

St Mary's VC Junior School Governor Newsletter

Issue 13, autumn 2016

www.stmarys306.herts.sch.uk



Welcome to our Year 3 families and to the latest newsletter from St Mary's Governing Body. We aim to keep you up-to-date, via regular newsletters, on the work that the Governors do to support our children and staff.



appointments:

Please join us in welcoming 4 new governors this term, who bring even more diversity and experience to the team and we are delighted to have them on board. Our new structure is included at the end of this newsletter.

- **Hayley King** joins as an Associate Member. Hayley is an experienced project manager with Herts County Council.
- **Sharon Wilson** joins as a Co-Opted Governor. Sharon brings her background as a scientist to the GB.
- **Kerry Scripps** also joins as a Co-Opted Governor. Kerry has extensive experience in education and strategic special educational needs (SEN) provision.
- **Reverend Ysmena Pentelow** joins as a Foundation Governor. Ysmena is the new vicar at St Mary's Church and also a Governor at St Catherine's school in Ware.



School policy reviews:

Governors reviewed and approved several policies this term, to ensure they are up-to-date and relevant.

- ✚ Pay and Appraisal
- ✚ Serious Incident
- ✚ Whistleblowing
- ✚ Sex and Relationship Education
- ✚ Restrictive Physical Intervention
- ✚ Employee Code of Conduct
- ✚ Personal Files
- ✚ Single Equality Scheme
- ✚ Homework
- ✚ More Able and Talented



What is a Governing Body for?

The GB is responsible for ensuring the school provides good quality education. Together with the Head, it sets the school's aims and policies, and makes decisions on how to spend the budget.

The Head is responsible for day to day management of the school, but is chosen by the Governors and works closely with them.



New self-evaluation process and action plan 2016

For the first time, St Mary's school has completed our annual self-evaluation using a new tool from Essex Education Services, which has brought together survey results from children, parents, staff and governors, along with the school's own assessments against the '25 characteristics of high performing schools'. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey in the summer.

The outcomes of our evaluations identified the **top 5 key priorities** (characteristics) that will have the biggest impact on what we do:

- Learning to learn (meta-cognition)
- Peer and collaborative learning
- Motivation and attitudes towards learning
- Professional development
- Learner centredness

The features of these priorities have been pulled together within **2 new major projects** that we have already begun working on in collaboration with 'Herts for Learning':

- Mastery in Mathematics
- Growing Minds: developing a positive growth mindset

Do take a look at the Self-Evaluation 2015-16 and Action Plan via the school website - click [here](#).



Sporting success!

Governors would like to congratulate the two **Netball** teams on their success against Bengoe (previous County champions). Further congratulations go to our **Basketball** team on winning the County championship held at Oaklands in St Albans. Well done to all the staff and children involved!



Christingle

Everyone is welcome at the Christingle service at 4pm at **St Mary's Church, Ware**, on Christmas Eve. This service is particularly suitable for families and children.



Governors wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



ST MARY'S GOVERNING BODY 2016/17

CHAIR OF GOVERNING BODY: Nicci Smith (PG)
VICE CHAIR: Liz Gore (PG)
CLERK TO GOVERNORS: Jan Duff

RESOURCES COMMITTEE **(incorporating Pay Committee):**

Nicci Smith (PG) Chair
Andrew Cosslett (Head - ex officio)
Tony Gibbons (LAG)
Celia Higson (FG)
Hayley King (AM)
Karen Laudato (PG)
Daniel Smith (CG)

LEARNING & TEACHING COMMITTEE:

Liz Gore (PG) (Chair)
Anna Black (PG)
Andrew Cosslett (Head - ex officio)
Deborah Johnson (AM)
Jane McCutcheon (AM)
Rev Ysmena Pentelow (FG – ex officio)
Kerry Scripps (CG)
Clare Thorne (SG)
Sharon Wilson (CG)

HEAD'S PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE:

Nicci Smith (PG), Liz Gore (PG)

LEADS:

Special Educational Needs & Disability: Anna Black
Health and Safety: Celia Higson
Safeguarding & Children Looked After: Deborah Johnson
Finance: Daniel Smith

AD HOC COMMITTEES (incorporating Complaints, Appeals & Exclusions)

Stage 1: Liz Gore, Tony Gibbons, Karen Laudato

Stage 2: Nicci Smith, Anna Black, Celia Higson, Daniel Smith

Key

PG: Parent Governor
SG: Staff Governor

FG: Foundation Governor
LAG: Local Authority Governor

CG: Co-opted Governor
AM: Associate Member