



St Clement's Catholic Primary School

Governing Body Newsletter– February 2020



Message from Vice Chair of Governors

Welcome to another edition of the Governors' newsletter. We have had a busy year so far supporting the school, starting with an Ofsted inspection early in the Autumn Term. I'd like to reiterate our thanks to all the school staff for their hard work and dedication which helped to achieve such a successful result and showed the school at its best.

The Governing Body is made up of Foundation Governors (who are appointed by the Bishop of Arundel & Brighton), Parent Governors, Staff Governors and a Local Authority Governor. We have welcomed two new Foundation Governors this year, who will each serve a four year team. They are Julian Hall and Charlotte Gregory, who are both well known in St Clement's Parish.

We were also pleased to have two new Parent Governors, Kate Barron and Guy Laister joining us, following an election in the school. Pascal Van Loon, whose term ended in August, has kindly agreed to stay on for a year as an Associate Governor.

Pascal has written a piece about Gift Aid and we have also included some information about the Governor's Fund. The remainder of the newsletter has been provided by our new governors with some interesting articles about their background and some of the work they are doing at the school.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter and have a restful half term holiday

Joe Cook

Pascal Van Loon: Changes to Gift Aid

For many years the Diocese has processed Gift Aid on our behalf and has claimed back the tax on the contributions you have made to the Governors' Fund. For the previous tax year this resulted in a payment from the Government to the school fund of over £1,400.

Changes to legislation means that the Diocese is no longer allowed to process Gift Aid on our behalf. Instead we need to do this ourselves and for this reason we have registered the school as a charity.

That does mean that every tax paying parent or carer needs to complete a new Gift Aid declaration. This declaration allows us to claim back from the government the tax paid by you on any contributions you have made to the Governor's Fund. For example, if you contribute £10 we can claim back from the government an extra £2.50 – at no cost to you.

You should have received a Gift Aid Declaration from the school. Please complete it and return it to the school office. If you have any questions regarding Gift Aid or wish to make regular donations to the Governor's Fund, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Pascal van Loon
Gift Aid coordinator

What is the Governor's Fund?

St Clements is a Voluntary Aided school within the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. Major building works, (like the new classrooms that were constructed in the past five years) are usually funded with support from the Diocese.

You may not be aware that any funding only covers 90% of the cost. The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the other 10% is paid. This is what is paid for by the Governor's Fund.

All families are asked to make a voluntary contribution to the fund which has been such a crucial part of paying for the development of the school.

The Fund will also meet part of the cost of major items of building maintenance. This includes the repair of part of the roof in the newer part of the school, for which we are currently applying for a grant. Without a commitment to paying 10% of the cost, funds may not be granted

Thank you to all who make a contribution to the fund which helps St Clements to continue to provide the best possible learning environment for all of the pupils.

A visit to the school by two new governors

Kate Barron

Charlotte and I had the pleasure of meeting with Mrs Kelly on Thursday for a learning walk around the school.

We spent time in each class listening to how the children have been learning about finding their 'brave' throughout the week. We listened to stories that encouraged pupils to find their brave and group discussions ensured their understanding of the meaning behind the story.

The teachers in each class encouraged discussions about feelings, with year 3 giving each other advice on worries they may have. It was delightful to hear how the pupils were not afraid to offer each other support and demonstrated how to speak to a teacher if they were worried about bullying.

Year 6 talked to us openly about it being difficult to talk amongst peers if you are feeling sad, which highlighted the importance of this week's message. It was wonderful to see the well-being committee, made up of pupils, taking a lead in team building exercises in the hall and helping to guide awareness by organising a crazy hair day which took place on Friday.

The week's learning was fed back by each class in a whole school assembly on Friday, to cement the lessons learned from the week. A very important week at St Clement's in which we were grateful to take part.

Let's get to know...

Charlotte Gregory (Foundation Governor)

My name is Charlotte Gregory and I've been a parishioner at St. Clement's Church since 1974, when I got married and moved to Ewell. I'm a Londoner and I worked in the Lord Chancellor's Office where I was personal secretary to one of the barristers. 8 years later I married my barrister and inherited a stepson who is only 9 years younger than I am. He is an Anglican priest, Principal of St. Augustine's Theological College in Kent. When my husband retired he carried on for some years as editor of the annual County Court Practice and I helped him with that at home.

After my husband died in 1997 I started to do voluntary work at St. Peter's Catholic Primary School in Leatherhead, next door to St. Andrew's, and I loved it right from the beginning. Each year I'm given four children who need individual help, either with school work or maybe some confidence boosting and tlc because of various problems.

I have been a First Communion catechist at St. Clement's Church for 4 years, which has brought me closer to the children, teachers and parents here.

A great deal of my spare time is dedicated to music. I am an opera buff and I go regularly to English National Opera and Covent Garden. I attend the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition, held every other year in June, and every August I revel in the Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Harrogate. I am also very interested in history and I belong to a local history group.

And Finally..a few words from Julian Hall

My family moved to Ewell from Clapham in 1964 (I was 1).

I served on the altar (and still do when required), joined the Cubs and benefited from all the activities (hiking / camping).

I can usually be found at the Saturday 6pm mass (front left). Or contacted as the Gift Aid organiser. I am married with 2 daughters, worked for over 30 years in The City of London, enjoy golf, tennis, travel and motorbikes.