



Governors' Newsletter, September 2017

Welcome!

Hello everyone and welcome back to a new year at Our Lady & St Werburgh's. The Governors would particularly like to welcome any families who are new to our school, we hope that your child makes the most of their time with us. We will also be welcoming our new school Bursar Mrs Wallani, who will be joining us from Our Lady & St Benedict Catholic primary in Abbey Hulton, where she was also involved in an academy conversion. Mrs Wallani was recently interviewed by Mr Grove and two Governors.

Academy Conversion

We are continuing to process the paperwork which is required by the Archdiocese. If you are not aware, it has asked us to join the Multi-Academy Trust which is made up of St John Fisher and four local Catholic primary schools. The next significant step will be to appoint a solicitor to help guide us through the process. We will then let you know more details about how the academy scheme works. As we have previously outlined: we will still be Our Lady & St Werburgh's Catholic Primary School; our admissions process and catchment area will remain the same; and you will still have the freedom to choose where to send your child in Year 7.

School Sports

We found out at the very end of last year that our school has been awarded 'Gold' status for School Games. This is in recognition of the range and frequency of sports that our children can take part in. The School Games scheme operates throughout England with a local co-ordinator in each area who arranges competitions and leagues, and judges the quality of PE provision in schools. We are the only primary school in Newcastle to have achieved Gold! We are also eagerly awaiting to hear what award our Gardening Club may have won in this year's Newcastle-in-Bloom, good luck to all involved!

PTO...



Library

During the summer holidays we appointed a new contractor to complete the building project, after our previous construction company went into administration. There is relatively little work left to do but it obviously set us back a bit, so thank you for your patience. Thanks to our architect Wood Goldstraw Yorath, and also to KMF Group, for their continued support. In the coming weeks we will write to you with details of this year's Building Fund which will help us to maintain a warm, safe and secure environment for all of our children.

Link Governors & Committees

Your governors will continue to meet with staff to oversee all aspects of our school's life. One governor will also attend a school assembly each month. Members of the School Improvement committee will also meet with staff to discuss the progress of all of our pupils. You may have seen in the national news recently that schools are starting to take part in 'lockdown' scenarios and this is something that Staffordshire County Council has asked Mr Grove to do too. Your governors have suggested that you are given ample notice before this takes place and that one of us will be present to help review procedures. This term you'll also be invited to take part in the governors' school survey, which we carry out every two years. If you would like to see the results of the 2015 survey, they are in the Governors section of the school website, as is a list of which committees and subject areas your governors are involved in.

And Finally

Many thanks to those of you who will give some of your time this year (for free) to support our children's education. We have many active volunteers from: the PTA; listening to pupils read; joining in with events outside of school hours; or just simply attending School Mass on Thursday mornings. There are lots of ways to get involved, so thank you.

James O'Hara, Chair of Governors, September 2017
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