



Our Lady & St. Werburgh's Catholic Primary School

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Seabridge Lane,
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Hello everyone, and welcome back to Our Lady & St Werburgh's for the summer term. I trust that you enjoyed the Easter break and managed to get some rest with your family. I also hope that you find this Governors' Newsletter useful and it helps you to understand some of the work that we do at your school.

Visit of Archbishop Bernard

The last time an Archbishop came to Clayton was 2003, and the last time that one came into school was even further back than that, so we were truly blessed to be visited by Archbishop Bernard as part of our school's Golden Jubilee year. The sun shone gloriously as he blessed our newly refurbished statue of Mary, and all the seats were taken in Church for the evening Mass. Thank You to all who shared in the occasion with us, in particular our school choir who were outstanding. I'm sure that the day has created a legacy for our community, and a lifetime of memories for our children.

Academy conversion

At this stage, there isn't much more to add to what Mr Grove and I wrote to you with before Easter. This is something that has been asked of us by the Diocesan Education Service (DES), and applies to all non-academy schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. This term your Governors will form a sub-committee to prepare for what we need to do. At some point in the future we will also hold an open meeting to hear what you think, although please be patient because at this stage there is no timetable for any of this. We expect to hear from the DES again at some time next month.

Sampling Visit

Last term the school was visited by a consultant from Staffordshire County Council who carried out what's known as a 'sampling visit'. We were inspected for: pupil outcomes; teaching; and leadership. We were rated as 'good to outstanding' or 'outstanding' in all areas. The report said that 'the school has a rigorous and robust self-evaluation cycle in place that enables continuous improvement'.

School Improvement

Your Governors continue to meet with staff to check on the progress of all of our pupils. Our School Improvement Committee has met with Mrs Lockley (KS2) and Mrs Freckleton (KS1) and this term we will meet with Mrs Ford (Early Years). You may like to know that our Early Years score for 'Good Level of Development' is 77% compared to 66% nationally. We also have what's known as 'Link Governors' who take extra responsibility for checking on a particular area of our children's education and those one-to-one meetings with staff go on throughout the year.

PTO





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School website

You may have noticed that we have given our school website a makeover. If not, log on and take a look. We have spent time to make sure that it is compliant with the information that the Department for Education and Ofsted expects us to publish. It also tells you which Governors are on which committee, and which area of school life we take a lead on. Please be patient as Mr Grove completes the final bits and pieces. There is also a new section called 'School Videos' which we hope you will enjoy.

Elsewhere...

Mr Stockton will be staying on with us for one more year, in Year 5.

You should now be noticing a big difference in the look of the library building site. Thank you for your patience if you park on the top playground in the afternoons, the library will be a fantastic resource for our children.

You will have heard lots in the news about education funding, and a new 'national funding formula'. In the government's current consultation it is proposed that we will receive an increase of 2%. We will let you know what the final outcome is.

And the attendance of our pupils remains extremely high at 97.1%. Good attendance is so important to the way the school works, so to all our families - thank you.

And finally...

I began by reflecting on the visit of Archbishop Bernard and I would like to end by thanking our parents and grandparents who support our children at School Mass each Thursday morning. It's one of the most important hours in the school's week, so whether you turn up to hear your child read, or simply enjoy listening to our children sing, thank you....9.15 on a Thursday morning really is Clayton's best kept secret!

Don't forget the email for governors is: olswgovernors@ourlady-st-werburghs.staffs.sch.uk and it's also on the school website.

On behalf of the Governing Body, thank you, and very best wishes for this term

James O'Hara
Chair of Governors
April 2017

