

S P R I N G T E R M 2 0 1 8

The Governors' News

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



Governing Body Members

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS:

Chair- Katrina Rigby
Vice Chair St Mary's –Dominic Coughlin
Vice Chair St Thomas's- Harry Hare
Fr Emmanuel Oedemene
Fr Steven Restori
Paul Severn
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy

HEADTEACHERS:

Maggie Sanderson
Alison Langridge

PARENT GOVERNORS;

Alex Pettit
Vacancy

STAFF GOVERNOR- Janey Chadwick

CO-OPTED GOVERNOR- Lynsey Stanton

LA GOVERNOR- Vacancy

Spring Term News

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

Meetings this term – Key areas of discussion

10th January

Headteachers' termly reports

Admissions Policy
19/20

SENCo report

20th February

Literacy action Plan St
Thomas'

Data point 2 St Mary's

Headteacher
Recruitment

20th March

Schools Financial
Value Standards

Literacy Action Plan St
Mary's

Data point 2 St
Thomas'



Headteacher Recruitment- St Mary's

The key focus for St Mary's has been to secure leadership and recruit a permanent Headteacher for September 2018. We placed an advert in the Times Educational Supplement (TES) at the start of the year but frustratingly we were unsuccessful in finding a Catholic candidate.

The TES is widely seen in the teaching profession as the place to look for a leadership post so we have just launched a second advert and we hope and pray to be more successful this time. There is a National shortage of Catholic Headteachers, so we have been networking across the Diocese and other Catholic Schools to bring the advert to the attention of potential leaders.

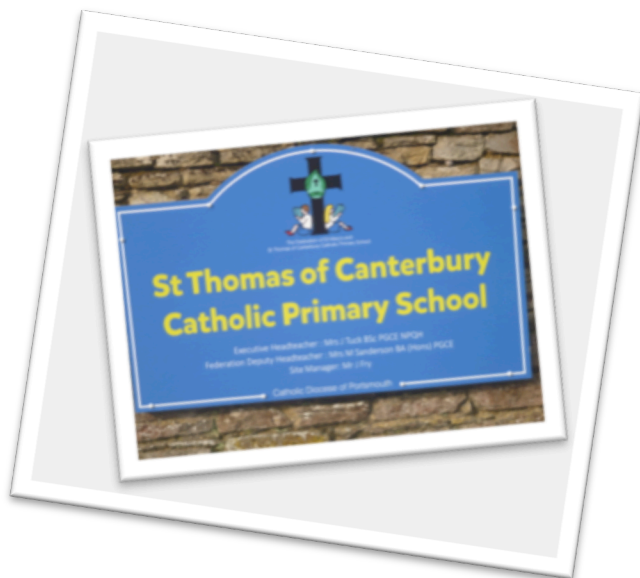
Some parents have questioned why, if it is so difficult, the appointed Headteacher has to be a practising Catholic? The answer is simply that to preserve and develop the quality and distinctive nature of a Catholic School, depends on the faith, practice and commitment of the teachers in the schools and especially the Headteacher.

The mission of a Catholic school is to help everyone within the school community to grow in faith, to make the most of every ability they have been given, to achieve academic excellence and to prepare well for adult life in a modern and diverse society.

What do Catholic Schools do?

- Catholic Schools share the Vision of the Catholic Church
- Provide the best learning for each child to reach his/her potential.
- Give the best context for young people to engage in worship and Christian action
- Have Headteachers who witness as prophet and priest, anointed to the service of school community
- Have a community of staff who lead worship and model Christian life and values
- Are the place where children and young people engage daily with their faith: worship, witness of staff, opportunities to reflect, pray and put their beliefs into practice.

As Foundation Governors we are appointed by the bishop to deliver this Mission. We are very grateful to Mrs Langridge for the improvements she has made as our Interim Headteacher and for her understanding of the long-term goals of St Mary's school.



Good Ofsted Report for St Thomas of Canterbury

Congratulations to Mrs Sanderson and her staff team on achieving a good Ofsted report and the recognition that St Thomas' is a "Good" School, following a visit from HM Inspectors in January. The school has been on a journey of rapid improvement since the November 2014 Ofsted placed it into "Special Measures" and it is down to the hard work and determination of the whole community of staff, pupils and parents that they have now completed that stage of the journey, Thank you!

Please spread the word to friends and family looking for a school place in September, so that we can build on our success to grow our school community and be able to offer more opportunities to our pupils.

A Governors' Prayer



*Look upon us, O Lord, and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit.
Where there is weakness, give us strength;
Where there is disagreement, give us tolerance;
Where there is misunderstanding, give us patience;
Where there is hurt, give us the courage to forgive and the grace to
accept forgiveness.*

*We ask this in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen*

Sports Premium – PE Grant

In recent years the DfE have given schools a pot of money specifically allocated to promoting sport and active lifestyles for children. This year saw a significant increase in the Sports Premium received and both schools have been able to: make improvements to their playgrounds, either by improving the surface or the fencing; marking out new court lines for netball and multi-sports; providing PE equipment; and staff training for lunchtime activities.



Funky Friday in action at St Mary's



St Thomas' playground markings

The Building Fund

As a Voluntary Aided school all families are asked to contribute to the Building Fund either termly or annually in advance. The recommended **minimum amount is £10 per child per term or £15 per family and is due now please**. This money is held on account by the Diocese for any future building work we require. As a Voluntary Aided School we have to fund 10% of any capital expenditure or building projects to improve the school. The idea of the Building Fund is to build up a reserve pot just like a Savings account to fund this 10% in advance of having to find it for a project. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

St Mary's Reception Class and Preschool



The Early Years outside learning space at St Marys, has been dramatically improved by landscaping the previously muddy raised area with artificial grass. The space looks bigger, cleaner and brighter and we have to thank Fosma, our wonderful Parent's Association who made a big contribution to this expense. The Preschool and Reception class are side by side at St Mary's and this helps to make a seamless transition for children moving up to Reception class in the September. Please contact the school office for details of

Preschool session times and vacancies if required and please help to spread the word about our preschool.

Governor Vacancies

Are you passionate about improving our schools and have the time to volunteer as a governor? We are one governing Body for the two federated schools and as such our instrument of Governance requires us to have 16 members.

- We have recently identified three new **Foundation Governors** to join the board subject to approval and appointment by the Bishop.
- We have a vacancy for a new **Parent Governor** following the resignation of Simon Paul due to his work commitments. This could be a parent/carer from either school community and there is information circulating in school at the moment with details of how to apply. If there is more than one applicant for the position then there has to be an election ballot between the parents to decide the winner.
- We also have an **LA Governor** vacancy; to fill this seat you have to be nominated by the Local Authority/or ward councilor to represent the LA's point of view but you do not have to work for the Local Authority. LA governors are ultimately appointed by the Governing Body if they bring the right skill set to the board and we would really value someone with either financial/data or health and safety experience for any of these positions.

The Board meets monthly on Tuesday evenings at alternate schools between 6-8pm. For more information please email federationchair@stmaryspri.co.uk

And Finally-

Welcome to new LSA staff at St Mary's: Mr Riley and Mrs Cleverdon . Welcome back to Ms Dobson after her maternity leave and at St Thomas' it's goodbye and thank you to Mrs Eaton who has been covering Yr 3 and hello and welcome to the new class teacher Mrs Kitteridge who joins the team after the Easter holidays.

We also say thank you to departing Governors, Simon Paul and Jocelyn Galsworthy.

Wishing you all a happy and Holy Easter.



The 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