



St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Governor's Newsletter

July 2018

Chair: Jane Wardle

Another academic year comes to an end, and once again we bid farewell to our Year 6 children, and wish them much happiness and enjoyment as they continue their learning in their next school.



It's also a good time for the Governing Body to reflect on our work over the last year – celebrating what's gone well, and learning lessons and addressing areas which need improvement.

We are particularly pleased with Safeguarding at St Nicholas's, which continues to be outstanding. Similarly, our assessment of pupils' learning continues to be robust, and evidenced from different sources with appropriate challenge of the head teacher. We also value the opportunities we've taken to further develop members of staff, both through internal opportunities, as well as through secondments to other schools. This latter enhances learning for pupils elsewhere in Plymouth CAST, as well as bringing back innovation and best practices into St Nicholas's.

In terms of what needs focus: We'd like to review our communications with parents – understand what is needed and how to effectively deliver this, and we need to continue to improve the diversity of the Governing body so it represents a broader range of backgrounds and experiences.

Here are some updates from the Governor leads:

Safeguarding *Lucy Wills*



As always, safeguarding is our first priority. We have extremely robust safeguarding processes in the School and the staff and governors have continued to monitor and improve these processes throughout the year.

Should a parent ever have any safeguarding concerns about one of our children they should report it immediately to Angela Folland (Designated Safeguarding Lead) at head@stncls.uk or Lucy Wills (Safeguarding Governor) at lwills@stncls.uk

Resources *Luke Robinson*



This year has been a particularly challenging year from a resource perspective both for the Multi-Academy Trust of which we are part (Plymouth CAST), and for the school. During the previous academic year the Trust were served with a Financial Notice to Improve that has had implications for all academies within the Trust across the region. This has led to some challenging considerations for the governing body whilst trying to balance both the high quality of education for our children and the requirement to maintain the long-term financial stability of the school.

Difficult decisions have been made to ensure the future of the school that has allowed for a balanced budget to be delivered and a stronger 5-year plan.

Throughout the next academic year we will continue to ensure that the resources available to the school are put to the best possible use, to benefit the children in our school and the quality of their education.

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Teaching and Learning

Angela Bosley



Teaching and Learning committee focused on 3 priorities this year: to support improvement in Maths at Key Stage 2, to monitor teacher assessments and to continue to monitor the progress of disadvantaged pupils.

We have visited the school several times throughout the year to meet with teachers and pupils and have been particularly impressed with how the Primary Writing Project has engaged children and improved their vocabulary and spelling.

We are delighted that KS2 results are an improvement on last year, in particular the Maths results, and are broadly in line with national figures. It is a credit to the staff at the school for their commitment to raising standards this year, and we thank them for their continued commitment to our children.

Arrivals and departures

This summer we say goodbye and a huge and sincere thank you to members of staff who are moving on for their dedication to improving children's learning and experiences at school: Zoe Bottrell, Sophie Cox, Silvia Giovanetti, Anna Griss, Neela Hilton, Deana Kelly, Laura Piddlington, Jackie Timms, Wendy Tutchings and Carmel Welsh

We warmly welcome those joining our school community: Rebekah Lambert, Sophie Davey and Emily Western.

Finally, this is my last newsletter as I'll be finishing my second term as Governor in September. Looking back on my time, it's remarkable to consider the challenges, and incredible distance the school has come since I joined in 2010 including moving from Special Measures to Good; being the first school into Plymouth CAST and monitoring the improving progress of year groups from Reception through to year 6's.

I leave the Governing Body confident that there is a strategic, outcome focused group in place, who have a range of valuable professional skills and experience they are bringing to the school. I am confident that these qualities, along with the effective, critical friend relationship we have with Mrs Folland will ensure their continued integrity in holding the school to account for all our pupils' learning. I thank them for the support they have given me over the years, along with the outstanding support we have had from Mrs Folland and Ali Brocksom, Clerk to Governors. A huge thank you to all the staff in the school for all the hard work they put in, providing our children with a good education, as well as all the additional work they do with planning and reporting which helps the Governing Body carry out our responsibilities.

Along with other schools, there will be some challenges over the next few years, however, I leave the Governing body assured that there are the people, and importantly, the culture, which will enable St Nicholas's to continue to flourish.

I wish you all a very happy, fun, and maybe relaxing, summer holiday.

