year. It is perhaps good to reflect on the Catholic virtues that define excellence of character - **faith, hope, love, justice, solidarity, temperance, courage and practical wisdom**, as gifts that we can offer in everyday life. The world we live in certainly needs an abundance of all of them at this time and we can play our part.

Children across the school spent time reflecting on the passing of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI this week. Many of us in school recall his visit to the UK in 2010 where he held a special assembly for 3500 children, at St Mary's University, Twickenham. In his address he encouraged young people to think big by saying: "*When I invite you to become saints, I am asking you not to be content with second best. I am asking you not to pursue one limited goal and ignore all the others.*"

We pray for the repose of his eternal soul, and we continue to pray for his successor, Pope Francis. This is a time of sadness but also of thanksgiving and gratitude for the gifts given to the Church through his ministry.

Finally, whilst on the subject of gifts. May I take this opportunity on behalf of the staff to say a huge thankyou for the many generous Christmas gifts received at the end of term. It is so good to know that all are appreciated for their incredible efforts and service to the school. The partnerships of trust formed between parents and the school are as strong as ever and will undoubtedly lead to high levels of success going forward.

We look forward with huge ambition to all that lies ahead.....

Mr Dachtler
Headteacher

"Love proves itself by deeds so how am I to show my love?" St Thérèse of Lisieux

