



St. Mary's Church of England VC Infant School

'Sharing, caring, learning and loving with God'

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Headteacher: Mrs Claire Gunn BA (Ed)

Deputy Head: Mrs Bev Waldwyn B.Ed

TERMLY UPDATE JULY 2019

The Full Governing Body had two meetings in the summer term and the minutes of these meetings are available upon request to the school office for you to read if you would like to do so.

We met on **30th April** and received reports from EYFS, SENCo and Pupil Premium Leads. The current positions were explained and we were able to ask questions such as:

- Did you as parents and carers attend the sessions and how engaged were you since this will be an important aspect for our school next term?
- To what extent we can judge you help your child in reading outside of school hours and are you aware of the different techniques to help your child?

We were really pleased to hear you are doing these things and that the amount of reading in the reception class is greater than it was and that has helped us to improve on the results of your children leaving the reception classes this summer.

The main item discussed at the second meeting held on **1st July** was Mrs Gunn's head teacher's report. She reported on the expected pupil numbers for September which are lower due to the fall in birth rates in Baldock. The data in key stage 1 is very close to what was predicted by the school and this has been compared against national and school data for 2018; EYFS data is very strong and the ambitious targets have been met.

Congratulations was given by the Governing Body to the EYFS team for all the hard work they have carried out as well as achieving the **EYFS gold quality mark** which has just been awarded.

The EYFS team have been very committed to achieving their targets and this has been recognised by all staff.

Amongst others, we asked questions about the effectiveness of specific practices where a few children are taken out of class to be given additional teaching where it is required and the support going forward for the children who did not gain a good level of development upon leaving reception.

As you know, governors were been allocated specific objectives to monitor in the School Development Plan and separate reports are made after their visits which are set out briefly below.

Committees

Each of our committees, Pay and Personnel and Resources met during the term.

Governor Visits as set out to look at the objectives in the SDP.

On 24th April Janet Hammond, as special educational needs governor (SEN/D), met with Mrs Jablonski to discover the new marking policy has been modified for higher achieving children. She also examined writing books and topic books in the reception class and looked at the children's progress.

On 15th May Teresa Glenister, as pupil premium governor, made her visit to look also at the progress of disadvantaged and special educational needs children. She met with Mrs Gunn and gained an appreciation of the ongoing areas as barriers to learning and looked at where the school was in relation to the targets set for these children.

During May I carried out the termly safe guarding visit meeting both Mrs Gunn and Mrs Jablonski to ensure there were no issues. Later I provided Mrs Jablonski with a set of questions to ask all the children to see if they felt safe in school. The answers to these questions can be found outside the staffroom. The overall view from children is that children feel safe in the school; they are clear about their boundaries and know they can talk to an adult if they have any concerns.

On 28th June Mark Kendall, our Health & Safety Governor, carried out his termly review and reported there were currently no health and safety issues at the school. As attendance governor he also looked at the figures and it was found the attendance is still not as it should be and none of the school's strategies or incentives have been effective and attendance is heavily taken into consideration by Ofsted. At our meeting in July we have reluctantly decided that a fining policy for non-approved absences would be introduced from 1st September.

On 11th July Janet Hammond attended a subject leaders update on their own subject, current issues and their plans for next year.

On the same day in her role as SEN/D governor, Janet also met with Mrs Jablonski to receive an update on the SEN/D provision and looked at the progress of SEN children, with supporting spring term data.

Teresa and Janet also attended the open evening on the same day.

Teresa who has served the school as teacher, deputy head and governor for more years than she cares to admit will be leaving the governing body at the end of term. I am deeply in debt to her for her time and dedication she has given to the school and helped guide us through the good and difficult times. Her experience of the school, its character and importance together with her inherent knowledge have been fundamental in the decisions we have made over the past few years. Her sound judgements will be missed.

Louise Rigby, a parent, has joined the governing body and I have plans for her role in the coming term.

As you know our strong and inspiring head, **Mrs Gunn**, will be leaving us at the end of next month. Over nearly five years it has been a pleasure for me to "work", if that is the right word, with her. We have had an excellent relationship and have been able to have frank and open discussions where each of us have expressed our views before the decisions have been made in the best interests of the school. From my point of view I have gained invaluable experience from the relationship and take this opportunity to wish her the very best in her new role.

Since her appointment, our new head, Miss Edey and I have met and talked on the 'phone to ensure a smooth transition for St Mary's under her leadership.

I would like to make a request to you as we would like to recruit a new parent governor. Please contact the school office in September if you are interested.

I am, of course, available to talk to you if you want and I can be contacted through the school office.

Andrew Watkin
Chair of Governors
19th July 2019.