

# St Mary's Junior School Governor Newsletter

Issue 7, Autumn 2014

[www.StMarys306.herts.sch.uk](http://www.StMarys306.herts.sch.uk)



**W**elcome to the latest newsletter from St Mary's Governing Body, and in particular to our new Year 3 parents and carers. We aim to keep you up-to-date, via regular newsletters, on the work that the governors do to support our children and staff.

**Autumn Term Activities:** These are some examples of the work that your school governors have been involved in:



**Parent Consultation Evenings:** Governors were present on both evenings. Thanks to everyone who gave feedback to governors on the night or afterwards via [ParentView](#).



**Policy Reviews:** Each term, the Committees review a number of school policies, to ensure they are up-to-date and relevant. Policies are on the [school website](#). This term the following policies were reviewed:

-  Assessment
-  Child Protection
-  School Fund
-  Freedom of Information Publication



**Finance:** The Local Authority (LA) carried out a Finance Audit in September and reported their findings to the Headteacher and governors. Governors have been working with the Headteacher and Business Manager to ensure that the LA's recommendations are implemented. The finance governors meet monthly with Joanne Scripps, our school Business Manager, to monitor the school budget.



**School Trips:** Many new school trips have been implemented this year that better support the new national curriculum. The trips are exciting and memorable activities that 'launch' the class topic. If financial assistance with the donations is required, please contact Mr Cosslett via email [admin@stmarys306.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmarys306.herts.sch.uk) or phone 01920 463641. All contact is confidential.



## School Development and Improvement Plans:

This year, staff and governors considered feedback from Ofsted when developing the [school's plans](#), in addition to analysing our Key Stage 2 results. Both plans have been agreed with governors, and each Governor has been assigned one or two objectives to monitor with staff throughout the year. The key areas of focus are:

- Improving quality of teaching by improving written marking and feedback along with children's presentation and spelling.
- Implementing the new National Curriculum.
- Reviewing assessment arrangements following the removal of national curriculum levels of attainment.
- Improving provision for children with special educational needs following new statutory requirements.



Please join the governors in thanking all the staff at our school for their tremendous hard work, achievement and sense of fun. Don't forget how impactful a personal 'thank you' can be from a parent, it means a lot to staff!

## Learning and Teaching Committee:

The L&T Committee has responsibility for overseeing the academic side of St Mary's and is one of the Full Governing Body's two sub-committees. Particular responsibilities for this year include overseeing the implementation of the new National Curriculum and ensuring that the high standards of teaching within the school are maintained. The committee also review policies which relate to learning and teaching within the school.

Most recently we have agreed the [Assessment Policy](#) which sets out the processes to help improve children's learning by assessing how well they are doing and what they need to do next on a day to day basis as well as over a longer term against the national curriculum. The policy helps teachers to ensure that the children achieve well by attaining the new higher national curriculum expectations and how children can make clear progress.

Future L&T agenda items include a review of the school's Learning and Teaching Policy and finalised assessment results for 2013/14 academic year.



**The Governing Body wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

# ST MARY'S SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

## COMMITTEE STRUCTURE 2014/5

### **CHAIR OF GOVERNING BODY**

Nicci Smith

### **VICE CHAIR**

Steve Schrier

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

Steve Schrier (Chair)

Nicci Smith

Kathryn Freeman

Reverend Derrick Peel

Celia Higson

Andy Cosslett (ex officio)

Tony Gibbons (Associate Member)

Karen Laudato (Associate Member)

Anna Black (Associate Member)

Co-opted Governor (vacancy)

### **LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE**

Liz Gore (Chair)

Clare Thorne

Margaret Meldrum

Andy Cosslett (ex officio)

David Atkins (Associate Member)

Jane McCutcheon (Associate Member)

LA Governor (vacancy)

### **HEAD'S PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

Nicci Smith (Chair), Kathy Freeman

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES** (To incorporate Complaints, Appeals & Exclusions)

#### **(Stage 1)**

Nicci Smith, Liz Gore

#### **(Stage 2)**

Steve Schrier, Margaret Meldrum

### **LEAD GOVERNORS**

**Finance:**

Nicci Smith, Celia Higson

**Special Educational Needs:**

Margaret Meldrum

**Safeguarding and Child Protection:**

Celia Higson

**Health and Safety:**

Kathy Freeman

**Pupil Voice Governor :**

Kathy Freeman, Liz Gore

**Parent Voice Governor:**

Steve Schrier

**Staff Voice Governor:**

Nicci Smith