



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

*"a place of educational excellence
with Christ at its centre"*

Winter Term 2

Head teacher: Mrs L. Concannon

A message from the Chair of Governors.

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well, it has been a very busy first term, with the children fully immersed in school life. The school trips and Christmas performances have been wonderful, thank you to the staff for all the hard work to make these events happen and to be successful.

The governor monitoring week this term focused on safeguarding, RE curriculum and SEND provision. Safeguarding processes and procedures are at an exceptionally high level however we are in the process of a new reception booking in system. RE was observed during Remembrance celebrations, pupils' behaviour in mass was highly commendable. The targets and tracking of our SEND children have been reviewed (anonymously) this will be monitored through out the year to ensure expected progress is made.

Thank you to all staff for their unfaltering dedication and hard work and dedication this year, it has been unfaltering, ensuring the children receive the best education with Christ at its centre.

Wishing you all a very merry and happy Christmas.

Kind regards

Rebecca Iley, Chair of Governors

The Governing Board

Rebecca Iley – Chair of Governors

Ksenija da Silva – Foundation Governor

Steve Prance – LSA Governor

Christina Pirlea – Parent Governor

Debbie Brimson – Staff Governor

Lisa Beavers – Foundation Governor

Theresa Atkin – Foundation Governor

Tanya George – Parent Governor (application in progress)

We are fully committed to being an inclusive board and ensuring equal opportunities. We are keen to make our board as diverse as possible, and we hope to attract applications from underrepresented groups, including, Men, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people, people with a disability. Please do consider how your experience and skills could benefit the board; we would love to hear from you.

Premises – Thank you to Steve Prance (LSA governor) who has been working closely with Laura Concannon to ensure we are working towards and achieving our premises 'To Do' list. It is essential that the school buildings and grounds are a safe, modern and inspiring environment for our pupils; this as I am sure you can appreciate takes a lot of work and finance. Mrs Concannon has now received several quotes for the visitor sign in equipment and software, this will strengthen our safeguarding processes and improve the visitor experience. We will let you know when work is due to commence and of course try to limit any disruption.

Standards and Achievements – Children have made good progress this term, supported by interventions and catch-up groups, and the school's golden threads continuing to run throughout the curriculum. One area of focus is the writing skills of children. Not all children are able to write extended pieces to the expected standards. Mrs Concannon and the teaching team are reviewing suitable interventions and resources that will support the children in improving this skill. As parents, please encourage your children with their writing, if you would like to know how you can support them further please do ask the class teacher. Work is ongoing to ensure our SEND provision enables those children accessing it to make good progress within their target range. The team are committed to ensure all St Mary's pupils can access an outstanding education. The governor monitoring week reviewed the targets and will support the SEND lead to monitor and track the progress made during the academic year. The planned governor monitoring weeks for the new term will focus on the progress being made in writing and SEND progress monitoring.

We will be expecting OFSTED in the new year, as inspections move to those last reviewed in 2018. The Governors will be an important part of the inspection and will be in attendance on the day. In the lead up we will be ensuring we are ready and able to showcase the excellence of St Mary's. We will keep you up to date with any developments and inspection dates when we know them.

Academisation – the Governing Board are working with Mrs Concannon to investigate joining one of 2 Catholic Trusts; Pope Francis MAC (Oxfordshire) or Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust (Northamptonshire). As you will be aware it is the Governments terms that by 2030 all schools will be part of a trust. Catholic dioceses are particularly keen for this to happen to ensure the longevity and strength of the catholic faith. It is important that as a school we are proactive in this move and have the space and time to make the right decision for St Mary's. Currently the team are merely investigating the 2 trusts to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each. The team have met with the Pope Francis MAC for initial discussions and hope to meet with OLICAT early in the new year.

We will of course keep you updated with any further news on this and as we move through the process there will be the opportunity for both staff and parent consultation evenings. Please rest assured throughout the decision process the core values and ethos of St Mary's will be upmost in our minds, ensuring that the entire St Mary's community, staff, pupils, and parents are at the centre of our decision making.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss anything detailed on this newsletter or any other matters.

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