

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

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*“Striving to be the best
we can guided by the
light of Christ”*

Overview

We have now reached the end of one of the strangest academic years that I think any of us have lived through – no Nostradamus can have predicted when we welcomed back our pupils after Christmas that we would be in lockdown by Easter, with remote learning being the way that the majority of our children have engaged with school since March.

It has not been an easy time for anybody – pupils have struggled being away from their friends and the structure of school, teachers have had to get to grips with a new way of teaching while managing their own lockdown lives, parents have had to work from home while trying to supervise remote learning, and key workers have been supporting us all throughout.

The governing body have continued to meet throughout to continue to monitor the school's operations and to provide a critical friend to the leadership team at St Bon's while negotiating these mad times. We have continued to be impressed by the resilience and fortitude of all of our staff, from the leadership team to all the teachers and LSAs to the support staff. We cannot thank you enough for all you have done – as Eddie Romero, Chair of Governors, has said in a letter to staff *“even in these difficult times you execute the mission of the School and that for the pupils at St Bons you are “the corner stone”.*”

The governors would also like to thank the children of St Bon's for their efforts during the pandemic - Eddie has written a letter to the children, which is set out on the second page of this newsletter.

Last, but certainly not least, the governors would like to thank you, the parents and carers of our wonderful children, for all your help and support over the past few months. Most of the governors have school-age children, so have been negotiating the difficult path between work and supervision of remote learning alongside you, and we know that they could not have done it without you. A particular thank you to all those parents and carers who are key workers, who have been on the front line throughout the pandemic and have helped us all directly and indirectly – we owe you all a great debt of gratitude that cannot be repaid.

The end of the academic year always involves some goodbyes – to our year 6 children, we wish you all the best for your move to senior school and we hope that you will remember your time at St Bon's fondly. We are also saying goodbye to two longstanding members of the Governing Body – Niki Hawke, who is stepping down as a Foundation Governor after 8 years, and Ali Duckett, who has served as both a parent governor and co-opted governor over her time on the governing body. They have both added so much during their time as governors and we are going to miss them enormously.

*"The Lord has not
left us alone!
United in our
prayer, we are
convinced that he
has laid his hand
upon us, firmly
reassuring us: Do
not be afraid, "I
have risen and I
am with you still!"
Pope Francis*



Letter to the children

Dear Children,

This is not the way I thought we would be concluding another academic year at St Bonaventure's Primary School. Normally, I would be celebrating the end of another happy year of learning, playing, making friends and growing at the school. Instead, many of you have not been at school since March and those who have been with us have been following a very strict regime of segregation which cannot have been much fun. It would not be surprising if those of you that have been away from school feel forgotten and disregarded, especially as 'on line' learning can only be a faint reflection of what happens in class with all the activities that you undertake with your friends. Also, I am still very sad that the School was not able to conclude its Lenten journey and arrive at the joy of Easter.

Nevertheless, the faith that guides St Bonaventure's "raises us up and renews our lives" and with that in mind we are planning to make your return to School in September a happy and rewarding experience. That will go a long way to erasing the hurt and making up for lost time, not just for the learning but for you being growing precious little people. It will not be a return to 'normality': Mrs Ballantine and her staff intend to have a very close look at each and every one of you and make sure that each gets what you have missed and what you need. One thing that we have learnt from the pandemic is not to take each other for granted; we all depend on each other and are more fragile than we dare admit. Mrs Ballantine and Mrs Woolley have assured me that they will make themselves available to you and your parents or carers should you feel the need to confide in them. In order to make sure that there is no doubt I repeat myself by saying that we intend to make your wellbeing our priority.

Those of you in Year 6 missed your SATs and the term that follows, which tends to be full of fun and relaxed activities to crown your primary education. Perhaps the hardest thing is not having the opportunity to live your long good bye to friends going to different schools, to your teachers and to a stage in your life. We wish you all the very best and while we know that eventually St Bon's will not seem so significant to you as it does now, don't forget us.

With all the very best wishes from the Governing Body,

E Romero

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Thank you



KEY
WORKERS



*"So do not fear,
for I am with you;
do not be
dismayed, for I am
your God. I will
strengthen you
and help you; I will
uphold you with
my righteous right
hand."*

Isaiah 41:10