



Governors' Newsletter, October 2018

Hello everyone and a warm welcome to the families who are new to Our Lady & St Werburgh's; we hope that your child has settled in to school life.

New Build

In the coming weeks we will submit a planning application to replace the mobile classroom we have on site. This is the first stage in a process that has to go through a few steps before we find out if we are successful with funding. In December we would apply for a grant from the Education & Skills Funding Agency to add a new building onto the side of the current Year 1 classroom. We would then hear in April next year if we have been successful. The cost of this project would be in the region of £250,000 - we know that the ESFA tends to look more favourably upon bids that already have planning permission in place. We had looked into this when we were under the supervision of the county council, but grants for local authority building projects have been shrinking while funding for work at academy schools has grown. While we were able to build a library thanks to your fundraising, goodwill, and the generosity of key benefactors, this project, if successful, would be delivered by central government funding. The infant playground would move to the area vacated by the mobile unit, with the necessary groundworks to deliver a like-for-like space.

School Standards

Each year a lot of focus is understandably given to Year 6 test results, but it is the role of governors to look at standards and progress across all of our year groups. In our previous newsletter we showed you the results for our Key Stage 2 children who reached the expected standard, compared to the national average. Here is the same for Key Stage 1, many congratulations to our pupils and staff:

| | Our Lady & St Werburgh's | England |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Y2 Reading | 80% | 75% |
| Y2 Maths | 83% | 76% |
| Y2 Writing | 77% | 70% |
| Y1 Phonics | 100% | 82% |

Results in Writing remain very difficult to compare and contrast, due to continued changes to the assessment methods.

PTO...



School Fund

We will soon write to you with details of this year's school fund. It is a voluntary donation and while we aim to make it as reasonable as possible, it makes such a difference to school finances. There has been plenty of news coverage recently of schools in grave financial difficulty. We are able to operate 'in the black' at Our Lady & St Werburgh's and the school fund plays a vital role in helping us to deliver that. It does what it says on the tin: helping us to pay for ongoing repairs to help keep the school safe, warm and secure, while also allowing us to provide the necessary items and extra-curricular experiences that directly benefit our children.

Academy update

For those of you who don't know, in April this year we joined the Christ the King Multi-Academy Trust, following the instruction from our Archdiocese. Our Academy consists of St John Fisher RC High, and the following Catholic primary schools: St Mary's (Newcastle); St Teresa's (Trent Vale); St Thomas Aquinas (Stoke); and St Wulstan's (Wolstanton). Governors are eager to make the most of all the opportunities that being a part of this group may provide to our pupils.

Thank You

Thank You in advance to all of you who get involved in school life, usually voluntarily. Many of you offer your skills and services formally and informally. Thanks also to our army of grandparents who help and support our children so frequently. A word of appreciation too for Fr Anton who provides us with unstinting support and care. School Mass is every Thursday at 9:15 in church – feel free to come along any week to listen to our children sing and read; it really is Clayton's best kept secret!

And Finally...

We hope that you find these newsletters useful and informative. We try to share as much information with you as is reasonably possible. Previous governors' newsletters are on the school website, including details regarding our recent academy conversion. We will soon be uploading the minutes of our local governing body meetings to the website. Our sub-committees meet termly and the next all-governors meeting is in December.

On behalf of the governing body, very best wishes to you and your family for the term ahead.

James O'Hara, Chair of Governors, October 2018

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