



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

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

Summer 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 summer term, I would like to thank Mrs Concannon and the whole St Mary's team for the wonderful opportunities the children have been given. The whole school trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park, Longtown residential for yr6, sporting events at BGN, competitions, projects for all children and a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

We were thrilled with our OFSTED inspection and equally with the statutory assessment results which were well above the national average. Well done to everyone!

The governing board has continued its work to review academisation, having reviewed two options, we are now speaking with our Diocese to consider a third new option.

I would like to thank the members of staff who have or will be leaving us at the end of the term, for all their hard work and commitment to the school and wish them well on their new ventures.

On behalf of the governors may I wish you all a restful and relaxed summer holidays.

Rebecca Iley, Chair of Governors

The Governing Board

Rebecca Iley – Chair of Governors

Steve Prance – LSA Governor

Debbie Brimson – Staff Governor

Lisa Beavers – Foundation Governor

Theresa Atkin – Foundation Governor

Tanya George – Parent Governor

We are Recruiting.

We require a foundation governor and another parent governor. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact me directly or the school office and I would be very happy to talk you through the commitment.

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. The new entry door system is now in place and working well and has enabled us to improve our safeguarding further along with improved efficiencies. Work will be underway to tarmac the main entrance to the playground, as the slabs are uneven and need to be replaced. The team will continue to look at other works and improvements needed and schedule these when viable.

Standards and Achievements –

As expected, we received our OFSTED inspection in May. The report has been circulated, along with the additional information from the debrief meeting. If you have not yet read this, please do take the time to do so. We were thrilled with the outcome, which showcased the hard work and commitment from Mrs Concannon and the whole team. It has also provided some focused areas for development which are already underway.

Statutory assessments have also been extremely successful this year with St Mary's exceeding the national average by quite some margin, Maths 9% above and English 18% above. Congratulations to all KS2 children on their achievements.

Governor Monitoring –

We have had several governor visits during the term. The main visit in June was to review the progress in writing across the school. The teaching team have been working hard to increase both writing endurance and quality. As always it was a joy to visit the school and a privilege to observe classes, overall, it was very clear to see the consistent approach to delivery across all year groups.

Children were supported well with scaffolded activity, appropriate to their age and ability, to ensure confidence and success in the task. There were high expectations of the children in all year groups, and they were working on complex tasks. Children made good progress in their writing, they knew how to improve and their next steps. Whilst we were not monitoring pupil behaviour, we did note that this was exemplary, pupils were kind, helpful and worked hard.

We also conducted a safeguarding visit, which did not highlight any issues and will feed in the general report and tasks list.

Academisation –

Having met with the 2 trusts as documented in my last newsletter, we have now been approached by the diocese to consider a third option. We are waiting for dates from the diocese to meet with them and go through this in more detail, which I will share with you as soon as I am able.

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. We will ensure both staff and parent information evenings are built into the process, to keep you fully informed. We have been assured by both Trusts that there will be very little change to school life for pupils, families and staff

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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