

Good morning, Father, and good morning to you all.

It is a true honour to stand before you today as the new Headteacher of St. Patrick's. Over the past few weeks, as I've prepared to take on this role, I have felt a deep sense of privilege, excitement, and warmth—not only from the staff and children, but from Father Albert and the parishioners I have already met.

We all know that St. Patrick's has navigated a difficult period in recent times. There have been challenges, and I want to acknowledge those openly. But today, I stand here to promise you that we are stepping into a brand-new chapter. This is a fresh start for our school family—a moment to build on our strengths, learn from the past, and look forward with immense hope and energy.

To guide us on this journey, we are introducing a new school motto that will underpin every decision we make, every lesson we teach, and every interaction we have:

Rooted in Kindness, Guided by Faith, Reaching for Excellence.

- **Rooted in Kindness:** Because before anything else, our school must be a haven of compassion, respect, and warmth, where every child feels seen, valued, and safe.
- **Guided by Faith:** Because our Catholic ethos is the compass for everything we do. It shapes how we treat one another and reminds us of the light we are called to share with the world.
- **Reaching for Excellence:** Because every single child at St. Patrick's deserves an exceptional education, high ambitions, and the confidence to achieve their absolute best.

A school cannot thrive in isolation. It takes a village, and at the heart of our village is this parish. One of my highest priorities as Headteacher is to deepen the bond between St. Patrick's School and St. Patrick's Church. I want our children to be a familiar, joyful presence here, and I want you, the congregation, to feel a sense of pride and connection when you look at our school.

Whether you are a parent, a grandparent, a parishioner, or someone who has prayed for our school community over the years—thank you. I invite you all to walk this path with us, to pray for our staff and pupils, and to join us in this exciting new beginning.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible after Mass today. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into your parish family.