

# St Mary's VC Junior School Governor Newsletter

Issue 12, Summer 2016

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**W**elcome to the latest termly newsletter from the Governing Body (GB) of St Mary's School. At the end of another busy and successful year, we warmly thank all staff for their hard work and wish everyone a great summer. **Please note that children return to school on Monday 5 September.**



**SATS results** Well done and congratulations to Year 6 and their teachers on the SATS results, in the first year of assessment without levels. Our Key Stage 2 results show that St Mary's children outperformed the national averages in all of the core subjects and were particularly strong in grammar, spelling and punctuation (an impressive 19.6% above the national average). This is a super reflection of all the hard work put in by the children and staff throughout their time at St Mary's.



**School Policies** reviewed by the GB this term:

- Admissions
- Performance Appraisal
- Pay
- Code of Conduct
- Health & Attendance
- Staffing Structure
- Personal Files
- Stress Management Well Being Guidance



**Being a Voluntary Controlled School** During the autumn parents' evening, several parents asked governors what it means to be a VC school. In a VC school, the local authority owns the buildings, employs the staff and sets the entrance criteria, but the land is owned the church (for us, it's St Mary's church in Ware). The church also appoints some members of the school's governing body. We are required to conduct worship in accordance with the Christian character of the school. The general conduct and spirit of the school should reflect our Christian ethos.



**GB news** There are currently some Governor vacancies and we would love to hear from anyone interested in joining. Margaret Meldrum is retiring from the GB after an amazing 36 years of involvement with the school as a parent, teacher, governor and PTA member. Kathy Freeman and Ben Lee also stepped down this year. Many thanks to them all for their significant contributions.



**Monitoring Visits** Each Governor is linked to monitor an area of priority for the school. Visits that took place this year include:

Priority Area	Governor	Staff
Curriculum	Anna Black	Sarah Gilliver
Safeguarding	Celia Higson	Andy Cosslett
Special Educational Needs	Margaret Meldrum	Alison George
Religious Education	Celia Higson	Alison George
Finance	Dan Smith	Joanne Scripps
PE	Jane McCutcheon	Laura Taylor
Swimming Pool refurb	Karen Laudato	Andy Cosslett
Spelling	Deborah Johnson	Clare Thorne
Maths	Liz Gore	Peter Cox
Building on what children already know	Tony Gibbons	Andy Cosslett
Science	Nicci Smith	Andy Cosslett



**Breaktime Procedures** Parents at the autumn term parent evening also asked Governors about break and lunchtime procedures.

- Morning breaks are from 10:20 to 10:35, except Friday 10:30 to 10:45.
- Afternoon breaks are 2:10 to 2:25 on Mon, Tues and Thurs only.
- Lunchtimes are currently midday to 12:55 except Wednesday and Friday which are midday to 1:10.
- At lunchtimes children follow a rota system to determine their lunch sittings. In winter, all children having school lunches eat before children having sandwiches to ensure we get all lunches through on time. In good weather, sandwich children can eat out in the courtyard and will eat at the same time as their year group school lunch peers. Children can choose where to sit and are supported by Midday Supervisory Assistants (MSAs). Children causing concern about their eating habits are monitored, otherwise children are expected to independently collect, eat and clear away their own food.
- The school library is available and run by eight Year 5/6 librarians each day.
- MSAs are outside on duty, monitoring behaviour. TAs are on the playground working with a team of play leaders each day running a variety of other activities, in addition to the attached activity rota, eg, change 4 life games, netball shooting, bar-football, basketball shooting, giant connect 4, chess/draughts, skipping and diablos.

## St Mary's Playground Activity Rota

Area	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Adventure Playground1	Year 3	Year 6	Year 5	Year 4	Year 3
Adventure Playground 2	Year 4	Year 3	Year 6	Year 5	Year 4
Nature Area	All	All	All	All	All
Climbing Wall /Table Tennis	All	All	All	All	All
Year 3 Playground Football Lunchtime Only	Year 6	Year 5	Year 4	Year 3	Girls
Year 3 Playground Running Games AM & PM Breaktimes Only	Year 5	Year 3	Year 6	Year 4	Year 5
Reference & Homework Library	Year 5	Year 6	Year 3	Year 4	Year 6