



## St Clement's Catholic Primary School

### Governing Body Newsletter – April 2019



#### Message from Chair of Governors

The Governing Body have had another busy term supporting the leadership of St Clement's School. We have conducted our usual cycle of meetings. In addition to the Full Governing Body, a number of committees met this term. These included: the Resources committee, which reviews the financial position, governance and matters related to the school infrastructure; the Children and Learning Committee; the Pay subcommittee.

Sadly, as you will know, Mrs Buckley will be leaving the school at the end of the Summer term. The Governing Body is responsible for appointing the Headteacher and a group planned and completed the interview process in February. Mrs Lisa Kelly will be taking up an appointment as Headteacher in September 2019.

We will be losing some governors who reach the end of their term of office this year. These include Pascal Van Loon who has been a Parent Governor for the past four years. An election for replacement Parent Governors will be held during Summer term. The other articles in this newsletter are written by current governors (including Pascal), to give you an idea of what is involved in governors' roles from three different perspectives.

If you are interesting in putting yourself forward as a Parent Governor, please speak to Mrs Buckley or leave your details with the school office so that I can contact you for a further discussion.

Michael Davies

#### David O'Flaherty: Learning Walk in PE

A very busy schedule was set out involving Reception, Year 1 and Year 3 pupils. Two of these lessons were in the hall (Gym and Dance) and the third was outside (Tag Rugby). The enthusiasm of all involved, both pupils and staff, was clearly evident and clear progression was made by the students. Mrs Flaherty has a wealth of expertise that allows her to switch across sports seamlessly and engage students in the activities. Class teachers were all fully engaged in the lessons taking part in activities and bringing specific understanding of their class to the lesson, for example, those who demonstrated confident skills and team work and those who need a bit more support. A fantastic morning! For the students benefits included:

- Fitness
- Leadership
- Team sports
- Involvement in local and regional sports competitions
- Confidence building

#### The Parent Governor: Pascal Van Loon



My 4-year term as a Parent Governor is coming to an end this August and I will make way for another parent to use their time and skills to support the school by joining the Governing Body. Two things jump out as I think about my involvement since 2015; funding and staff commitment. I'll elaborate a bit more on each, starting with teachers at our school. I have definitely gained more respect for teachers in general and for those that teach our children at St Clement's. Standing in front of a class room of 30 or more children is not an easy job and it takes a lot of time and preparation. Apart from the time when children are in class, teachers spend a lot of time before and after school preparing their next lessons. In addition to teaching there are meetings, training courses to attend, parents evening to organise, assemblies to prepare for and outside school events to support, to name but a few. This takes real dedication and commitment.

Now let's talk about money. As governors we spend a lot of time reviewing financial plans to run the school to make sure we get the best value for money for the limited budget that is available. The School Business Manager (Mrs Pavlou) plays a key role in this process and she works with the senior leaders in the school to balance our limited budget. Sometimes this means making tough decisions on what to spend money on and what cannot be afforded.

We have no bottomless bag of money. That is why it's so important that money is raised though the Friends of St Clement's and via the contributions you make to the Governor's Fund.

Please consider supporting the school with regular donations if you can and don't forget to Gift Aid them. We will happily claim back your tax from the government.

Please contact the office if you would like to make a regular donation.

## **Father Graham Bamford: the view of a long-serving Governor**

I have always valued my involvement in Catholic education for the past sixty three years. First as a pupil in three schools: one private, primary and secondary voluntary-aided schools. Secondly, as a priest of forty four years I have been chaplain to four schools: two private convent schools and two voluntary-aided secondary schools. Thirdly, I have been a Foundation Governor in four schools- two primary and two secondary over thirty two years.

As a Foundation Governor I have enjoyed my experience and service, especially in seeing the development of three Secondary Schools in the Diocese at Bexhill-on-Sea, Goring-on-Sea and St Andrew's in Leatherhead, involving three counties.

The Bishop of the Diocese appoints Foundation Governor in our Diocesan schools to represent him, so it is essential that we be in line with the Bishop, the teaching of the Church and Canon Law of the Church. Our role is to support the staff of the school to maintain a Catholic ethos and deliver a good basic education.

Education has forced challenges in the past and will in the future. When I was Chairman of Governors in the late 1980s and early 1990s at a Catholic School in West Sussex, major education reforms had to be established: National Curriculum; new roles for Governors in overseeing the budget; formulating the admissions criteria; the establishment of a Governors Fund (in Church schools); a national RE syllabus for Catholic schools. It was an interesting period attending extra meetings with the Headteacher.

So, if you are interested in Catholic Education and are committed to your Catholic Faith, you may wish to consider offering yourself as a Foundation Governor.

I continue to support the importance of Catholic education. So we do need to work together in preserving the "Jewel" that we have been privileged to have possessed and maintained for many years, and hopefully for the future.



**Have a restful and enjoyable holiday.**

**Wishing all a happy and Holy Easter.**

**Best Wishes**

**The Governors of St Clement's Catholic School**