



From the Chair – Peter Griffin



Dear Parents

We held our second FGB (Full Governing Body) meeting of the school year on Monday November 1st and we welcomed Mrs Tassell as our new staff governor as Mrs Garner has stepped down now due to going on maternity leave. We still have vacancies for two new Foundation Governors, who are appointed by the Archdiocese and are required to be practicing Catholics; if any parents amongst you have relatives or know of anyone who might 'fit the bill' please do get in touch.

It is lovely to be allowed back on site and have the opportunity to see some of the amazing work displayed on classroom walls. We are now planning a schedule of governor visits and we also hope that non-parent governors will have the opportunity to meet parents and introduce ourselves to many of you at school events such as the Christmas fayre, the carol service on December 16th, KS1 nativities and to be present some of the time next Wednesday, November 10th, when parents can meet with class teachers. As governors one of our key functions is to ensure the school is striving to improve and provide excellent quality teaching and learning and, just like the staff, we are held to account when OFSTED decide it is time to visit. To this end we are hoping that parents will engage by giving us your views and you will be invited to complete OFSTED parent questionnaires using parent view online; we hope to have some notebooks available for parents next week to access the parentview website or paper versions for you to complete.

I know how many parents rely on the fantastic Care Club service provided by Mary and Anna; we know that parents appreciate the flexibility that our Care Club offers and that payment is linked to usage rather than having to be booked a week or term in advance. As governors we are committed to continue providing this flexibility but we are also responsible for ensuring that this facility is not a long-term drain on our finances. The school has had to heavily subsidise Care Club during Covid as, understandably, there was a sharp fall in demand and income but, as more of you return to more normal patterns of working, we hope demand will grow and I encourage parents to make use of this.

I want to express our thanks and appreciation for all the hard work that went into holding such a successful Open Morning on Saturday October 16th for prospective Reception and Nursery children. In particular, I want to thank Mrs O'Connor for the way in which she engages with pupils and parents and for being such a fantastic advocate for Our Lady's. We are very encouraged by the applications already received for entry in September 2022, especially the interest expressed in our nursery provision. As always it is our present parents who are crucial to spreading the word amongst their peers about Our Lady's. **Registration for the Reception class** starting in September 2022 is ongoing and can I remind you and your friends that the **deadline set by Warwickshire is 15th January**. Full details of the Admissions process can be found on the school website.

The work undertaken between the Headteacher and Chair of Governors is often 'behind the scenes' but is crucial for the long-term success of any school; I want to publicly acknowledge and thank Mrs Batson for her leadership and energy in driving Our Lady's forward and again I thank all our wonderful staff for coping so magnificently with the challenges they have faced over the last 18 months. Mrs Batson was responsible for securing the funding from the diocese for the new boundary fencing and playground resurfacing, which now has markings for a variety of sports.

As promised College staff treated the area outside the school fence during half-term and we hope to plant bulbs soon and grass seed in the spring.

I want to conclude by thanking all of our parents for your continued support of Our Lady's school.

Stay safe and God bless

Peter Griffin

Chair on behalf of Our Lady's Governing Body