



Wednesday 26th March 2018

Dear Parents & Carers

As we approach the Easter break we would like to take this opportunity to update you on the work the Board of Governors has been doing this term.

Our Budget

We're very pleased to share with you that this year we have balanced the school budget after two years of being in deficit. This is a huge achievement which we are very proud of and is primarily due to the hard work of Mr Sweetingham and his team in keeping costs very much under control. However, with changes to school funding (which we've shared with you in previous letters) and ongoing increases in costs (staffing, building work and so on) we are not out of the woods yet and won't be for the foreseeable future. The Finances & Premises committee continue to keep a very close eye on our budget and the whole Governing Body appreciates all the financial support our community gives to the school.

Changes to Admissions Criteria

Since we last wrote to you we have ratified the proposed changes to our admissions criteria and this will now come into effect for the Sept 2019/20 intake to Reception (for applications in early 2019).

Preparing for GDPR

In May all organisations will have to conform to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which affects all personal data collected by school. As Governors we have a statutory duty to ensure that our school is ready for the new standards. Please be ready to support school as they navigate this new system.

New link governors for SEND, Safeguarding and Equalities

We have now filled the link roles left vacant when Dr Helen Eracleous stepped down. Imogen Hall will build on her existing knowledge to be our SEND link governor, Rev Lynn (who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role) will be our Safeguarding link governor, and Jeannette Burnett will put her professional expertise to good use in the role of Equalities link governor.

Monitoring School Life

We continue to be very active in terms of being involved in school life. This allows us to be sure that what we're told is happening really is, so it's a key part of making sure our governance is effective. For the first time this term we held our Teaching, Learning & Standards sub-committee meeting over two sessions with the first held in school time to **allow us to talk to pupils and staff**. This time we focussed on maths. We were particularly impressed with how excited the children were about their maths learning (in particular active maths where children move around while learning maths) and with how much high-quality work our maths lead, Mrs Cruikshank, has put into enabling and equipping the whole school to teach maths to a high standard. This term we also conducted our last **learning walk** for the year with Rachel Adams-Constantine, Lynne Evans and Jeanette Burnett monitoring Mrs Mitri as she observed the school in full scientific throttle during

Nurture Encourage Challenge through Christ





science week. Lastly, our **class governors** have spent time in Year One, Year Five and Year Six, with plans for the other years next term. We've said it before and we hope to keep saying it for many years to come, but in each instance of monitoring school life we were blown away by how much work each teacher puts into each lesson and how well behaved and engaged in their learning the children at our school are.

Our Christian Ethos

One of the highlights of this term was our visit from Bishop Rob, who lead a funny and engaging collective worship and was very moved to hear the children sing. He was then interviewed by our Faith Council for the Parish magazine. We are also very proud of everyone who donated towards the blessing bags and the team (Rev Lynn, Rev Lizzie, staff, Y6 students) who went into central London to give them out. This idea was born from discussions between Rev Lynn, Mr Sweetingham and Mrs Mitri at the start of the academic year and it's rewarding for all involved to see something like this come to fruition in such a positive way.

SJCA

Governors have a strategic role in terms of ensuring the whole school community is working well together to support and improve the school. As a result we're very pleased to celebrate the formation of a new community body, the St John's Community Association (SJCA). This brings together fundraising, school improvement and communication in a more efficient forum and we look forward to seeing the results, starting with the all-important fundraising for the KS2 playground. Lastly, as Fiona Good steps down from her role as joint-secretary we would like to thank her for all her hard work, especially in driving the formation of the SJCA.

Training

This term we've focussed on safeguarding with Imogen Hall and Jeanette Burnett receiving their Level Three safeguarding certificate and Rev Lynn and Imogen Hall attending the discussion forum on safeguarding. Rachel Adams-Constantine and Lynne Evans attended a session on the role of the parent governor and Jaime Goumal learnt about how governors can be sure the sports premium is being used to good effect. We also attended the termly meeting for Chairs and Vice-Chairs in Barnet where we learnt about the strategy for school improvement in the borough and how the Ofsted process is changing.

As always please do get in touch with us via our email and come along to our next Governor Drop-in on Friday 6th July 2018 at 8.40am. We will be presenting our treasurer's and chair's report.

We wish you all a wonderful Easter holiday.

Lynne Evans
Chair, on behalf of the Board of Governors
governors@stjohnsn20.barnetmail.net

Nurture Encourage Challenge through Christ

