



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

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

Term 1 -

Head teacher: Mrs L. Concannon

A message from the Chair of Governors...

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and are looking forward to the Christmas Break. I would like to thank Mrs Concannon and the whole St Mary's team for all the wonderful activities the children have taken part in this term; whole school panto visit, beautiful Christmas shows, educational visits from the Police and different school trips to name but a few. This term the sporting events at BGN have been very successful with the children excelling in many different sports; well done to all those who took part.

The Governing board have undertaken a monitoring review this term, please see below for further details. We have also been reviewing the progress made against the recommendations made in the Ofsted report released in May. Our next focus will be the RE section 48 visit, we don't anticipate this to be until early in the next academic year but there have been significant changes since our last inspection and therefore, we need to ensure we are on track for a successful visit.

On behalf of the governors may I wish you all a very happy and merry Christmas

Rebecca Iley, Chair of Governors

The Governing Board

Rebecca Iley – Chair of Governors

Steve Prance – LSA Governor

Debbie Brimson – Staff Governor

Theresa Atkin – Foundation Governor

Paula Aitkens – Parent Governor (in progress)

Daniel Brimson – Foundation Governor (in progress)

Tess Smith – Foundation Governor (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. The next project for review is the school roof. This is in 2 parts, a flat section and a pitched section. The flat section is the priority, Mrs Concannon is currently receiving quotes and we will keep you updated for when works will commence.

Standards and Achievements –

Following our OFSTED inspection in May '23, Mrs Concannon and the team have been reviewing the recommendations and implementing changes. The main point raised was the long term memory and recall of our pupils, to support this the teachers will be implementing entrance tickets and expanding on the exit tickets for the beginning and end of topics. This will allow pupils to link prior learning to the new topic, share what they are excited to learn about and at the end demonstrate their understanding and to share their likes and dislikes of the topic. This also allows for pupil voice which is another essential part of their development. Please do look out for these in the next book look session, or ask your child to tell you about it.

Governor Monitoring –

The governor monitoring week this term had a focus on our SEN provision. In our recent Ofsted visit we received high praise for the provision with only small recommendations. Mrs Morgan our SENCO, talked through the targets and progress made by pupils last year, we were thrilled that all SEND children made progress and achieved their targets.

Mrs Morgan has attended a significant amount of training this term provided by West Northamptonshire Council, she has disseminated this to the teaching team who are already implementing. The focus is 'quality first teaching', which ensures teaching meets the needs of the individual pupil and they can learn alongside their peers, as a school we are already working very hard at this, which was noted by Ofsted.

Marketing –

Thank you to Mrs Concannon and the team for all the work that has gone into marketing St Mary's this term. Thank you to everyone who has liked and shared a post, this is so important for the sustainability of our school and to attract new families to join us. I am pleased to confirm we have 9 reception children starting next September, and we are looking forward to welcoming 2 new families joining us in the new year with children across the year groups.

The governing body, supported by the school, are planning to tap into our past pupils, families, and staff to form an Alumni group. Please look out for further details, we would love to hear from you if you would be interested in joining. This is a fantastic opportunity to tap into our rich history and talented alumni to support the school for years to come.

Academisation –

Talks are ongoing with regards academisation, we will hope to move this forward to a definite decision early in 2024. We will keep you updated as soon as we have further developments.

