



## Christmas 2018

Dear Parents & Carers

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

### FUNDING

The main issue of this term has been the crisis in funding which is affecting schools throughout the country and which is due to have a very significant impact on our school from the next academic year. The school has communicated with you all already about this via email. Please ask the office if you have not received this email for any reason. We also had an excellent drop-in session just before the Key Stage One Nativity where our Chair was able to communicate more information on this crisis. If anyone has any outstanding questions or queries, do not hesitate to get in touch with us (details at the end of this newsletter).

### *How can you help?*

Firstly, by contacting your MP and signing the petition which is currently circulating with the aim of getting this issue discussed in the House of Commons. We have provided a template letter to send to your MP (again, this was sent by email so please contact the office or look on our school website if you have not received it). The petition is live here: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/232220>

Secondly, any financial or physical help you can provide is really appreciated. We know and really appreciate how much everyone gives to the school through maintenance fund payments, supporting the SJA, purchasing items on the Amazon wishlist and so on, but it's also possible to help by volunteering some of your time. For example, helping at lunchtimes or listening to children read. As our school runs on the most efficient staffing structure it can, by just giving an hour of your time could really help the children, teachers and teaching assistants out.

### SUB-COMMITTEES

This term our four sub-committees have been very busy.

Our **Admissions** sub-committee met to confirm that no changes were needed to the current policy, although we are ensuring that all the roads currently in the parish are included in the list sent to prospective parents.

*Nurture Encourage Challenge through Christ*

We will continue to monitor how our Admissions criteria is working on a yearly basis.

Our **Finance & Premises** sub-committee has changed its structure to focus on the priority list (in terms of maintenance to the premises) in one meeting and to focus on the budget and finances in another. This is working well. Naturally a considerable concern for this committee is the funding crisis which we have already written to you about.

The **Teaching & Learning Standards** sub-committee focussed largely on analysing the key stage results from 2018 as well as reviewing our SEND policy. We were very pleased with our results across the school and especially in Key Stage Two where 90% of our pupils achieved the expected standard in Reading, Maths and Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling, and 83% in Writing. However, there are always more challenges ahead and we continue to monitor our Pupil Premium and SEND progress carefully. This sub-committee also heard a lovely report from Mrs Mitri on the Christian life of our school, including the work of the faith council, the visit of Year Six to St Paul's, our contribution to the church magazine and the presentation by Mr Sweetingham and Mrs Mitri to the new Christian heads meeting.

The **Personnel** sub-committee has also been busy monitoring the appraisal cycle (basically checking that all staff have been appraised and objectives set) and making its own contribution to the cycle through appraising Mr Sweetingham. One of the key objectives of our Governing Body continues to be ensuring that our school leaders have the appropriate support and challenge from the Governing Body.

### Monitoring School Life

As usual we've been very active in terms of being involved in school life. This involvement allows us to be sure that what we're told is happening really is. As part of our Teaching & Learning Standards Sub-Committee, we conducted a governors visit where we were taken on a school tour by the Year Six Learning Ambassadors. We visited each classroom to see school life in action and saw a range of different lessons from gymnastics and volcano making to maths and learning about the Stone Age. Afterwards we met with a group of children and learnt about how they view their learning. Finally we had a presentation from our Inclusion leader, Mrs D'Aristou, on how our children with SEND are being supported throughout the school.

### Training

Before each of our Full Governing Body Meetings we hold a training session. This term we focussed on safeguarding, with an excellent 'myth

*Nurture Encourage Challenge through Christ*



busting' session from Rev Lynn and an overview of the changes to the Keeping Children Safe in Education legislation which came into effect in September this year.

We have also attended external training run by Barnet in their SEND Discussion Forum (for SEND link governors), the Discussion Forum for Chairs of Governors meeting, Resolving Complaints and Mediation, as well as several meetings on the funding issue. A group of governors also attended training run by LDBS on the new SIAMS which will set us in good stead for preparing for our next SIAMS inspection in a few years.

## Changes

From a staff perspective, the school has been delighted to welcome four new members to the teaching staff: Mrs Panteli in Year 2, Mrs Skinner in Year 3 and Mr Cinotti in Year 5, as well as Mrs Tulip as our part-time support teacher and Computing Leader. We've also welcomed Miss Thatcher as our nursery nurse in Reception and Mrs Michell and Mrs Dur Altuntas as meal-time supervisors.

Within the governing body, we've been delighted to welcome our Year Six teacher Mrs Cruickshank as staff governor while Mrs Tidiman is on maternity leave. Mrs Cruickshank has already made a significant contribution to the Teaching & Learning Standards Sub-Committee by providing additional insights into school teaching life.

We have also welcomed two new parent governors: Rupert Coles and Ajanta Kamal both bringing fantastic expertise to the governing body.

Rupert, who has a child in Year One, is a Senior Management Consultant specialising in advising companies on organisational transformation and acting as coach and strategic mentor to CEO's of global corporations to help them to solve their biggest problems and improve their organisations. Outside of organisational change Rupert's key areas of expertise are advising on policy, sourcing strategy, contract negotiation, operating model/structure and building leadership.

Ajanta has children in Year Six and Year Two and works as a consultant paediatrician, so she has many years of experience of working with families and also planning and delivery of children-focussed services. Through her role as Royal College Tutor, she also has experience in education governance and the processes required to maintain and ensure the delivery of a high quality of education.

Unfortunately we received the resignations of Elina Burgess and Jeanette Burnett. Elina has been a key part of our governing body for her four year

*Nurture Encourage Challenge through Christ*

tenure, making an excellent contribution to the Finances & Premises committee with her health and safety background. Elina was also part of our Ofsted team and put a huge amount of work into preparing to represent our school under inspection. Jeanette has been a governor for two years and has made an invaluable contribution as Equalities lead, as well as chairing the Admissions Sub-Committee.

We thank them both for all their hard work and dedication and for bringing their different areas of expertise to the board.

### **KEEP IN TOUCH**

As always please do get in touch with us via our email and come along to our next Governor Drop-in on Friday 15 March 2019 at 08:40.

### **LASTLY**

With Christmas Jumper Day this week, the children have been remembering those who are less fortunate than themselves. It's a good reminder that we are lucky to have what we have and to be part of such a wonderful community. Thank you for all your support in 2018.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and a fantastic start to 2019!

Lynne Evans

Chair

On behalf of the Board of Governors

[governors@stjohnsn20.barnetmail.net](mailto:governors@stjohnsn20.barnetmail.net)

*Nurture Encourage Challenge through Christ*

