



**Welcome** to the first newsletter from the governing body of St. John's School. Our aim is that we communicate more frequently with parents and carers so that you feel better informed about who we are, what we are doing to support the school and our areas of focus, as well as about ongoing initiatives within the school.

## **The governing body**

The full governing body meets 5 times each academic year. In addition, sub-committees work to drive forward relevant initiatives, working in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA). There are currently 12 governors and 2 vacancies – roles include a local authority representative; elected staff and parents as well as foundation governors. Our full details are on the school website.



## **Spotlight on .... Evie Hambi (Chair of Governors)**

*In each newsletter we will provide a short profile of one of the governors so that you get to know us a little better. If you see us around the school, please do come and introduce yourself.*

Evie (seated far right in the picture above) is a mother of three boys (two currently at St John's and one who is now at secondary school) and had a former role in the PTFA many years ago before becoming a governor over three years ago. Evie says "I feel privileged to be Chair of Governors at St John's C of E Primary School and leading such a great team of Governors who work hard to guide the school's strategic direction. At St. John's we strive to achieve a unique identity as an outstanding Church of England school with a close family-based and friendly community where we care for one another and each child maximises their potential." In between looking after her family, working part-time for a local accountancy firm and carrying out her duties as Chair of Governors, Evie enjoys keeping fit, going to the gym, watching movies and supporting Chelsea FC.

## **Updates**

### **School results and performance** (see also attached data):

It is extremely encouraging to see the results from 2015, issued by the Department for Education. Some highlights include:

- \* Attendance is above the national average
- \* The proportion of Yr1 pupils meeting expected standard in phonics is above the national figure

\* Overall attainment in Key Stage 1 (KSI) increased in comparison to 2014 and was above national average attainment. We need to continue the great work on KSI reading development as well as focusing on maths

\* Reading, writing and spelling are exceeding the national average in Key Stage 2 (KS2). We must also focus on maths with our KS2 pupils

The governing body and SLT have a clear view of the priorities for this year and 2016/2017 to help us achieve our aim that our teachers are supported to deliver excellence and that the desired outcomes are achieved for pupils.

### **Let's celebrate:**

Last term may seem a distant memory, but let's take a minute to remember just a few of the many successes:

\* The School Christmas Fair was a successful event and great fun was had by those attending – thanks to everyone that helped make it such a success;

\* The nativity play and carol concerts by the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and KSI children were a credit to the hard work put in by teachers and pupils;

\* After school clubs (now organised by Mr Welch rather than by Aktiva) were a huge success last term - thank you to the teachers for running these;

\* The entire school is benefitting from the investment in technology (upgrading the IT infrastructure and new laptops, with further investment anticipated – see below for more information);

\* A number of trips took place to enhance the learning in the curriculum at all levels;

\* Mathematics Mastery was implemented in Year 1 and Reception classes and there was great support shown by parents at the information workshops;

\* Mrs Ostler's KS2 choir sang in the Tri-Borough Hub Christmas Festival at Hammersmith Town Hall in Latin, Spanish and English.

Well done to everyone involved in these plus all the other events that took place from September to December 2015 - we are very proud to see the breadth of activity at St. John's C of E School.

### **School dismissal consultation:**

You will have been aware of the consultation that was launched and concluded last term, in relation to the change of the school dismissal times. We thank you for your input to this consultation and it was good to hear your views on this matter when we met some of you at parents evening in November 2015. As a result of this consultation, the school dismissal timings will change from September 2016. The SLT will remind you again of the timings as we draw closer to implementation.

### **FOCUS ON ... IT investment update:**

*The 'Focus on...' feature will provide you with greater detail on current projects or initiatives that governors are involved in.*

In the 2014/2015 academic school year, the SLT and governors identified a gap in the technical capability at St John's. The IT equipment was outdated, time consuming to operate and maintain and it required investment. At the same time, the school recognised an opportunity to bring interactive learning to pupils through the use of iPads and apps that can be tailored to each child's ability and pace of development.

The IT upgrade commenced and has included a significant investment of £65,000 in the IT infrastructure, a new curriculum server, Wi-Fi introduced throughout the school building and 31 new Dell laptops in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) suite. In January 2016,

42 new iPads and charging trolleys were introduced for enhancing the learning experience. Currently there are 28 iPads in KS2 and 14 in EYFS and at the moment they each have six apps loaded. The School will present these chosen apps within the presentation to parents which is taking place in the near future.

The full vision of this investment project includes two sets of 30 iPads for KS2, one set of 30 iPads for KSI and one set of 14 iPads for EYFS. The school Bursar will be exploring available grants and funding avenues to ensure that we can deliver this investment for St John's School.

The School Leadership Team will review the use of the iPads, initially to provide high-level feedback. Further reviews will be carried out in the summer and at the end of the calendar year to consider the impact on performance, children's engagement and development, staff use and to assess the choice of learning apps.

We will keep you updated as we obtain more data on the impact of the investment project.

**Close:**

Hopefully you have found this newsletter informative. It has certainly reminded us of the huge amount that we achieve as a school, both within and outside of the curriculum. Thank you to you all for your support in helping us achieve this. Of course there are always areas for us to improve in, and we'll keep you updated on progress in these areas moving forward.

We would appreciate hearing your views on this first issue of the Governor's Golden Eagle and also to get your input on what you might like to read about in the future. Please email us ([governors@stjohnsce.lbhf.sch.uk](mailto:governors@stjohnsce.lbhf.sch.uk)) with your thoughts and feedback.

**School results and performance additional data (based on the most recently published data from Oct/ Nov 2015)**

	Reading		Writing		Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar		Maths	
	School	National	School	National	School	National	School	National
% of children making expected progress (2 levels or more) in Key Stage 2	100%	91%	100%	94%	N/A	N/A	84%	90%
% of children making better than expected progress (3 levels) in Key Stage 2	48%	35%	48%	33%	N/A	N/A	32%	35%
% of children achieving Level 4 or above at the end of Key Stage 2	96%	89%	96%	87%	92%	80%	92%	87%
% of children achieving Level 5 or above at the end of Key Stage 2	69%	48%	46%	36%	73%	55%	42%	41%

	Reading		Writing		Maths	
	School	National	School	National	School	National
% of children achieving Level 2 or above at the end of Key Stage 1	92	91	94	88	93	92
% of children achieving Level 3 or above at the end of Key Stage 1	33	32	24	18	30	24

Our school		National
% of children in Year 1 passing the Phonics screening check	83%	77%

Key	Below National Standards	In line with National Standards	Exceeding National Standards
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