



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Rowden Hill, Chippenham, Wiltshire. SN15 2TH

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Headteacher: Mrs Jane Howie-Jez

## INTERIM EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE - TERM 6

### Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the last term of the year; the Interim Executive Board (IEB) hopes that you and your children had an enjoyable break.

The IEB committed to keep the School community informed of the progress being made throughout the School, so we are pleased to be able to share these recent developments.

We look forward to meeting with you again on **Monday 10 June at 6.15 pm** at the next Parents' Forum.

### Leadership

The IEB appreciates that many families are concerned about arrangements for leadership going forward, and that you wish to know further details about internal class organisation plans for the new academic year.

The IEB is very grateful to Mr Stuart Telling from Wiltshire LA who has provided leadership over the past term. The IEB will continue to work with officers of the LA, and the Diocese to ensure that secure leadership will be in place at the start of the new academic year.

### Organisation for September

Mr Telling will provide an oversight of class groupings at the Parent Forum, and these details will of course be made available to those who are not able to come. At this point in the term, arrangements for allocation of individual class teachers are still being made, and these will be shared as soon as possible so that transition arrangements for all children are smooth.

### Progress since HMI Visit

Following the positive outcome of the HMI inspection last term, measures have been put in place to continue the progress made since September 2018. A copy of the current Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP) is on the School web site. The measures specified in the PIAP will prepare the School for the next interim HMI inspection as a further step towards leaving Special Measures.

Mrs Bev Ball the School Challenge & Support Partner visited the school at the end of term 5 and reported on outcomes she found. During Term 6 the LA will continue to provide support for mathematics, and classroom practice will be supported and monitored by an external School Improvement Adviser, Mr Richard Blofeld.

## **Safeguarding**

The School has been audited several times this year for its Safeguarding and found to have robust measures and practice in place. We take this opportunity to remind you that Safeguarding of our children is everyone's duty and we are grateful for your contribution to this.

## **Budget**

With the introduction of cost-saving measures, the School budget for 2018-2019 was balanced at financial year-end. However, the School is facing a significant budget deficit for this and the following years because of the falling numbers of children on roll. With the support of Wiltshire Local Authority, the IEB has had to implement a review of school staffing and this has led to the implementation of a whole-school staffing restructure.

## **Working with the Diocese of Clifton**

Part of the IEB's responsibility is to uphold the catholicity of the School. To this end, we are working with the Diocese of Clifton and have had positive meetings with Diocese staff and the Bishop. Bishop Declan will visit the School on 04 October. You will know that Masses continue to be held in School as well as themed assemblies. We are pleased to announce that Mr Paul Kehoe, Academies & Schools Project Officer for Clifton Diocese, himself a Catholic, will join the IEB this term. Mr K will be coming to the Parent Forum on Monday, and we are sure he will enjoy meeting with you.

## **Uniform for September**

Finally, the IEB has reviewed its decision to consult on changes to uniforms. With the amount of work involved in School restructuring and the pending HMI monitoring visit, we have agreed to go with the general view of parents that the main change needed was to allow girls to wear trousers or culottes in the approved School grey colour. This change will be implemented from September.

The IEB is grateful to the commitment shown by parents/carers and staff. We wish to reassure you that real progress is being made and that your children remain our highest priority. As ever, we are open to hear your views and receive your feedback.

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