

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



*'With Jesus, we learn together through faith  
and love'*

# Governor Newsletter

## Autumn Term 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Again the governors would like to thank you for all your support you have shown the school over the year. Below are some updates from the Governors' sub committee meetings showing our committee objectives for the year. The school have undertaken some parent & pupil surveys and we will be feeding these back to you next term once results have been collated and actioned.

The governors would like to express their gratitude to the PTA for their hard work this term raising funds for the school as well as developing the parent community group. They have had a busy term arranging coffee mornings and cake sales as well as the preparation and organisation for the recent Christmas Fayre which was a huge success. This was only possible with the support of you, our parents, making these events possible and the school community is most grateful. The governors are thankful for the purchase of computers following earlier fundraising and this will impact greatly on our pupils learning.

### Governors Fund

Thank you very much for all the contributions to the governor's fund this term and your continued support. We will update you on the projects we will be using this for during the next year.

### Premises Committee

**Objectives:** *security of the site; health and safety measures in place; emergency evacuation plan.*

We have applied for a grant to investigate and repair and prevent rainwater flooding areas of the junior playground. We are also looking for opportunities to get a grant to build a training room for school and community use. We will keep you updated on whether we are successful. In the meantime we could like to hear from any parents if their workplaces are able to help with fundraising or even use of their business services as this will be a large project. For example, with mobile buildings and associated services, such as lighting, heating, carpeting, furniture and decorating. We are also aware that sometimes banks match like for like fundraising.

Mr Richard Foley, Chair of Finance Committee

### Curriculum Committee

**Objectives:** *monitoring progress of School Development Plan (SDP); Ensuring SDP objectives are shared with parents; Governors to attend "meet the teacher" events.*

#### Areas of Support

As governors, we are keen to ensure parents receive the support and guidance required to understand the various areas of the curriculum. The school undertook a survey with parents earlier in the year to identify areas where you would like continued support. One of those highlighted was maths and problem solving. In the new year we would like to hold a "meet the teacher" session whereby the teachers will go through how they teach maths and for parents who are unable to attend the session, information will also be put on the website.

#### SATs

The curriculum committee have been analysing the results of the 2016 SATs tests that were published this term. 74.2% of early years achieved a good level of development compared to a national average of 69.3. Key stage one children achieved a higher level of attainment than the national average in "expected standard" in all areas including reading, writing and maths. Key stage two children also exceeded national average with fantastic results in maths and English.

The school has once again achieved outstanding results and we would like to congratulate the teachers and children on their fantastic achievements.

#### Pupil Premium

For each child that is eligible for pupil premium, the school receives £1,320 per annum. Pupil Premium funding is being used to support children across the school and the money has been spent in a range of different ways including staff training and support groups by both teachers and support staff targeting the areas of need. If you think your child could be eligible for pupil premium please contact the school office.

Mrs Noreen Groves, Chair of Curriculum Committee

## Admissions Committee

**Objectives:** *best value for uniform; appeals training; service pupil attendance.*

St. Mary's, due to the rigorous endeavours of Miss Shevlin and her team, continues to be very oversubscribed. As a result of this it is ever so important too that the admissions committee ensures that the schools access criteria is robustly adhered to. We work together so that all families have a fair and clear admission route into the school. We are all very aware of the anguish involved in applying for schools so take this role very seriously with regular training such as how to support families through appeals.

As well as ensuring that the admission processes is accurate we have recently been reviewing the school's uniform value for money and how we can best support our 'services' families so that they have every opportunity to take advantage of the 'outstanding' education that the school provides.

**How do our children benefit from being a Teaching School?** Many of you are probably already aware that St. Mary's is actually designated a Teaching School and has been for the last three years. It is often assumed that a teaching school simply supports other schools and trains new teachers, but how does the teaching school's children/community benefit? As a matter of fact the benefits for St. Mary's are substantial. It means that teachers and support staff have opportunities to share practice and learn from other schools on a regular basis. Further to this, our staff receive high-quality professional development from some of the most highly sought after pedagogical/curricular consultants available, with these skills being passed directly on to the children. It means also that we are more successful at retaining our experienced teaching workforce as they are utilised to pass on their professional approach to others.

Governors also empathise with parents regarding the cost of flights and holidays during school holidays and work alongside the school in holding twilight training to enable the school to break earlier than other schools in the borough and are always looking at initiatives to help in this but at the same time also constantly monitor pupil attendance in line with government guidelines. We are grateful for those parents that support us in this issue which is a national problem.

Mr Kev Oakley, Chair, Admissions Committee

## Personnel & Pay Committee

**Objectives:** *targets classes are working on for the year; safeguarding and staff training.*

The Personnel & Pay Committee have placed great importance on the Performance Management process as one of their objectives for this academic year. A revised system is now in place which provides support in terms of management and development of all staff at St Mary's. In addition, the governors are regularly updated on the targets individual classes are working towards for the year.

Safeguarding is also an objective for the Personnel & Pay Committee, although it is also covered as an ongoing agenda item in each of our other sub committees. All staff and governors have recently attended the local authority's formal training course and will continue to receive refresher training in line with any future changes in government legislation relating to safeguarding.

Mrs Maureen Thorpe, Chair of Governors &

Chair, Pay and Personnel Committee

## Safeguarding

Thank you to those parents who have supported us following our concerns raised last year about pupils being left outside the school early unattended.

## Finance Committee

**Objectives:** *advanced long term financial planning, particularly in the light of possibility of being required to take up academy status; opportunities of teaching school.*

The Finance Committee would like to reiterate their gratitude to PTA for their continued support mentioned above and for the computer purchase particularly with the financial implications imposed on education at the moment.

Cllr George Cooper, Chair Finance Committee

The Governors would like to thank Mrs Muriel Honey for her dedication, valued advice and input while serving on the governing body for the last ten years. Sadly she retired this year and visited the children for Christmas lunch on Wednesday to say goodbye. Her successor is Dominic Nichol, who some of you may know from the Parish and he has visited the pupils this term.

Below are some pictures from the many Christmas events we had at St. Mary's. Please check the website to see more pictures and information.

**Thank you for your continued support**

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***The governors would like to thank the Headteacher, her staff, the PTA and our Parish for their dedication to the school community of St Marys and most of all the pupils who are a credit to us all and you as parents for your continued support. We would like to take the opportunity to wish you a happy Christmas and a prosperous 2017.***

