



ST MARY'S GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

DEAR PARENTS & CARERS,

The Easter period provides us with a fantastic opportunity to reflect and evaluate. To take stock and move forward with renewed purpose and gratitude.

We recognise that our families are the heart of our school community and we value that relationship enormously.

To all the parents and carers who have made a contribution to the Sundries Fund, you have not only helped to refresh resources and introduce them to areas of need but have virtually offset the cost of Friday afternoon P.E. provision meaning that we can continue to deliver a 5-day school week. Thank-you.

To all the parents and carers who make time to support our staff in school and

accompany classes on excursions and off-site activities helping them to run smoothly and safely. Thank-you.

To the PTA, who continue to run fundraising events with commitment, enthusiasm and selflessness. Thank-you.

To the group of parents who have organized and managed our Sports Day at Redlees Park for the past 7 years, providing us with the opportunity to enjoy and celebrate the sporting achievements of the children and make many wonderful memories together. Thank-you. This is the last year that they will be organizing it and so there's an opportunity for parents to join in this year and take over in 2020.

GOVERNING BODY **2018-2019**

- Dr J Park
(Chair of Governors)
- Mrs A Mason (Vice
Chair of Governors)
- Mrs I Bowles (Clerk)
- Mrs J Corley
- Miss M Donoghue
- Mrs T East
- Mrs C Giglio
- Mrs M Hooper
- Fr N Lobo Ratu
- Mr F Marsh
- Mrs M Martin
- Mr M Motha
- Mrs J Williams

We are all part of the St. Mary's family and each of us help to create an atmosphere which reflects our School's vision. We hope you continue to partner us in providing the very best start

to your children's education and would encourage anyone who has some spare time to consider volunteering. Thank-you.

The new teaching block continues to enrich the learning experience of our children and enhance the teaching environment and resources for our staff. The artificial grass has provided new possibilities for physical and emotional development through play, P.E. and after-school club sport and is a wonderful setting for the children to enjoy their time outside. The impact of this space and commitment of our staff to get kids moving is surely evident in our School Games Mark Platinum Award which we proudly accepted in February as the only school in the Borough to achieve this accolade.

It is not just the physical landscape of the School which has evolved, but the

staffing landscape also. The introduction of Middle Leaders as the engine room of our curriculum will help protect us against curriculum narrowing and ensure that we continue to focus on breadth and depth which we believe delivers the best outcomes for our children, giving them, we hope, a life-long appetite for learning.

With the continued enthusiasm and commitment of Mr. Marsh and his team of skilled and talented staff we believe we are well positioned to progress to an outstanding report, particularly against the backdrop of proposed Ofsted revisions to their framework which promises to make a more balanced judgement of schools such as ours, who prioritise substance and knowledge, over test and result-centred learning.

Pope Francis has commented that **"...the mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients."** We are confident that St. Mary's children gain enormous value from our approach to education which we believe embraces this sentiment fully.

This is a good time to welcome Fr Nico and our new parent governors Tina East and Marlon Motha, and Catalina Giglio who will continue to serve on the Board as a Foundation Governor. We would also like to wish Mrs Alcorn a very fond farewell as she leaves this Easter and thank her for her 5 years of service.

Please enjoy the Easter break and God bless.

Dr Jim Park

Chair of Governor

"Our School family at St Mary's wants this to be a safe, caring, creative, and happy place, where we all have a fair chance to learn and grow together and to do the best we can. We do this by knowing and loving Jesus more every day and by following his teachings in a joyful way."