

# St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

## Governor's Newsletter

July 2017

Headteacher: Mrs A Folland



I'm sure many of you are thinking 'where has the year gone?' What a year it has been for St Nicholas school! As Governors, we have been overwhelmed at the number of amazing things the children have been achieving and what witnesses they have been to living out our school values right across the community.

It has been a very demanding year with many new initiatives being embedded so that all children can be given the very best education. Already, in a number of inspection-level visits to our school, many of these initiatives have been commended, and our school continues to be recognised as really making a difference. Of course, there are still things that can be done and already governors are looking to the next year's school improvement plan.

There is definitely a very positive buzz around the school with the introduction of Accelerated Reader, and already those millionaire readers are popping up to remind us what a joy it is to get into a good book. Sporting success has dominated many celebration assemblies, and the school choir has done a tremendous job of being ambassadors for our school right across Devon.

It has also been very good news to see that the school has such positive responses in the OFSTED Parent View. This is an anonymous form of feedback where parents and carers can give their opinion on how the school is doing for their children, with subjects such as behaviour, leadership and progress covered. We are delighted to see so many positive responses. The survey takes only 2 minutes to complete and can be found at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>. It is not time-restricted so it can be completed at any time of the year.

### Safeguarding

As always, safeguarding is our first priority. We have extremely robust safeguarding processes in the School and the staff and governors have continued to monitor and improve these processes throughout the year. Should a parent ever have any safeguarding concerns about one of our children they should report it immediately to Amelia Harding (Designated Safeguarding Lead) at [aharding@stncls.uk](mailto:aharding@stncls.uk) or Lisa Thomas (Safeguarding Governor) at [chair@stncls.uk](mailto:chair@stncls.uk)

### Resources

We're pleased to have once again signed off a balanced budget for the next financial year. The resources committee, Headteacher and School Business Manager have worked hard to put together a budget which provides the best possible outcomes for children, within increasingly tight levels of funding and rising costs.

Throughout the next academic year we will continue to ensure that the resources available to the school are put to the best possible use, to benefit the children in our school and the quality of their education.

### Teaching and Learning

As a Teaching and Learning committee, this year we have focused on scrutinising and understanding school data to ensure the best outcomes for pupils. We are very pleased with results from EYFS, and also delighted that 94% of pupils are going into KS2 having passed their phonics tests. The SATS results for Year 2 were excellent with a much increased percentage of children achieving greater depth. At Year 6 we saw a strong improvement in writing from 2016 which demonstrates the impact of actions taken this year.

As a committee we have also undertaken several visits to the school and have been impressed to see how the Assessment for Learning programme is improving teaching across the school. We have seen how the Accelerated Reader programme and the Pastoral Support Worker are having a positive impact on all pupils in the school particularly for our pupil premium children.

### Arrivals and departures

The Summer is often a period of transition for many people, and you will already be aware that we have sadly been saying goodbye to a number of members of staff recently, including Mr Hadden, Mr Tebbutt and Elicia Down. We would like to say a sincere thank you for all that they have brought to the school. We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Miss Williams who will be teaching Okehampton Class. The governing body has also seen some changes and we thank Michelle Johnson for her time serving as a Parent Governor. We also warmly welcome Frances Dennehy, Alex Hill, and Lucy Wills who have joined us as governors this year.

As we approach the last few days of this academic year, and look forward to a refreshing rest over the Summer, we are reminded that we have so many things to be thankful for. We look forward to the next academic year, with all of its challenges and joys, to build on all of the foundations we have laid this year.