

A U T U M N T E R M U P D A T E

# Governors' News

The Federation of St Mary's and St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary



## Autumn Term News Update

Welcome to our newsletter keeping you informed of the Governors work behind the scenes towards shaping the vision and strategy for our Federation of schools in order to further school improvement.

### Meetings last term – Key areas of discussion

September:  
Appoint Chair  
Ratify policies

November:  
Budget meeting

January:  
Data

### Governing Body Members

#### Foundation Governors

Katrina Rigby – Chair  
Dominic Coughlin – Vice Chair  
Harry Hare – Vice Chair  
Fr Emmanuel Oedemene  
Fr Steven Restori  
Dr Paul Severn  
David Beeney  
Liz Bishop  
Headteachers  
Alison Langridge  
Maggie Sanderson

#### Parent Governors

Alex Pettitt  
Vacancy

#### Staff Governor

Janey Chadwick

#### Current Vacancies

Foundation Governor  
Co-opted Governor  
LA Governor



## Governors' Prayer

Almighty God, may our school be welcoming  
May our school be encouraging Let friendship  
flourish here Let learning fill our day Give us  
the strength to do our best Give us the hope  
to carry on. Be our guide in all that we do.  
Lord make this school your home too

## Welcome to our new families

It has been wonderful to welcome our new families to the Federation and to see the children so keen and eager and settling in well to their new environments. It is also lovely to see familiar faces returning after a wonderful summer holiday with so much sunshine that we all enjoyed.

We look forward to meeting you at forthcoming events. Our Parent Associations, FOSMA and FOSTA work tirelessly to support the Federation in raising much needed funds. We hope that you will continue to support them in their future events.

## Headship Appointment at St Mary's

Many of our families at St Mary's will know the struggle that we have faced in recruiting a Headteacher.

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Alison Langridge has been offered the position for two years with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 and we are happy to say she has accepted!



In our last newsletter we explained about the National shortage of Catholic Headteachers and why a Catholic school is required to appoint a practicing Catholic as Head. On this occasion however, the Diocese have granted us permission to appoint Alison as interim Head for 2 years.

We are sure that you will join us in officially welcoming Alison to the Federation and are thrilled that this will now provide much needed stability and continuity.

Alison has hit the ground running and we can already see the positive impact she is having within the school and the wider community.

## Building Fund

We would firstly like to say a big thank all families who have already contributed this term and in previous years.

As a voluntary-aided school, the Federation of St Mary's and St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Schools receive less funding for capital expenditure from the Local Authority than county primary schools. The shortfall in funding has to be obtained from the Catholic Church, which, in the Portsmouth Diocese, is achieved through membership of a Diocesan Schools' Building Fund.

Through your kind donations, we have been fortunate to have had major structural repairs and improvements undertaken at both schools. This includes a new roof at St Mary's, extensions to St Thomas' learning areas, together with playground enhancements.

Your termly or annual contributions can be paid online via ScoPay or can be paid by direct debit (please ask a member of the school admin team for bank details). We are asking families to contribute an annual sum of £30.00 for one child in either school or £45.00 for two or more children in either school. We hope that you can continue to support the Federation as there are many more improvements that we would like to see to enhance your child's learning experience.

You can find full details of the Sports Premium spending across the Federation on our websites and we encourage you to have a look. Some of the exciting improvements funded by the Sports Premium Grant include a Dance Platform, PE clubs and staff training at St Thomas'. St Mary's has seen an increase in physical activities during the day including clubs, MSA run activities, the Golden Mile. Both schools have also entered numerous local sporting events and have had successes along the way.

## News from St Marys

Thank you to the members of the Green Gym who have helped to renovate our school pond.

We had great pleasure in inviting our families to our Gruffalo Day and would like to thank everyone who helped to paint the fences in year 1 & 2. Your support is gratefully appreciated.

A big thank you also, to Tesco Community Representatives who have painted the outside of our school. This has made such a difference to the school environment.

All year groups recently enjoyed their second day of outdoor learning. different aspects of learning and provides diversity.



## News from St Thomas'

Our new uniform is attracting some very positive comments from the wider community and we are looking very smart and proud wearing it. The children helped to design the new logo and we couldn't be more proud of them.

We have seen the construction of a stage area on the playing field and it is wonderful to see the children being so creative and entertaining at break.

Our parents have kindly donated their time to help paint the fences around the school - thank you.

Our reception area has seen the addition of a new covered area which enables more outside play and learning even in the rain!

Mr Booth, our Maths Lead welcomed parents to an information evening which was well attended.

And Finally...

We would like to say goodbye and our best wishes go to Becky Brailsford, Angela Cowells and Jemma Strickley.

We would like to formally welcome Mrs Jo Cass as to St Mary's Catholic Primary School. Jo has moved within the Federation from St Thomas' and we wish her all the best within her new Senior Role at St Mary's.

We officially welcome Miss Alys James to St Thomas's.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all  
a happy and healthy 2019.

Best wishes from your Governors

### How to Contact us -

If you would like to contact the  
governors please do so via the  
school office or email us at -  
[federationchair@stmaryspri.co.uk](mailto:federationchair@stmaryspri.co.uk)