

# St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

## Governor's Newsletter

July 2019

Chair of Governors: Luke Robinson



*Living and Learning in  
Spirit and in Truth*



At the end of another academic year, we say goodbye to another group of Year 6 children, and wish them a happy and successful future as their educational journey continues in a new school.

This year the Governing Body are delighted that the school achieved success in their November Ofsted inspection, maintaining the school's status as GOOD and recognising many areas of practice that have improved since the previous inspection. Throughout the year we have seen the emergence of school councils and pupil chaplains for the benefit of our children, and in the next calendar year we look forward to seeing the development of the Outdoor Play And Learning (OPAL) Project, and the introduction of Alfie, the school therapy dog.

As a governing body, we have seen many changes within the school. Plymouth CAST have now published a new stronger Vision and Values document, a Scheme of Delegation and a clearer approach to the work of the governing body in supporting the school. Through these policy documents and the hard work of our governors, we have established a new way of working that will support aspirations to continue to improve and do the best we possibly can for the children attending our school.

We continue to challenge and advise the school across many aspects of school life and delivery of education, including a number of very positive visits to the school linked to safeguarding, the Catholic life of the school, SEND provision, curriculum development and other key areas. Whilst there have been, and we are aware of further changes in leadership, we feel assured through working with the school and Plymouth CAST that leadership continues to be strong, in support continuing aspirations for an outstanding Ofsted rating.

Please take the time to read the following updates from my fellow governors in their various leading roles:

### **Safeguarding (Lucy Wills)**

As always safeguarding our first priority. We have extremely robust safeguarding processes in the school and governors have continued to monitor these processes during the year.

Should a parent ever have safeguarding concerns they should report it immediately to a member of the safeguarding team.

### **Outcomes (Suzanne Pollard)**

The outcomes and progress of pupils continues to be monitored on a regular basis by staff and governors. There is good focus on the children as individuals and termly meetings take place between teachers and the leadership team to discuss and agree specific actions.

Progress across the year groups is variable and work will be done to understand the inconsistencies between test scores and teacher assessments.

Outcomes remain in line with national average for reading and writing, however whilst there is improvement in maths attainment, this remains on the school's development plan with actions to address this in 2019/20.

**Catholic Life of the School (Fran Dennehy and Frankie Phillips)**

In March this year we had a visit to look at the teaching of Religious Education (RE) in the school and were impressed with the work that has been done. The profile of RE is high and there has been good progression throughout the school. The school is aiming for outstanding in this area at the next RE inspection.

I've (Fran) also sat on the committee for the OPAL project. It has been lovely to see the staff's enthusiasm for improving the play opportunities for the children and I'm really excited to see more of the plans come together next term.

**Teaching and Learning (Angela Bosley)**

I visited the school to meet with teachers leading subjects in the wider curriculum - this year with a focus on Art and Science. It was pleasing to see how the children have engaged so enthusiastically with the topics and to see excellent examples of their work on display. Staff plan the wider curriculum with a subject lead and ensure that the work is linked to literacy and maths. The children have enjoyed more practical work in Science and exploring space in Art. The wider curriculum will continue further next term with an emphasis on Geography and Design & Technology, and governors will continue to visit the school to be informed of progress in these areas.

**Arrivals and departures**

The Summer is often a period of transition for many people, and you will already be aware that we have sadly been saying goodbye to a number of members of staff recently, including Mrs Smith, Miss Lambert and Miss Western. We would like to say a sincere thank you for all that they have brought to the school.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Miss Wathen who will be teaching Plympton Class and Mrs Dew-Jones who will be teaching in Berry Pomeroy Class. Miss Reynolds will take up a fixed term Deputy Headship at St Nicholas while Mrs Folland starts her new role as Executive Head of both St Nicholas School and Our Lady and St Patricks in Teignmouth. Congratulations to them both on their new roles.

The governing body has also seen some changes. We warmly thank Monsignor Harry Doyle for the significant and dedicated contribution he made in the many years he was a Foundation Governor. We also thank Patricia Venn for her contribution this year as a Foundation Governor.

This year we welcomed James Cookson who joined us as a Foundation Governor. We also 'lost' a Parent Governor and 'gained' a Foundation Governor as our Chair, Luke Robinson was appointed by the Trust to serve a 4 year term from last month.

**Final Message from the Chair of Governors**

I would like to offer my thanks in my first term as Chair of Governors to all those who work tirelessly to provide outstanding support to the school. Every year as Governor I am amazed at the continuing dedication from all staff to do their absolute best for all those at the school, and how well they deal with the incredibly wide variety of challenges that face them throughout the year.

I wish you all the very best of summer holidays and look forward to seeing you all in the next academic year.

