



Summer 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

The summer break is upon us so we would like to take this opportunity to update you on the work the Board of Governors has been doing since Easter.

Before we do so we would just like to once again extend our thanks to all the staff at St John's for all their work during these last few challenging months and to all parents and carers for all their work in home-schooling their children. We always say how lucky we are to have the special community that we have here at St John's and this crisis has proved that we are a strong community who can support each other through tough times. Collectively we have achieved a huge amount, much of which we would never have thought possible at the start of the lockdown, and this is something to be reflected upon and celebrated as we head towards the 'new normal'.

Reopening school

As a governing body we have been focussed on supporting the senior leadership in the reopening of school. This has included:

- twice weekly phone calls or meetings
- monitoring and signing off the risk assessment
- organising mental health training for staff on the reopening of school
- focusing on essential business only

Partnership

As detailed in our separate letter on the subject we have agreed a partnership with All Saints C of E Primary School in Child's Hill. We are all very excited at the potential benefits from this partnership and we will update you on how it is all going in our autumn term newsletter.

Finances

Due to the school closure we have lost a considerable amount of income from school lettings and our breakfast and afterschool clubs. Fundraising via events has also been curtailed. This means that our financial situation is even more challenging than previously, even including the financial impact of our partnership. In the Autumn term we will be looking very closely again at what we need to do to make sure our school is financially sustainable.

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Diversity & promoting anti-racism

With the events surrounding George Floyd's death in June, the focus on promoting anti-racism in schools has rightly intensified. As a governing body we are challenging and supporting the school in this area and will be providing a full update on this work in the autumn.

Thank you to those of you who have inputted to the new RSE curriculum which comes into force in September. This work is also important in terms of how we are educating children to understand and support diversity and is very much on the agenda of the Governing Body.

Staff changes

We are sad to say goodbye to Mr Cinotti, Mrs Solonos and Mrs Tiddiman and thank all of them for all their hard work and dedication to our school over the years.

Changes on our governing body

After four years of providing excellent professional support and challenge, Alice Gavin-Ashtakar is standing down at the end of her term to concentrate on her artwork. Alice has been a really positive voice on our Governing Body as we have focussed on how to make our school sustainable and we thank her for all her contributions.

Replacing Alice, we are very happy to welcome Rinret Leks who joins us as an LDBS governor. Rinret works in finance so we're looking forward to her contribution to the finance committee and is a dedicated member of St Barnabas' children's team. Welcome to Rinret!

Keep in touch

As always please do get in touch with us via governors@stjohnsn20.barnetmail.net and come along to our next Governor Drop-in on Friday 4th December.

We wish you all a safe and happy summer break and we very much look forward to welcoming you back to school in September.

Imogen Hall
Chair
On behalf of the Board of Governors

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