

ST MARY'S GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2012

DEAR PARENTS & CARERS,

The season of Advent is here and Christmas is just around the corner. Advent is a time of preparation not only for the birth of Christ at Christmas but for that time when Christ will come in glory. This underpins our

faith, and in this year of faith the Pope has asked us to reflect more deeply on our faith. Seeing it as an opportunity to rediscover the joy of believing and the

enthusiasm for sharing our faith confidently with others. We hope this joy and enthusiasm is reflected in our ethos and the religious

teaching within the school and enables each of our children to achieve the potential that God has in mind for them. With this in mind it was particularly pleasing to have a successful Catholicity and

R.E. inspection with all targets from the previous inspection being met and the inspector was impressed with the children's work. New targets

have been set and along with our Ofsted targets the school will continue to address these within the School Improvement Plan.

The governors know there may be significant hurdles along the way but as the consultation progresses we would ask you to reflect carefully how you may respond, to consider not only on the needs of the school as you see them today but also what the needs may be for the local catholic community of the future.

GOVERNING BODY

We would like to welcome Dr Jim Park and Mrs Alina Siqueira to the Governing Body. Below is a list of our governors and their responsibilities.

- **Mr. F. Marsh (Headteacher)** -
- **Mrs. C. Kissinger (Elected Teacher Governor)**
- **Mrs. J. Corley, (Foundation Governor – Chair),** Year 5 Class Governor.
- **Mr. D Alison (Parent Elected Governor)** Y2 Class Governor
- **Mr. C. Lucas (Foundation Governor),** Year 4W Class Governor.
- **Dr Jim Park (LEA Governor),** 4H Class Governor.
- **Mrs. R. McConnell (Foundation Governor),** Year 6 Class Governor.
- **Fr. S. Hasker (Foundation Governor),** Reception B & O Class Governor.
- **Mrs Alina Siqueira (Foundation Governor),** Year 1 Class Governor.
- **Mr. W. Blake (Foundation Governor – Vice Chair),** Year 3 Class Governor.
- **Mr. P. Higgs (Elected Parent Governor),** Nursery Class Governor.

Of course any success that the school achieves is not only wonderful for the children but also a reflection of the tremendous efforts of Mr. Marsh, his senior leadership team, the teachers and all the support staff within the school and also the support given by you the parents. This is not only seen daily in the way the children turn up fresh and ready to engage in learning but in the fundraising that is done.

The recent Autumn Fair was fantastic and a big thank you to the PTA for once again putting so much work in to make the event so successful. The money raised has enabled a re-fit of the library which will benefit each and every child in the school now and in the future.

Many of you will be aware of the continuing problem facing the borough over provision of pupil places.

Our school took a bulge class at reception this September and we may take another in September 2013. Governors are fully aware of the challenges this presents but with God's grace these children are now and will be an integral part of our school community and are enjoying the learning experience our school can provide.

However we are also aware of the strain on catholic places in the borough and with a new funding formula being introduced the pressure on school budgets particularly for small schools. These issues are not easily resolved and so the governors have decided to engage with the Diocese of Westminster and the local authority about possible expansion. This is only the start of what will be a community wide consultation, and we will keep you informed as things

progress.

The governors know there may be significant hurdles along the way but as the consultation progresses we would ask you to reflect carefully how you may respond, to consider not only on the needs of the school as you see them today but also what the needs may be for the local catholic community of the future.

Enjoy your Christmas, celebrate it well and let's all look forward to the New Year and the possibilities it may bring.

Please keep us in your prayers and God bless you all.

Jacqui Corley

Chair of Governors