



"Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration"

Governors' Newsletter – Autumn Term 2019

I'm sure that we are all wondering how it is that it's already Christmas again and yet another year is almost over! It's been a busy first term of this school year and so below I will try and let you know a little of what's been happening and an update of what's in store.

Our first meeting of the year is always when we organise ourselves and assign link governor roles and committee members. Our 'lovely' faces are up in the school reception area if any of you are unsure who we are, and minutes of Full Governing Body Meetings are always available from the school office if you'd like to find out what goes on during our meetings. Committee members for this year are as follows:



Admissions & Appeals: Sean Carey (Chair), Deb Long, Carmel Moreland, Guy Elliott, Bob King, Brenda Green

Curriculum & Achievement: Domini Bingham (Chair) Deb Long, Hazel Taylor, Carmel Moreland, Sean Carey, Fr Nigel, Christina Lingeman, Guy Elliott, Fearghal Nash, Clare Jones, Sean McAlinden, Louis Harrison, Brenda Green

Pay & Personnel: Deb Long, Carmel Moreland, Clare Jones, Susan Sparkes, Hazel Taylor, Brenda Green

Resources: Guy Elliott (Chair), Deb Long, Carmel Moreland, Gary Cole, Guy Elliott, Sean McAlinden, Louis Harrison, Brenda Green

Headteacher's Performance Management: Deb Long, Hazel Taylor, Domini Bingham

The Linked Governors were agreed as:

Attendance & Safeguarding: Deb Long & Hazel Taylor

EYFS: Christina Lingeman

KS1: Clare Jones

L.A.C. & SEND: Hazel Taylor

Inclusion: Hazel Taylor

English: Sean McAlinden

LKS2: Guy Elliott

UKS2: Domini Bingham
Maths: Guy Elliott
H & S: Deb Long
P.E./Sport: Christina Lingeman
R.E.: Sean Carey
Science: Fr. Nigel
Well Being: Susan Sparkes
Independent Learning: Louis Harrison
Whistle Blowing: Hazel Taylor
British values: Equality & Diversity: Clare Jones
Training: Gaynor Nicholl (Clerk)

This term link governors have carried out monitoring visits with subject and phase leaders in school and these visits are fed back to all governors and anything of note will be discussed with the whole governing body. Follow up visits will be arranged for the Summer Term. Governors have attended training this term on the following: Effective School Visits; Governors Termly Briefing, Working in Partnership and Leading in Governance.



The Curriculum & Achievement and Resources Committees met earlier in the term and both committees looked at the priorities for this school year. In January the **Curriculum & Achievement** committee will have the opportunity to look at the first lot of internal school data as well as validated external data – there should be no surprises here but it is a great way of governors triangulating data that we have from school sources against that provided by external sources. The Ofsted framework has been updated and the focus has changed from being data driven to being much more focussed on the curriculum. The general feeling is that this is a positive move and staff at St Edmund's have always ensured that our children receive a broad and balanced curriculum, therefore we are in a good position to prepare for our next inspection, all the while continuing to focus on the wellbeing, progress and attainment of all children in our school.

The **Resources Committee** continues to do battle with the budget and whatever the result of the general election, we're expecting this not to change anytime soon. We must focus on our school priorities and the needs of our children and then work with the funding available to do our very best. I hope you will have noticed the improvements made around the school during the summer holidays, namely the playground surface and fencing.



The refurbishment of the year 6 classrooms, as well as redecorating the school hall over half term. Our school buildings, despite their age, are in a good condition, well looked after and are a nice environment for staff and children to work in. All this is only possible because of the support of our parents and friends and for that we are very grateful – THANK YOU – we appreciate everything that you are able to contribute, no matter how small.

Sadly the 'To Do' list doesn't get any shorter and this year's needs are amongst other things, replacing and enhancing the reading scheme books, a new minibus and some old radiators around the school that are causing concern – we will consider all funding options and see how best to achieve both of these, alongside continued investment in to the curriculum areas and staff CPD.

The **Pay & Personnel** Committee met in October to go over all pay decisions for this academic year and the **Headteacher Performance Management** Committee met at the end of November to carry out their duty.

It was good to see lots of you at the parents' evenings back in October and it's always good to hear your comments and suggestions. Below is some feedback:

Possibility of having an after-school care provider on-site at St Edmund's: this is complicated and something we have discussed before, but we will discuss it again as it is something that would be of great benefit to our parents.

More music lessons/range of instruments taught/more encouragement for children to take up extra-curricular music lessons: It would be good to improve the range of lessons available (instruments) and encourage more children to take up music lessons – school staff will look into this but if any parents have these skills and could offer to run an orchestra, please speak to Mrs Moreland after Christmas. We may have to speak to the PA about potential funding but it is definitely something the school would love to have.

Could we have a school band/orchestra with an aim to attend Primary Proms at RAH: as above, we would love to be able to provide this but currently do not have the capacity or finances to run it - it is definitely something the school would be most interested in providing.

Could parents be invited in for a lesson in class to work with your child: This is a nice idea, we would need to look at the practicalities of this and understand the benefit but we will certainly see what we can do.

Swimming for more children: all children in Years 3,4,5 have an opportunity to learn to swim or develop their swimming skills, this is to ensure that all children that leave Year 6 can swim 25m.

Art Club for all year groups: We have limited capacity to accommodate additional after school clubs and as all children now have specific art lessons, we feel that this is as much as we can offer alongside the Y3 after school art club.

Ban phones: it's a tricky one and would be as divisive as our current politics. Phones are only allowed when children walk to school independently and are locked in the Y6 classrooms during the school day. It is up to each parent to decide if they allow their child to have a mobile phone while in primary school and not all do.

Could dance be added to KS2 curriculum: it is part of the KS2 curriculum. We have also just appointed an external provider for R, Y1 and Y2.

How is the bus being used now: the bus is being used very successfully for small group work and interventions.

Drama group: Limited capacity for additional after school clubs.

More after school clubs for KS1: response as above.

Do we have an epi pen in school that is spare (ie not belonging to a child): we will discuss this with our school nurse however if a child has been prescribed their own pen then it is up to each parent to ensure that there is always an epipen on site for their child to use during term-time.

Could breakfast club begin at 7.45am instead of 8am to help with parents who need to drop off and then catch a train: This has been actioned and will begin in January.



St Edmund's Primary School &
Nursery Whitton



StEdmund's@TW2

Again, we always enjoy meeting and chatting but if at any time you want to get in touch, the school office has our contact details and we are always happy to hear from you. This term we've also been able to attend a few of the open mornings that school have held for prospective nursery and reception parents. It's a real joy to show off our lovely school and my sense is that people have been impressed by what they see. We've been impressing on our visitors that we are a school open to all and that they should not be deterred from applying if they are not practising Catholics, as whilst Catholic applicants will always have priority (according to the oversubscription criteria in our admissions policy), in recent years we have been able to admit non catholic applicants too.





Deb Long attended a meeting recently along with Mrs Nicholl, Mrs Moreland, Mrs Thompson (parent rep) and representatives of our school lunch provider ISS about some concerns from parents over the quality and quantity of the school lunches. It was a great opportunity to hear what some children and parents would like to improve. We always aim to do our very best for the children at lunch times and it's always good to review practice.

Governors Financial Statement to Parents 2018/19

INCOME SOURCE	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	CARRIED OVER
Carried Over from 2017/18	£15,000	£8,300 to Diocese as 10% of LCVAP Funding Award for 2017/18 of £83,000 £6,700 towards total cost of Summer 19 work	£6,700 towards total cost Summer 19 work
Building Fund	£16,500	£12,000 to Diocese as 10% of LCVAP Funding Award for 2018/19 of £120,000 plus additional cost of £12,525 towards total cost of Summer 19 work	
Christmas Raffle Christmas Market Christmas Cakes & Puddings Christmas Auction TOTAL:	£1,256.00 £1,679.00 £285.00 £755.00 £4,204	Contribution of £4,204 towards cost of the Summer 19 works	
Auction (with the PA)	£8,105.00	Contribution of £8,105 to Year 6 refurb	

Summer 19 works

Resurfacing playground and paths leading to the playground

Thermoplastic markings laid on to the new surface

Refurbishment of Year 6 classrooms

Installation of rubber edge protection in playground

Redecoration of school hall

New perimeter fencing along the side of school bordering part of Tranmere Road

Total - £132,524.80

£120,000.00 LCVAP Funding of which the Governors have a liability of 10% - £12,000 plus the shortfall of £12,524.80.

Next term will bring lots more excitement no doubt, and of course we'll be gearing up for the annual school auction but before then may I and all the governors of St Edmund's take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

