



Governors' Newsletter, July 2019

Hello everyone - and welcome to the final newsletter of the year from the governors of Our Lady & St Werburgh's. We aim to share with you as much as is reasonably possible - minutes of our full governing body meetings continue to be uploaded to the school website.

Nursery

We have decided to bid again next year for a grant to build a new nursery, following this year's unsuccessful attempt. The reality may well be that our mobile unit is not in a sufficient state of disrepair (something that we would not allow to happen while children use it) and we may also have to consider offering to invest more money upfront. In the meantime, our nursery provision will undergo some considerable changes - from September we will offer 18 full-time places. We are able to do this following revised diocesan regulations, and adaptations to the layout of the room. At our recent governors meeting we discussed our nursery provision and how much we know you value it. For so many of our children, coming to our nursery has been their introduction to Catholic education and the start of life-long friendships. We hope that the offer of full-time nursery places will allow children to better develop their early years education with us, and will also be more family-friendly. Admissions rules mean that a nursery place will never be a guarantee of a place in Reception. From September 2020, our school's 'catchment area' will include the parish of Our Lady & John the Baptist, Ashley, as well as the parish of Our Lady & St Werburgh, Clayton. We continue to be over-subscribed for places in Reception.

School Finances

At the time of writing, it looks that we will end the year with a small surplus, and be just about able to set a balanced-budget for 2019/20. Since January we have been monitoring our financial situation each month as we navigated our way through to the end of term. In September, we will look at the condition of a number of areas around school: toilets; kitchen and dining; and security, to see where we might be able to bid for government money to help with refurbishments. This would be in addition to resubmitting a bid for a new nursery building. Our increase in government cash for next year equates to just £12 per pupil. When you take all of these things into consideration you can see just how important your contribution is to our school fund. If you haven't been able to donate yet, there's still time! It is a voluntary scheme but it helps us to keep the school warm, safe, and secure. I would like to express my thanks to those governors who have given their time to work with Mr Grove on our financial forecasts and buildings surveys. So much of our parish community revolves around the life of our school, so being financially viable and in a good state of repair means so much to so many of us, and to the lives of our children. As staff and governors in a Catholic school, it is our responsibility to safeguard the spiritual, moral, vocational, social and cultural education of our pupils.

PTO...



School Standards

Our school standards committee meets once a term with Mr Grove and another member of staff. Our thanks to Mrs Ford who was able to join us last month, to look at the achievements of our children across the whole school, with a particular focus on Early Years. One governor also went in to see Mrs Freckleton to watch and review the teaching and learning that takes place in Years 1&2. Our annual tests in Key Stage One were sent for external moderation this year, while in respect of this year's Key Stage Two tests, here is the percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard:

	England	Our Lady & St Werburgh's
Reading	73%	88%
Writing	78%	91%
Maths	79%	91%
R, W, M	65%	88%
Grammar	78%	91%

And Finally...

Isn't it great to have a crossing warden again?! Her name is Jo, so do say hello in the mornings and on your way home.

Thank You to all of you who got involved in school life this year, often voluntarily. Thanks also to our army of grandparents who help and support our children so frequently, and to the staff at Wise Owls for their love and care – often at short notice! A word of appreciation too for Fr Anton who provides us with such unstinting support and enthusiasm. We know how much he enjoys life with us, and we value his time, experience, and guidance, as our Parish Priest, school chaplain, and as one of our governors.

To those children and their families who will soon be leaving us: good luck for the next step in your education - we hope that you will look back on your time at Our Lady & St Werburgh's with great fondness and a lifetime of happy memories.

On behalf of the governing body, very best wishes to all of our families for the summer holiday, see you in September, and a huge thanks to our staff for all that they have achieved this year.

James O'Hara, Chair of Governors, July 2019 - governors.olsw@ctkcc.co.uk