20 May 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As you know Mr Murray was successful in the recruitment for the Principal position at St. Mary’s Primary School Newcastle and takes up this post on 12th June; we wish Mr Murray the very best of luck and thank him for the contribution he has made to St. Joseph’s.

The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) has suspended the recruitment process due to Covid-19; and until this process can be recommenced, I can advise that **Mr Barry McMahon** will take up the post of Acting Principal from 12th June.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr McMahon and wish him well in leading St. Joseph’s and working closely with the Senior Leadership Team at the school.

Covid-19 has rocked our world in many ways and I would like say an enormous thank you to all parents and guardians who have supported home schooling since the 23rd March. I know this has been extremely challenging and though it’s no substitute for your children being at school; your help and support is greatly appreciated. Hopefully you will have found the educational support packs and online digital resources that the team at St. Joseph’s have provided to be of help. We are truly getting the opportunity to be ‘Digital’ leaders.

I would like to pay tribute to Mr Murray, the Senior Leadership Team and all of the teaching staff, classroom assistants and support staff who have developed new ways of teaching and supporting children, parents and guardians through these times.

We will prepare to reopen the school in late August with a key priority to keep both children and staff safe; and how best we can deliver teaching, learning and all the other facets of what school life has to offer at St. Joseph’s.

Yours sincerely,



Eamonn Broderick

Chair of Governors