



"Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration"

Governor Newsletter – Summer Term 2023

Welcome to our Summer Term Newsletter!

We have come to the end of another academic year and, as Governors, we hope the school year has delivered everything you hoped for; whether you are a parent, carer, or member of staff. As always, it's been a busy end of term with lots of exciting school trips for the children and lots to do for the teaching and support staff to close out the year. We would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the achievements and events from this year:

- Year 6 children have performed extremely well in their SATS and well above the national average! Congratulations to Year 6 and the Year 6 teaching team!
- We are also very proud of our Year 1 children and their phonics results, our Year 2 children who performed fantastically in their end of key stage assessments and our Year 4 times tables superstars! Well done to everybody!
- St Edmund's was awarded multiple accolades this year, thank you to the Well-being team who worked so hard to achieve these awards:
 - Silver Attachment Aware Award
 - Gold Sports Mark
- Our Anti-bullying Ambassadors and School Buddies were awarded the Diana Award Anti-bullying Well-being Badges. We are very proud of the children who had to show evidence of their commitment towards whole school anti-bullying and well-being.
- From September 2023 St Edmund's will offer full wrap around care from 7.45am to 6pm for all year groups with the addition of an on-site after school club. We know how valuable this is to our parents and carers and are very pleased to be able to offer this provision on site.
- We lost a very dear member of staff, Dave Young, in April. This was an immense loss for Dave's family and the whole school community. We continue to remember Dave in our thoughts and prayers.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all staff, parents, carers, and our children for another fantastic year of school. There have been highs and lows and as a community everyone has helped each other along. On the following pages you will see an update from each of our committees, you will also see we had to say a sad goodbye to two of our Governors, Fr. Nigel and Sean Carey, we wish them both the very best!

Have a wonderful summer break,

The St Edmund's Governing Board

The Governing Board

Head Teacher:

Carmel Moreland

Clerk:

Gaynor Nicholl

Co-Chairs of Governors:

Clare Jones & Sean McAlinden

Vice Chair:

Susan Sparkes

Staff Governor:

Fearghal Nash

Local Authority Governor:

Mark Brown

Parent Governors:

Janine Langmead

Aimee Monteith

Cristina Fernandez

Foundation Governors:

Sean Carey

Fr. Nigel Griffin

Godfrey Nunes

Carl Pandole



Resources Committee:

As we close the year, The Governing Board would like to express their appreciation to Mrs Moreland, Mr Nash and Mrs Nicholl and all staff for keeping to budget during an economically challenging year. To reiterate from the last newsletter, St Edmund's failed to submit a 3 year 'Balanced Budget' for the first time in the school's history. This is a direct result of the numerous economic and inflationary challenges and is an issue facing many schools. We were pleased to hear that Government will part-fund the recently agreed pay award for teachers, however, there could still be strike action going forward, as the pay award has not been fully funded! Continued careful financial control will be required going forward.

On a positive note, St Edmund's was offered a VASCA (Voluntary-Aided School Condition Allocation) grant of c£198,000 for remedial works including emergency lighting, the configuration of escape doorsets, the fire rating of some internal doorsets and lighting in Year 2. These works will be undertaken during the next academic year.

We continue to develop our IT Strategy working with Joskos, our IT Partner, and Lenovo. From an energy efficiency perspective, Zeco Energy have been asked to undertake an energy audit with a view to reducing our costs.

Curriculum & Achievement Committee:

The committee met four times over the course of the year to receive information on the attainment and progress of the students of St Edmunds. The final meeting on the Governors Day in July confirmed the results of the exceptional hard work which goes into supporting all the students across every year group within the school.

The data shows that EYFS results have continued to improve and currently sit at the level they were pre Covid pandemic. This success has been mirrored in the Year 1 phonics screening which again has bounced back to the high levels expected at St Edmund's and looks to be well above the national data set. Staff have supported students in KS1 to attain very positive scores across Reading, Writing and Maths which again reflects the outstanding classroom practice to develop the learning environment for success.

Year 4 multiplication data was exceptionally positive with 89% achieving the benchmark and almost 59% getting full marks in the assessment. The SATs exams for Year 6 have shown outstanding results compared to national results and are evidence of the hard work that students and staff have put in throughout the entire year.

The Governors are very proud of the dedication from the staff and students in the way they have strived to fulfil their potential and feel that the results are a reward for the hard work from everyone over the last year.

Catholic Life and Community Committee:

RE continues to be a major focus at St Edmunds and as such is carefully monitored and supported in numerous ways. Early Career Teachers (ECTs) and those staff new to Catholic education have been offered training which was also extended to other local schools.

Collective worship continues to be an important part of the school week and we are currently looking at ways to help families to attend weekend Mass on a regular basis. The Collective Worship policy was reviewed in October of last year and will be reviewed again in 2025. The policy covers the aims, principles, recording and evaluation of worship. The RE policy particularly covers the legal requirements for teaching RE in a Catholic school and covers marking, assessment and the role of the RE coordinator.



Thank You and Goodbye!

Sean Carey has served as Governor for St Edmund's for 8 years. Sean has been an extremely valuable member of our board as the RE linked governor and Chair of our Catholic Life and Community Committee, over the years Sean has also contributed to our Admissions committee. For eight years Sean has unreservedly offered his time and skills to our board, and we are extremely thankful to him. We wish Sean all the very best for the future and are delighted that he will still be an active member of our community and parish.

Fr. Nigel Griffin has served as a Governor for our school for 10 years. As our parish priest he has guided us through many discussions, and has helped shape our thinking and decision making in many areas of our work. We are extremely grateful to have had Fr. Nigel's insights and counsel for these past 10 years and wish him and Kate a wonderful retirement.



We are looking forward to welcoming Fr. Jonathan Stogdon to our Governing Body when he joins us and will be advertising foundation governor vacancies in September.

Enjoy the summer holidays and see you in September!