



## All Saints' C.E. Primary School

### -- Governor Newsletter December 2017

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Governors at this school work extremely hard to challenge as well as support the Headteacher and staff in our efforts for continuous improvements in every aspect of school life. See below for a brief summary of some of the visits and initiatives which have taken place this term.

#### New Appointments

Chris Precious and Rachael Mc Carthy were appointed as governors at the last full governing body meeting.

#### Strategic Leadership

##### Sue Durrant

As Chair of Governors, Sue is in regular contact with school and offers strategic support as well as guidance with every day issues as they arise. She oversees Headteacher Performance Management.

#### Worship and Christian Distinctiveness

##### John Allan & Chris Precious

An Advent/Christmas Faith Focus Day was requested by KS2 children. Children asked to 'go deeper; to learn more about Advent and Christmas.' The pupil voice fed into development of the day's content with opportunities for expression using art, poetry, drama, and dance as we explored the themes of King, Saviour, Friend and Word. It was a truly wonderful day helping the children's understanding move from Santa Claus and Advent Calendars, to recognition of the role of St Nicholas in the Father Christmas legend, and Advent as preparation both for Christmas (Christ Mass, the celebration of Christ's birth) and for Jesus coming again.

#### Maths

##### Roger Hailwood

Roger attended our recently held workshop for parents who were given an explanation of the way the on-line 'Times Tables Rock Stars' programme was being used in school, to develop a facility with the times tables in a fun way. They were shown how they could access the programme at home

to give support to their children. It was explained how the programme provided a personal challenge, at different levels, to the participants to improve their own performance, as well as the ability to compete against others.

### School Dinners

Jean Simpson & Catherine McTigue

As a result of surveys completed by the children (July 2017) and feedback from Parent Forum, we have decided to change our school meal provider from April 2018. This will hopefully see more children enjoying better quality meals on a regular basis.

### Health and Safety

Jean Simpson & Roger Hailwood

Jean Simpson attended staff INSET September 2017 where staff reviewed all Risk Assessments following a training session which had been provided at the end of last academic year. Jean provided challenge by asking questions and ultimately ensuring good awareness of H&S by all staff. She organised the H&S induction sessions for new members of staff.

Jean worked with some KS2 children to review the risk assessments in place for the classrooms and hall area. These assessments have now been reviewed and displayed around school.

Roger Hailwood carried out an inspection of the school and grounds to establish improvements carried out over the past year and to highlight the main priorities for the next round of improvements. Roger noted that the buildings are generally in 'good order'. We have mended some of the fencing this term and ordered a large storage facility to avoid unnecessary waste of furniture and equipment. The next key priorities for improvement are the infant playground and replacement of windows in the upstairs classrooms.

### School Improvement Planning

Nick Kilford

Nick has visited several times over the term to review the School Improvement Plan (SIP). He has worked with the Headteacher to improve

the clarity and effectiveness of the plan which is reviewed and shared with all governors on a regular basis. A visit by our local authority advisor (December 2017), noted its 'clear measurable milestones'.

### Finance

Nick Kilford

As Chair of Finance, Nick Kilford meets with the Headteacher monthly and also attends further half termly meetings which include a representative from Staffordshire CC. He is very proactive in looking for ways to maximise the value obtained from the available budget and ensure that additional funding received during the year is identified and used to best effect.

### Achievement and Progress for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Mark Emly

Mark has reviewed our data for children with SEND. The overall picture is promising and although these children haven't made as much progress as other children, the gap has narrowed for many of them from their individual starting points. Mark has suggested ways in which we can improve the way we identify, track and review progress for such children.

### Early years Foundation Unit - Bobtails

Catherine Mc Tigue

Catherine provided lots of support at the end of last academic year and the start of term with our re-structuring of Early Years. She visited other settings with staff members at the planning stage and also advised on the practical aspects of the reorganisation of the learning environment.