

GOVERNOR newsletter



Issue 9 July 2018

Chair's word – Clare Farrow

It's hard to believe we are approaching the end of another academic year. This time last year we eagerly anticipated Mrs Session's joining our team and bid a fond farewell to Mr Toner. Mrs Sessions has settled in well and the Governing Body have been impressed with how swiftly she has identified the areas of focus for the school which will enable us to move further forward in our drive to become a centre of catholic excellence. It was a pleasure to accompany the school on their pilgrimage to Bradford on Avon and I was very proud of how well behaved the children were and how resilient and determined they were to complete the pilgrimage in the exceptionally hot weather. Our thanks to Fr Tom for accompanying the children as they walked and to Canon Liam for allowing us to complete activities in St Thomas Moore church.



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Friends of St John's

We would like to take the opportunity to recognise the significant contribution made by The Friends of St John's over the years.

The Friends work in conjunction with the school to raise money for various resources that the school would struggle to provide on its own. In recent years the school has benefited from:

- refurbished and restocked library
- I.T. Equipment such as classroom iPads
- Development of the wild area including muddy kitchen
- Storage shed & play equipment
- Funding towards school minibus

One of the main events for raising money is the annual Summer Fair which has taken on different themes but always relies on the good will of volunteers to set up and take down and to run the stalls and bar, with a tremendous amount of upfront planning required.

Other events include quizzes, jumble sales, after school ice cream / cake sales etc.

On behalf of the school, the Governing Body would like to publicly thank everyone involved in organising these events and acknowledge how the children at school have directly benefit from all the money raised.

GDPR

Like many organisations the GDPR regulations that came in to effect in May have had an impact on all schools and St. John's is no exception.

We have appointed a company to help steer us through compliance and ensure all staff are up to date on the various regulations and practises. Training will be conducted for both staff and Governors.

The purpose is to increase the obligations on organisations when acting as data controllers and increase the rights of individuals to ensure their personal data is respected and used only for legitimate purposes.

All schools hold and handle a large amount of information and as such have required a significant effort to analyse what information is held, where it is held and who it is shared with. A privacy notice has been added to the school website under the Policies section..

Congratulations...

A huge well done to all the Year 6's who put on an amazing performance of Cinderella. Good luck for September starting in your new schools & we hope you leave behind fond memories of your time here.

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Farewell to...

Erica Pagan

We would like to express our gratitude and good wishes to Mrs Pagan for her hard work and dedication to St John's over the many years she worked for the school.

The school Business Manager role is an important one within the school but often hidden from parents view and while not directly teaching will be involved in nearly all other aspects of school life.

They must work closely with the Head teacher, the Governors, (particularly those involved on the Resources committee) and all staff.

They must manage the schools budget, liaise with any contractors, organise staff pay and interface with numerous other agencies.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Pam Poulter who is taking over the roll from September.

Margaret Hughes Linda Ladner & Elizabeth Dale

We say a fond farewell to Margaret and Linda who are retiring from St John's after many years of dedication to the school. We will be sad to see them go but wish them a long and happy retirement.

We must also say goodbye to Liz who is moving on to pastures new having spent over a decade teaching at St John's. We wish her well in her new school.

We also say goodbye to Mr Field who has taught class 7 since Easter.

Governor Elections

The Governing Body welcomes a new Parent Governor, Mrs Andrea Blackmore. Mrs King continues for another 4 year term as a Parent Governor.

Mr Marr at the end of his 4 year term has moved from being a Parent Governor to a Local Educational Authority Governor with Mr Bracey stepping down.

We would like to thank Mr Bracey for his many years of input and expertise given to the Governing Body.



Drop-offs / Pick-ups

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated as it affects the safety of everyone.

Please do not use the school entrance to drop children off or to turn the car around in as it is DANGEROUS and OBSTRUCTS the entrance preventing safe entry and exit from the school.

The school continues to get complaints of inconsiderate parking all of which require the school to spend time placating our neighbours.

Please ensure when parking that you park both with the safety of your children in mind and in adherence with the highway code. With this in mind we would ask that parents do not park in Millington Drive (Opposite the school gate) as there is no footpath and children therefore exit parked cars straight in to the road and face both incoming and outgoing traffic.

New KS1 Canopies

Over the Easter break the school has had constructed canopies along the back of the school, which you may have noticed if you attended the recent summer fete. This extends the existing Foundation Stage covered area.



The main idea is to allow more outdoor learning to take place, regardless of the weather.

Resources will be purchased shortly to be used in these new areas to help children.

Outdoor learning plays an important part at St John's and the school is fortunate to have generous grounds to have at its disposal.

The Wild Area at the bottom of the school playing fields is used extensively across the curriculum.

