



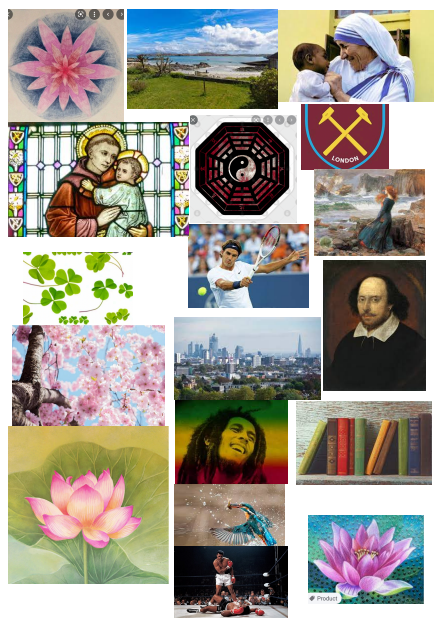
**Dear parents: ....** Neat little number to round off all my Newsletters 1234. That works out at over 45 per year because I spent a year running St.Monica's. When I started they were all in black and white and images were slowly and painfully copied and pasted from achingly slow floppy drives. John Major was Prime Minister and Bill Clinton's first year in office. Google was 5 years away, Facebook 10 and Twitter 12. iPhones and Mac books came 14 years after I started. We did however get the first ever blue iMacs installed in this school and the second ever Interactive whiteboard in a primary school. Now every school has them. My most memorable Newsletter was on the 14th March 1996 the day after the Dunblane massacre. I managed to get an image of a thistle into a blank page and wrote RIP Little Flowers of Scotland. My own first daughter was the same age as most of those children killed. Doing whole school assemblies after this and 9/11 and London bombings and Soham and explaining the world to young children has been a challenge over the years but one I loved in so many ways.

I have just done my last ever assembly outdoors and that too was emotional. Thanks for your gifts, cards and lovely words this week. Most of the time Newsletters could be fun and joyful and when on an inspection in an infant school in Brent I saw the head invite parents into the classroom afterwards I thought 'That is a brilliant idea'. The very next week I started inviting parents into the classroom to see their children's work and sit at their desks. Helped us get Outstanding in November 2012 as it is such a brilliant way to involve parents.

Last few years since 16th March 2020 until yesterday December 15th 2021 have been challenging. Trying to keep schools running and everyone calm and safe and learning and fed has been interesting. You the parents have been amazing and I never give false praise. Sometimes the odd kind word kept me going through the dark hours.

Yesterday was no exception and sadly only a few could attend my leavers Mass in the church but it was still very unique and special to me. I have put my retirement speech on the website as it sums up for me the last 40 years of my life. Blimey is it really 40 years ... ? Thanks for all the kind words about the Newsletters. I started out writing these in a different era and if I misspelt a pronoun in the last two years "If we shadows have offended / Think but this and all is mended" - Shakespeare. Still the greatest writer ever lived and not yet cancelled. It's been an amazing and so rewarding 28 years as head of this school. I've been offered so much work for both Ofsted and the Diocese of Westminster in 2022 that it is an honour to undertake so will carry on in education part-time and will be playing lots of tennis with my leavers present !!

Please give all your support, kindness and prayers to Ms Aoife O'Grady as acting head and Ms Sarah Woodhouse as acting deputy in 2022. Running a school is challenging in normal times but in these times even more so. Please help them in every way as best you can. Finally a puzzle and a long time secret revealed below. When I was thinking of a stained glass window the genius Annahita, asked me to put some images together of things I have loved. See how many you can get ... including the clue to the name of my own two year old daughter. Four letters and an island pictured in Scotland? No prizes for Federer or West Ham. Final stain glass windows are stunning pieces of work. Cut Glass Studios N15. ... So anyway Newsletter 1234 over and out and thank you all once again.



**Pics of the week...** Some things I have loved on the left ... my last ever assembly after over a thousand or more and scenes from the Good Book this morning



**and finally .....** thanks to all the Arsenal fans at the gate this morning for sparing me your jubilation after last night !!..... one of my ambitions on becoming head was to try and build community and unite people. In particular I wanted father's to play an equal role in raising their children. It's no secret that while head here I raised my own elder daughter on my own for the last 28 years ... she's only just moved out !! ... she also attended here for a few years which I still treasure the memories of. So I thought how can I get more dad's involved so from Day 1 Newsletter 1 and finally .... football .. sports ... etc ..... In those days freedom of speech existed so I could write what I liked within reason .... made sure everyone waited for Friday's Newsletter. Then after 1996 and the Euros mums and grans fell in love with football and others sports as well so I moved on to books, tennis, travel, Masterchef (final tonight)!! and movies etc ... "these our revels now are ended ... we are such stuff as dreams are made on and our little life is but rounded with a sleep." Shakespeare The Tempest ..... **and finally .....**