

ST MARY'S GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2014

DEAR PARENTS & CARERS

Many of you will have been present at the moving ceremony of remembrance at the Isleworth memorial on Sunday. It was made all the more poignant by the procession of schoolchildren from our local schools each wearing a sash bearing the name of one of the fallen from the Isleworth area. We can be justly proud of our own children who looked so smart in their uniforms and took part with such dignity. They were a credit both to the school and community. A big thank you also to the staff who accompanied the children during the parade.

This ceremony, like the many others across the country, reminds us of the huge sacrifice made by so many to protect our freedom. And freedom of course is a very precious commodity allowing us to live the life we choose.

Education also has a part to play in protecting these freedoms. Pope Francis often highlights the importance of education, he talks of our children as being a 'the window through which the future enters the world' and education as the pathway by which children achieve their full potential.

Here in Isleworth the catholic community has been fortunate in having access to a catholic education for many years. Now at St Marys we are about to embark on a new phase of that journey with the long awaited expansion of our own school to accommodate 2 forms of entry which will go a long way to meet the needs of the local community and provide many families with a catholic education that would otherwise have not been possible.

You may have taken part in one of the various consultations that made this expansion possible and we thank you for that. Of course to get to this place a lot of work to initiate and finalise building plans has happened to ensure we create the best possible environment for all our children to enjoy their school experience and make the most of their time here at St Mary's.

The arrival of the new 2 storey temporary building marks the beginning of the first phase of development, the construction of the nursery and early years building, starting early in the new year. This will be completed

GOVERNING BODY

- **Mr. F. Marsh (Headteacher) -**
- **Mrs. C. Kissinger (Elected Teacher Governor)**
- **Mrs. Jacqui Corley, (Foundation Governor – Chair),** Year 5 Class Governor.
- **Ms Sara Corry (Parent Elected Governor)** Nursery Class Governor
- **Mr. C. Lucas (Foundation Governor),** Year 1 & 3 Class Governor.
- **Dr Jim Park (LEA Governor and Vice Chair),** Y6 Class Governor.
- **Fr. S. Hasker (Associate Governor)**
- **Mrs Mary Hooper (Foundation Governor – Vice Chair),** Year 2 Class Governor.
- **Mrs Catalina Giglio (Elected Parent Governor)**
- **Mrs Ania Mason (Foundation Governor),** Reception Class Governor
- **Ms Anna McGibbon (Foundation Governor),** Y4 Class Governor.

**There are 2 vacancies
on the Governing Body
for Foundation
Governors.**

by the start of the Autumn term 2015 at which stage work will begin on our new junior teaching block. This is very exciting for us as a school but of course will result in a certain amount of upheaval along the way. We have all experienced building work at home and appreciate the inconvenience it entails similarly our school build will cause a certain amount of upheaval, this will be managed by Mr Marsh and his senior leadership team, and no doubt the children, resilient as they are, will take it in their stride. Throughout, let us all within our school community, keep an eye on the prize; wider access to a catholic education delivered in 2 brand new teaching blocks.

The governors are fully aware of the problems with the school meals following a change of provider. We know Mr Marsh has kept you updated via the weekly online newsletter and are heartened to see that after consultation with the provider there has been improvement in the quality of meals.

This week the re-fitting of the school kitchen begins and should be finished by the new year. Once complete we will have much better control over the quality of the meals served to our children.

The newsletter is full of lots of useful information about what has been happening in the school as well as what is coming up. Please do read it every week. It is well worth it.

One of the reasons governors sought expansion of the school was the constant budgetary pressures that are part and parcel of being a small school.

Expansion will bring with it a certain amount of financial stability and part of this stability is provided by the School Maintenance Fund which we ask all families to contribute to.

As a voluntary aided school the governing body is responsible, on your behalf, for 10% of the cost of maintenance and improvement to the school buildings. This is serviced by the maintenance fund.

If you have not made your contribution yet, please do.

The yearly amount is £60 but it helps in the collection and administration of the fund if families simply sign up to the £5 monthly standing order.

You should have already received a form to fill out, but if you haven't received one, or have misplaced it, please do ask at the office for another.

Remember if you pay tax you can also sign the gift aid form which allows the diocese on behalf of the school to reclaim the tax.

A big thank you as always to the PTA for the outstanding work they do arranging many social events for our children and families which contribute to the life of our school community and by raising so much money in the process which, in conjunction with Mr Marsh, they decide what to spend on.

The PTA is for all the parent body so do please do support it. It really adds so much value to our children's school experience.

Finally a big thank you to our whole school community; the children, parents, teachers, support staff and our senior leadership team for the part you play in making St Mary's the school it is.

Please be patient with the ongoing building works and together we can all look forward to a brighter future for our school.

Best wishes

Jacqui Corley