

# ST MARY'S GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2013

## DEAR PARENTS & CARERS

How quickly time flies as yet another school year comes to a close and we look forward to the summer break.

An ending always gives one an opportunity to pause, reflect, consider and then plan ahead.

It is no different for our school community.

We can reflect on another successful year with our children achieving excellent results in the end of key stage tests for both KS1 and KS2 as well as continuing to excel in sport, music and other areas of the curriculum.

They are a credit to us all and we should be justly proud of them. They have worked very hard throughout the school year and fully deserve their break.

We can consider ways to build on this success and further improve the school.

Many of you completed the last parent survey and many are now taking part in the termly parents' forum meetings. These are a great way of sharing your support and raising concerns about the school.

We strongly urge you participate in these. We are grateful that much of the feedback is positive and helps to inform our decision making.

Communication is an issue that often comes up in parents' surveys and Mr Marsh and his senior leadership team are regularly reviewing ways of keeping parents better informed.

The school website and weekly newsletters are a great source of information for keeping you updated and with regard to curriculum matters the leadership team are looking at formulating ways of giving parents a clearer understanding of what your child is studying- what they should be achieving - and how well they are doing as they progress through the school year.

Bullying is another obvious concern for parents. We can hope and pray that in a Christ centred community it shouldn't happen but we would be foolish to ignore the potential in any group for isolated incidents.

## GOVERNING BODY

- **Mr. F. Marsh (Headteacher) -**
- **Mrs. C. Kissinger (Elected Teacher Governor)**
- **Mrs. J. Corley, (Foundation Governor – Chair),** Year 5 Class Governor.
- **Mr. D Alison (Parent Elected Governor) Y2** Class Governor
- **Mr. C. Lucas (Foundation Governor),** Year 4W Class Governor.
- **Dr Jim Park (LEA Governor),** 4H Class Governor.
- **Fr. S. Hasker (Foundation Governor),** Reception B & O Class Governor.
- **Mr. W. Blake (Foundation Governor – Vice Chair),** Year 3 Class Governor.
- **Mr. P. Higgs (Elected Parent Governor),** Nursery Class Governor.

**We have 3 vacancies on the Governing Body for Foundation Governors.**

**If you are interested please speak to Mr Marsh**

This past year in particular has seen a far greater emphasis on work with the children on bullying issues. We hope this has empowered them and made them better able to react to bullying related issues. This is an area that will be constantly reviewed and revisited. Look out for anti-bullying workshops and assemblies in the Autumn Term.

Many parents have also asked for a breakfast and /or after school club at St Mary's. From September 'Sunnysmiles at St Mary's' will be running both such clubs on the school site. Details will be in the school newsletter soon. 'Sunnysmiles' are in the final stages of their OFSTED accreditation as we are a new site for them.

Of course end of term also means saying goodbye; To our Year 6 pupils. We hope you have enjoyed your time here and wish you all the best in your secondary schools, To staff who are leaving to take on new challenges in other schools, a special mention here to Theresa McCulloch. A heartfelt thank you for the 23 years you have spent with us as both teacher and co-ordinator for RE across the school. Your diligence and enthusiasm will be missed. New opportunities now await you and we wish you every happiness and success in all that you do.

And of course some of our parents will be leaving us for the last time. Thank you for all your support you have given the school in your time with us.

The way ahead in education is never dull. The leadership team and staff are already working on the much heralded new curriculum and for us at St Mary's the proposed expansion to 2 forms of entry continues with the community wide formal Local Authority consultation in the Autumn term.

The proposed expansion is a wonderful opportunity for our school to better serve the local community so please do take a full and positive role in this consultation.

Finally thank you to Mr Marsh, the senior leadership team and all the staff who work tirelessly to progress the school.

We are aware of the need to keep up the good work, search out areas for improvement and take the school forward, but that should never cloud the immense work done by all the staff, the wonderful achievements of all our children and the tremendous support that you the parents continue to give. Thank you!

Working together and growing together as a school family with Christ at our centre and his call to us to 'love God and love each other' ringing in our ears will surely mean that all is possible.

Enjoy the summer break, if travelling- keep safe and let's pray for a sunny summer that will ensure we are rested and ready for what the next school year may bring.

Best wishes

*Jacqui Corley*

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