

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



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

Governor Newsletter

Autumn Term 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians

There have been a lot of changes over the last year in education with the introduction of the new National Curriculum and also with the new pupil assessment that will be happening this year. We have been working on our school development plan for this year and one of our priorities is to support parents with understanding the new National Curriculum and also the new assessment.

Many of our priorities are related to the new curriculum, an example of this is we will be trying to develop children's problem solving and investigative skills in Mathematics. The new curriculum has a greater focus on children deepening their understanding of mathematical skills and using them to investigate and solve problems.

Please read below the main areas we will be focusing on over the next year. We will also be sharing these areas with the children. As a school we want the whole community to work together to help our school move forward in supporting our children.

School Development Plan Priorities

Mathematics

To ensure the teaching of mathematical skills are reinforced, deepened and developed through reasoning and problem solving to enable children to confidently use their mathematical skills to carry out investigations and solve problems

Writing

To improve writing across the school in all year groups and Key Stages
Children will understand their next steps in improving their writing helping them to progress

Sharing information

To help parents understand the changes to the new curriculum and assessment enabling parents and staff to work together to support the children's learning

Prayer Life

To develop and extend the prayer life of the school working together with all community members

Assessment

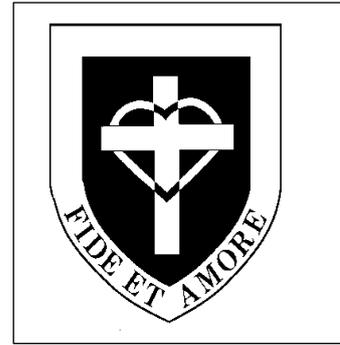
To review and improve the assessment systems to support the new National Curriculum to help identify areas for further reinforcement leading to children making exceeded progress

Positive Contribution

Children to develop an understanding of the importance of making a positive contribution to the school and extended community

Admissions

St. Mary's is very heavily over-subscribed, last year we had 173 applications for 30 places in Reception Class. It is really important that parents give accurate information when they apply to the school for a place. The addresses of families are checked both before and after the offer of a place has been given. Last year the governors received an anonymous letter at the end of term regarding admissions and this was followed up and checked.



Our thoughts and prayers are with Leo Gorman, one of our Governors, and his family as he has been quite poorly of late. Please remember them in your prayers.



Thank you to the PTA

The governors would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who have helped with the PTA. We really appreciate the time parents have given to volunteer to help the school.

The summer fair was a great success and would not have been made possible without parents hard work and support. It was a great day bringing the whole school community together both past and present. It also helped much needed funds for the school

The school is facing major budget cuts over the next few years and money raised by the PTA is really helpful in purchasing items the school needs but does not have the funding to pay for.

The children have benefited a lot from many workshops and visitors to the school over the years helping to broaden their experiences and supporting their education, we unfortunately can no longer finance all these activities. We also need to update many of our interactive white boards in classrooms and learning support rooms. Future funds from the PTA would be really supportive in helping us to in the future continue to have workshops and to purchase new interactive white boards.

The PTA is changing its name to the Friends of St. Mary's and we would like to invite as many parents and extended family members to get involved in supporting our school.

Road Safety

Governors have a responsibility to make sure our children are safe in school and although this does not extend to the journey to and from school, we are constantly concerned about the situation outside the school on Rockingham Close.

Naturally, we understand that parents need to drop off and pick up their children, but this must not be at the risk of other children.

Please think of the safety of your children and other children.

Points to remember:

The double yellow lines are there to keep the junctions clear of cars and therefore safer for children to cross the roads. It is illegal to park on them.

Cars should not park on the Yellow Zig-Zag lines on Rockingham Close.

Please avoid parking on the pavements as this restricts room for pedestrians especially those with pushchairs as well as wheelchair users.

Please be respectful of the residents and not block their driveways; they are entitled to access at all times.

Please be aware of the congestion outside the school gates, act sensibly and help keep our children safe



A Busy Term

We have had lots of events going on at the end of the Summer Term and the start of the Autumn Term has also been really busy. We were all able to celebrate at the end of the summer term when St. Mary's won District Sports for the first time in ten years. Well done to everyone!

We had ex Status Quo Drummer Jeff Rich in to school to hold workshops with all the children.

This term we also had Pippa Goodhart the children's books Author in to school to work with every class

This term we had our One World Week and we had a really interesting day when the children all learnt about Hinduism. The children learnt a lot over the week finding out about different countries, cultures and faiths.

We also had a skipping workshop and the children impressed us all with their skipping skills.

Year Four and Year Five had the opportunity to make bricks with clay. The children all really enjoyed the day and were full of enthusiasm as well as being covered in clay.

This term we also have had the opportunity to get involved in the London Young Ambassadors Programme run by the Mayor of London's Office. This is a really good programme to show our children the important contributions they can make to the community.



We would like to invite all families to join with the whole school for a Christmas Carol Service in the Church on the 17th December at 6pm.

It will be a special time for the whole school community to come together

The governors would also like to take this opportunity to thank the parents for all your continued support you give the school throughout the year.

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