



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

# Governor Newsletter

## 2022 -2023

## Summer Term

Dear Parents/Carers,

The governors would like to keep you informed of the work happening in the school and give you updates from the sub committees of the governing body. First, we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all the support you give the school. The governors would also like to thank the PTA and parents who have volunteered to help in the school for all their support. We are very proud of all the children. During a very recent Peer Review Day with head teachers, teachers and an advisor spending the day in the school looking at lessons and interviewing children they all commented on the excellent behaviour of the children and said the children were happy learners.

## **School Development Plan Priorities**

The areas below are development areas the school is working on. As a school we continually work towards school improvement.

**To develop prayer  
life across our  
school**

**To raise standards in  
mathematics**

**To develop pupil  
independence in their  
learning across the school**

**To introduce the same  
4 behaviour rules  
across the whole school  
from EYS to Yr6.**

**For Subject Leaders to use  
monitoring across the year  
to inform their Action  
Plans**



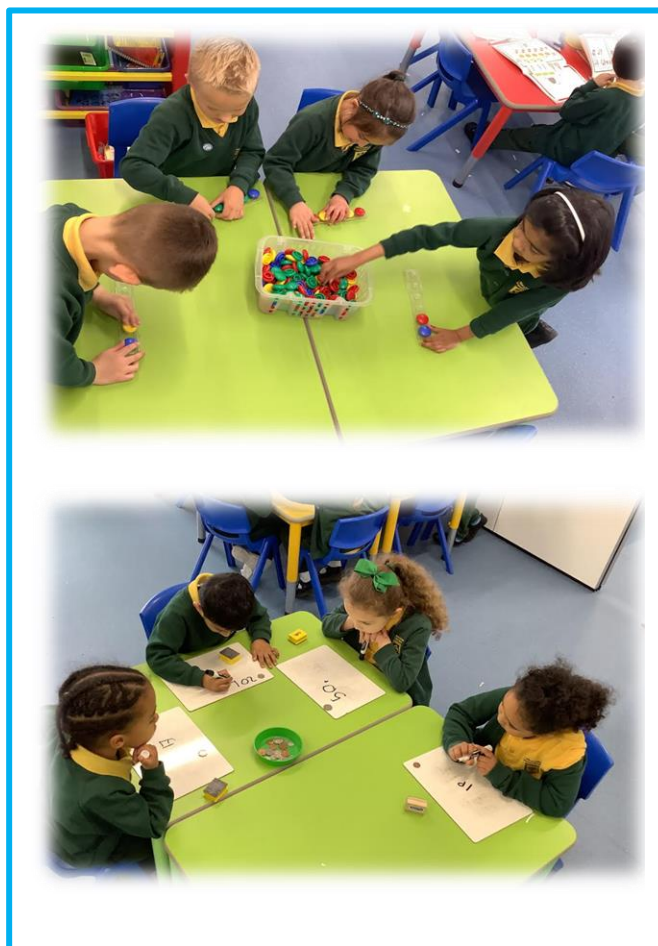
## Raising standards in mathematics

As a result of the pandemic and high absence rates due to Covid, when the children returned to school, mathematics has become a focus to identify any gaps in knowledge and work on these with the children.

New resources have been purchased after a mathematics audit. The school arranged for several children to have tutoring in mathematics to support their learning. The staff have had training to support the teaching of mathematics. St. Mary's uses White Rose mathematics scheme when teaching and this is supplemented with other resources to meet the needs of the children.

The external peer review report in March said about mathematics in the school -

- There is a well sequenced curriculum, with clear intent and consistent implementation.
- There is a well organised system of monitoring and CPD.
- Children confidently use technical maths vocabulary, in independent work.
- There was evidence of embedded use of manipulatives.
- Pupils were able to recall previous learning and discuss the work in books with confidence.



## Reading and the School Bus

Thank you to all the parents for all their hard work raising the money for the school bus over several years. The children really enjoy going to pick a book each week. We also have great librarians from Year 6. At lunchtime some older children have the responsibility to read to the younger children on the bus. The bus is used in school throughout the day and we are very fortunate to have the bus. Thank you to Miss Gahan for having the great idea to have the bus and for the whole community making the dream of a school bus come true.

Reading is a very important focus of St. Mary's. Children need to be able to read to access all subject areas. We now have new book cases in the corridor with books on different curriculum areas children are starting to borrow and read. Reading is also a great life skill to develop and it helps children and adults with their mental health.

At St. Mary's we also want reading to be fun for the children and something they enjoy. The children really enjoyed the reading events during book week.

We were fortunate enough to have Mini Grey, the author, spending the day in the school doing workshops with the children. There was great excitement in the school on the day of her visit. It was great to see so many parents coming in to read with their children during book week and we hope to organise for this to happen more often. Thank you for bringing your children back to school to read books in their pyjamas, everyone had fun.

**Thank you for your continued support reading with your child every day.**



## **Safeguarding**

The school has a safeguarding committee and they monitor all areas of safeguarding in the school. The committee spent time looking at a safeguarding audit of the school to ensure all areas are compliant.

All staff have had up to date safeguarding training in line with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' September 2022. Last term staff have also had Prevent training updated.

Staff working with children or running clubs or workshops have their DBS checked and photographic ID. We have a Whistle Blowing policy and anybody who has any concerns about a child can report their concerns. Concerns about children are now recorded online in a safeguarding programme which enables all information to be held in chronological order.

The school continues to work with other agencies in relation to safeguarding.

The committee is also concerned about the access children now have to the internet and social media websites. The internet can be a great learning tool but there are many concerns regarding social media, games children play and You Tube sites children are exposed to that are not age appropriate for the children. The children learn about internet safety across the school year from Early Years to Year 6. If any parent has concerns about their child's internet use please do not hesitate to contact the school and ask for help.

If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding please contact the school. Miss Shevlin is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mrs Chandarana is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

## **Safeguarding**

**If you are ever concerned about a child please contact the school and report your concerns.**



**Miss Shevlin Designated  
Safeguard Lead**



**Mrs Chandarana Deputy  
Designated Safeguard Lead**

### **Premises Committee**

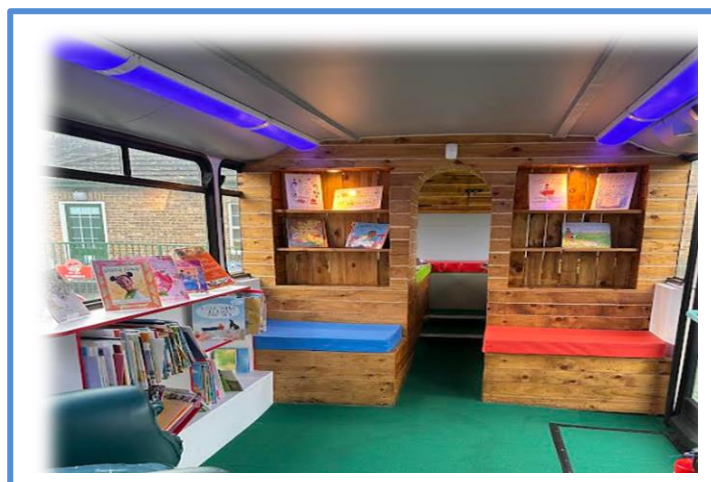
There has been a lot of work done over the last year to improve the premises. The early years playground was fully renovated with lots of new equipment.

We also had several areas of the school and classrooms painted to ensure the school looks welcoming for the children and our school community. There was also new floor fitted in the Early years.

The school had a new steel door fitted to the entrance of the junior playground to improve security. We also had new regulation fire doors fitted to the entrance to the school hall.

Our computer suite is fully updated with a new server installed and new higher speed broadband.

Work is also been done that is not so visible such as new electrical work and plumbing work. Health and safety tests are also done across the year in different areas.



## Finance, Personnel and Pay Committee

***The finance committee focuses on monitoring the budget very carefully.***

This year the committee have seen a rise in costs in all areas of finance from the cost of paper to the cost of various online programmes we use to support the children with the curriculum. Some areas of spending have seen a very large percentage rise. This all has implications for the budget and means there is added pressures on the budget.

We were in the fortunate position this year of having our electric and gas bill on a fixed rate for the year at the lower cost before the price rises began. We know there will probably be a big rise in these bills next year. The committee is looking carefully to see if there are any areas they can make savings.

The priority of the committee is ensuring we continue to monitor, track the budget and benchmark the budget against other schools spending to see if we can make any savings. Thank you to Miss Taberer, our Finance Officer, for all her hard work managing the budget so carefully and for trying to make as many savings as possible to help the school.



### Religious Education and Catholic Life

As a school we want to continue to develop our links with the parish. Fr. Nicholas has said Mass at the start and end of each term. He also led a service for Ash Wednesday and we had a penitential service in Lent. Many children attended confession during Lent as well. We want to develop our outdoor area with the statue of Mary which Miss Bradford kindly painted for the school. One of the aims of the committee is to develop prayer life in the school. Children are doing more child led liturgy in their classrooms and the children in nursery also get involved in the class liturgy. We now have the TEN TEN resource for parents to help with prayer life at home. We have planned for the children to attend Mass in the church during the summer term.

For RSE we are following the Diocese recommended scheme TEN TEN and we worked jointly with other Catholic schools in Hillingdon to develop the Diocesan Model Policy. We continue to work together as a group of Catholic schools in Hillingdon to support each other with the teaching of RSE.

Please Log into TEN TEN as it has some very good resources for families and you can also Log into the RSE scheme to see the curriculum taught.

**[www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal](http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal)**

School Username: st-mary-ub8

School Password: jesus-mum



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.