



"Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration"

Governors' Newsletter - Summer Term 2018

*Thank
you*

First things first and this must be an enormous THANK YOU for your amazing generosity this year supporting our school! You have continued to send in the annual and monthly payments for the Governors Fund, enabling us to continue to improve the school building and decor. The Christmas Raffle, mini Christmas auction and main auction at Easter raised a total of over £10,500, and you still weren't done and have just donated a whopping £3,608 to buy new benches and picnic tables for the school field and some extra playground resources too – you are absolutely fantastic, and all this money will make a real difference to all the children in school. Attached to this newsletter is a financial summary of all the money you have donated via the Governors Fund, raffle, auctions and Crowdfunding, with details on how it is being spent in school so that you know every penny you donate is being spent well to enhance and improve the environment and resources around the school.



This has been a year full of successes and challenges. I will come to the successes shortly in order to give them full recognition, but the challenges have been the usual ones surrounding school finances and how we can continue to provide the same level of education and resource with a budget that is not increasing at the same rate as our costs. One of the big challenges our school is facing now is the difficulty securing funding for children with additional needs and the lack of specialist resources and places at special schools and units available from and in the local authority. This has a huge impact on our finances, and the governing body will be looking at how we can better manage this situation going forward. As always, our old school building has its challenges, that we have to continually manage and this summer we will be focusing on renewing the majority of our IT infrastructure to ensure that your children all have access to IT equipment that is fit for purpose and will enhance their education at St Edmund's.

It's the same old story that our budget isn't growing at the same rate as our costs. Schools are being asked to do more and more with their budgets as local authorities are less and less able to provide and fund what they previously have. Thank you to those people who wrote to the Education Secretary and/or their MP's. Vince Cable came to chat with senior leaders, Mrs Nicholl and myself. We will continue to find ways to make those beyond our community aware of the challenges we face and how hard staff are having to work in order that these challenges have no or little impact on your children. We will invite our new councillors in to visit us in the autumn term so that they can see for themselves the impact of reduced funding and reduced local authority services.

Congratulations

On to much more cheery stories now and there are so many things to celebrate from this school year. You are probably aware of most of them already but at the end of the year it's good to be reminded of all that has been achieved! Firstly, we must celebrate the success of our Diocesan Inspection back in January that highlighted all that we know is outstanding about St Edmund's and as always left us with a clear idea of where we can improve further. Congratulations must go to Mrs Moreland, Mr Nash, the senior leaders and all the school staff for this success and an acknowledgement of the hard work that goes in to achieving such success.

Yet more sporting success has been achieved this school year culminating in winning the Borough Sports in the medium school section which is a fantastic result. I attended the music recital in June which was great fun and showcased all the musical talent we have in school, though I'm sure there is more out there!!! So, for fear of missing anyone out, congratulations to everyone else who has been successful this year, whether it is something you have achieved in school or outside school, individually or as part of a team, every achievement is celebrated, and you should be proud!

The governors will get a proper chance to look at the end of year data in more detail next term, but year group governors have met with the class teachers and it looks as though good progress has been made and the recent assessment results reflect this. The Phonics Screening results are very positive and end of KS2 SATs results too.



Congratulations to Miss Winfield who became Mrs Cheatham during the Easter break.



Congratulations also to Mrs Hambling who became mummy to baby Isabella on 22nd April.

And yet more staff nuptials when Mr Nash marries his fiancé Kara over the summer. The wedding will be in Boston in the USA and we look forward to seeing some lovely photos after the holidays. We wish them both every happiness as they start their married lives together and hope that their wedding day is full of love, happiness and laughter.



During the holidays we will have some investigations carried out in the school hall to ascertain what, if any, remedial work is required to correct the rather worrying crack in the far corner by the playground and kitchen. We have decided to bring in a specialist schools IT company to update our kit and then maintain the kit and support our IT infrastructure and operation so that staff and children have



access to kit that is fit for purpose and support that is on hand all day, every day. This will surely have a really positive impact on what the children can achieve in IT lessons and when using IT during the day in other lessons. It is a big investment for us as a school but was not one that we could avoid and we're very confident that we will see an immediate impact when everyone is back in school after the holiday. We are very grateful that the Parent's Association has agreed to contribute an annual amount of money towards the annual cost of this IT contract.

This time of year is sad as it is the time that we have to say goodbye to the governors, staff and students that are leaving us. Margaret Baran stepped down from the governing body this year so we thank her for her contribution, and Yemen Sangari will be moving on from Whitton and so will also be stepping down – she has only been a governor for a year with us but we will miss her and thank her for the contributions she was able to make just in that short time.



We would also like to thank Miss Fiona Downey who is leaving us to return to teach in Ireland – we wish her well and hope she keeps in touch! The following staff are also leaving us this year - Mrs U Green, Mrs Y Gill, Ms I Jesus Martos, and Ms S Maher, we wish each of them every happiness for the future.

The governors of St Edmund's would also like to acknowledge all the success achieved by Louise Cole, Monica Elliott and Carolina Leney as they step down from their roles on the St Edmund's Parents Association. They have all worked so hard organising events to raise enormous amounts of money to benefit all children in school and it is only right to thank them formally.

The governors look forward to working with Aimee Monteith as Chair, Natalie Jolliffe and Catherine Tappin as Joint Vice Chair and Neeta Barnett as Treasurer. We would like to thank them for standing for these important voluntary roles and wish them the very best of luck with managing the charity, we are sure they will carry on all the great things already achieved, and you never know, maybe even more. The most important thing is that all parents try and support the events that the PA organises and help out whenever possible.

Lastly of course, we must say goodbye to another year group of children that are moving on to secondary school – they have worked hard, and we hope they are all proud of their achievements and feel ready and excited as they move on to their new schools – we wish each and every one of them a happy and successful future.



We would like to welcome Kate Courtney-Taylor who has joined our governing body this year as an Associate Governor via the LA. Kate lives in Twickenham. Kate is currently expecting her second baby but will keep in touch and attend meetings when she can over the next few months.



2018/2019

During next year we will have two vacancies for two new parent governors as Hazel Taylor and Annette Collins' roles come to an end. Therefore, please do start thinking about whether you will have the time and skills to serve the school community of St Edmund's as a Parent Governor. It is very important to us that the governing body reflects the community it serves. We really would like people who have English as an additional language or have children with additional needs to think if they might be able to put themselves up for the parent governor election. All governors regardless of their constituency are elected or appointed with one common purpose – to govern the school in the best interest of pupils. Parent governors are no exception. They are not elected to represent their stakeholder group, but are elected in order to contribute to the work of the governing body in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school, contributing to strategic discussion, holding senior leaders to account by monitoring school performance and ensuring money is well spent.

Having board members who bring different perspectives and knowledge to the board strengthens it. Elections can provide a useful device for ensuring that not all members of the board are appointed and that those with different views are able to join the board. But irrespective of how governors are appointed, it is crucial that they are confident in their role, committed to asking challenging questions and equipped with the confidence to have the courageous conversations essential for good governance being achieved. So please do take the time to consider if being a school governor is something that you might be able to do.



The governors wish you all a very well-deserved break over the summer and to all those moving on to new things, we wish you happiness and success.

St Edmund's Non Delegated Funds Accounts

Income and Expenditure Statement

1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Parental contributions	16,322.86	Governors 10% liability on building works	26,143.22
Christmas Market & Raffle Income	3,126.10	Contribution to refurbishments	27,000.00
Auction Income	9,520.40	Cost of retiring gifts/licences/other	406.30
DFC Grant	9,789.93	Purchase of benching/tables for field	3,608.00
Gift Aid from Income 2016/17	2,112.75		
Income from school towards refurbishment	13,062.00		
Donation	500.00		
Crowdfunding income	3,608.00		
Totals	58,042.04	Totals	57,157.52