



# St Clement's Catholic Primary School

## Governing Body Newsletter– April 2018



### Message from Chair of Governors

Spring term 2018 was as busy as ever for the Governing Body (GB) and the school. We followed our schedule of meetings and continue to be impressed with the clarity of information that we receive from the school. It is our job to challenge the school leaders to ensure that they are providing the best opportunity for our school to flourish.

Spring term saw two of our Governors step down from their roles.

Mrs Margaret Mc Cormack has resigned as Staff Governor (though remains on the staff); she has been fully involved with our GB for a number of years—her dedication and input will be sorely missed.

Miss Gerarda Close has served as an Associate Governor since leaving the staff in 2015 and she is now returning home to live in Ireland. Miss Close was a very valued member of staff and Governor and we wish her all the best in her move.

I am sure you will join the GB in thanking both Mrs McCormack and Miss Close for their commitment to St Clement's School and its pupils.

You have heard the good news from Mrs Buckley that we have the funding to demolish the old pool. We have committed to raising 10% of the cost. We will be in touch when we have more details of the project to share with you.

### Health Check Report

School leaders, including the Governing Body, are expected to be reflective about all aspects of school life and to strive to continually improve academic and pastoral experiences of its pupils.

Part of this process can involve an external professional spending time in the school to support the school's own judgement of teaching, learning, behaviour etc.

The Governors were very pleased to receive a report from an external advisor, with a wide range of experience in school inspection, who commended the school on its standards across a number of key areas. Some of her many positive comments included 'Pupils have exceptionally positive attitudes to learning.' and 'Moral purpose pervades throughout the school, striving to ensure that all pupils make rapid progress.'

The staff also benefitted from the advisor's experience of other settings as she was able to suggest a few minor additions that the school might consider to develop even further.

Clearly the Governors were very proud of this feedback and commend the staff for their commitment to the development of the school and all its pupils.

### What is a Foundation Governor?

**What is a Foundation Governor?** They are appointed by the local Bishop to represent his education policy in his school. They preserve and develop the Catholic ethos of the school.

**What do Foundation Governors do?** Ensure the Catholic ethos of the school is upheld. Hold the Headteacher to account. Oversee the financial performance of the school and set the budget. Manage the school's admissions criteria. Recruitment of senior leadership.

**What are the time commitments?** The average Foundation Governor role will take up 10-12 hours a month including attending one governing body meeting per term and serving on one committee (min. requirement).

**Who can be a Foundation Governor?** You must be over 18. You must be a practising Catholic. A wide range of skills is a plus.

**What is the Application Process?** Contact your diocese and nominate yourself. Fill in application form and priest's reference. Wait to hear back, your diocese will do the rest.

### Year 6 Pupils

#### Presentation to Governors

A group of pupils from KS2 attended our last full Governing Body meeting and gave a presentation outlining their roles of responsibility in school. The pupils had supported Mrs Buckley in planning and analysing a questionnaire undertaken with all pupils. The Year 6 representatives provided comments on the outcomes of the questionnaires (some of which were a surprise to them) and suggested steps that they had communicated to Mrs Buckley to make changes in response to some of the answers. They also told the GB about their feedback on assemblies and worships. The GB thanked the children for an informative and confident presentation.

