

# St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

## Governor's Newsletter

July 2016

Headteacher: Mrs A Folland



As we reach the end of another school year there is much to reflect upon. We have again, seen a very busy year, the highlight for us as Governors being the recognition of our school as achieving an excellent report back from our Section 48 Catholic Schools inspection earlier in the year. We are so proud that the vision we have at St Nicholas is one which is firmly built on the foundation of the Catholic faith, and continues to grow, through the Word, witness, welcome, welfare and worship that underpins our vision.

The Governors have seen some wide-reaching changes over the past year. It is wonderful to see that our youngest children can now access wrap-around care from 7.45am until 6pm in the before and after school clubs. We hope that this will provide very practical help for parents who need to access the extra hours to use the school's nursery.

Congratulations to Ali Brocksom, who has recently completed a Clerks Development course. We're already benefiting from some new initiatives she has implemented, and we'll continue to consider future proposals which could help us continually improve in providing effective and efficient governance.

### Safeguarding

We are extremely pleased that Ofsted rated our safeguarding practises as Outstanding during their inspection last year. Our academy trust, Plymouth CAST, are currently focusing on this aspect across all their 39 schools. At St. Nicholas, we will be looking to see how we can support all our colleague schools in providing an outstanding level of safeguarding to all the children in the CAST network.

### Resources

We're pleased to have signed off a **balanced** budget for the next financial year. The resources committee and headteacher have worked hard to put together a budget which provides the best possible outcomes for children, within increasingly tight levels of funding and rising costs. The committee will continue to monitor and review the financial performance of the school throughout the year to ensure the money is well spent.

In spring term, the Governors agreed the initiative to provide before and after school club for nursery children. We expect this will become an useful option for those using the nursery, bringing the school more in line with the hours offered by private nurseries. The resources committee will continue to evaluate the take up of places over the next term.

We are delighted that the problems with the school roof seem to have finally been identified. Remedial work on the outstanding issues with the roof are due to take place over the summer holiday.

### Teaching and Learning

We are delighted with the quality of teaching and learning that the school continues to provide. Staff have developed well through focussed initiatives throughout the year. This includes 1-1 coaching which has been delivered by our trained, skilled staff. We are also proud of the work many staff have done beyond our own school, supporting other schools which need additional support. As well as giving staff the chance to develop through teaching teachers, and picking up ideas from seeing different practises, this is also a real demonstration of the Catholic and CAST ethos.

### Arrivals and departures

As you will already know, there are some members of staff who will be leaving at the end of this term, and we would like to express our thanks and good wishes for the future to Mrs Carnell-Groves and Miss Richardson. We also thank Paul Varghese for his contribution as an associate governor, and our sincere thanks also to David Greenstreet and Lata Ramoutar for the many years of commitment that they have given to the school as governors; we will miss their expertise. Mrs Harding has also come to the end of her term as staff governor, and we thank her for the huge contribution she has made. We also welcome our new foundation governor, Judie Yung and look forward to welcoming another new foundation governor in the autumn.

So, to Summer holidays and a well-earned time of rest to bring us to September refreshed and ready to face a new year of celebrations and challenges.