



DEAR ST DOMINIC'S FAMILIES

Welcome to our first newsletter which we hope will give you a snapshot of what the governors have been working on and progress at the School.

We would like to thank Mrs Sollars and all the staff at St Dominic's for all their hard work and dedication this year so far and additionally for the excellent presentation at the recent Governor Parents meeting.

We thank you the parents, grandparents and carers for your support and last, but not least, our wonderful children.

The Governing Body closely monitors progress at regularly held meetings where we review the Head's report against the School priorities. We also visit the School on planned and agreed visits with the Head. Most recently Governors attended the recent

Inset Day to gather evidence on Maths, English, RE and the Creative Curriculum.

Evidence assists us with the monitoring and evaluation of school improvement. The time was also used to look ahead to further steps for school development.

WE ARE ON TRACK, PUPILS ARE MAKING EXPECTED PROGRESS AND THE % OF CHILDREN MAKING GOOD PROGRESS IS INCREASING.

Looking at the School as a whole we are pleased to report

that the latest data reflects that **we are on track** with the large majority of pupils making **expected progress** and that the percentage of children making **good progress is increasing**.

Teaching and learning is **at least good** and we are continually setting our goals even higher.

NEW GOVERNORS

We would like to introduce Mr Philip Rush to the Board and offer him a very warm welcome. Mr Rush is the former Head of St Peter's Catholic High School. He will be looking at delivery of our Maths curriculum as school Governor lead. We would also like to welcome Georgina Mansell as our new staff Governor and thank Dawn Hinder for her dedication in this role until now. Further details of our meetings and remit can be found on the School website. Our newest Governors have also completed or will be shortly completing Inset, Prevent and Safeguarding training.

Our overall School Development Plan priorities are currently set in line with the last Ofsted report and against the Summative Meeting Report – this was an in depth external report carried out on the school and presented to the School governors last Autumn. The current priorities are:

- **Raise expectations of pupils' achievement particularly the most able**
- **Provide appropriate challenge so that pupils make good progress**
- **Plan work which inspires and motivates pupils to learn effectively and reach the highest standards possible**
- **Consistently implement new approaches to improve pupils work**
- **Address misconceptions in pupils understanding and learning so that pupils reach the highest standards**

We are very pleased to report that **good progress is being made** in all these areas. We will continue to strive to reach our milestones and Mrs Sollars has excellent plans in place to improve the quality of teaching and learning via carefully timed training and development and through externally observing best practices. The Maths Passport is now being successfully implemented.

Comments by Governors who carried out a work scrutiny on Monday 19th February reflect these achievements. Teachers and Governors worked together to evidence that

- The School Marking Policy is **being used consistently across the School.**
- That teachers are **using layered learning for all pupils.**
- The school writing policy **is being implemented.**
- **That Ofsted targets for pupil progress in English and Maths are making solid progress – this we evidenced in the pupil's books.**

As Governors we had a very informative in service training day with the Head and teachers and we thank them for their time and willingness to share with us your children's progress.

The teachers also presented their planning around a People of Hope, our Diocesan Mission presented by the Bishop. The Mission is a timely reminder of the value of hope and will help shape children's perception of how to embrace the future. Here is an excerpt from **Called to be a People of Hope** a presentation to Diocesan teachers, Governors and school staff, November 2017 given by our Bishop Declan.

"In the Diocesan Guidelines 'Called to be a People of Hope' I quoted from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah. These words are again the springboard for the next phase of our Diocesan life:

'I know well the plans I have made for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the Lord.' Jeremiah 29:11-13. When Jeremiah wrote those words the people of Israel were going through a time of so much upheaval that they had lost hope. Through Jeremiah the Lord speaks a word of hope to his people. He reminds them that he is with them and that he listens to them. The Lord has a plan for them and it is 'a future full of hope'...The Letter to the Hebrews goes on to say that 'we should take a firm grip of the hope that is held out to us'...which means to be anchored in God's promise that he has a future plan for us"

Teachers will be working with the children to create some exciting visual representations of this for our school and for the launch of Lent.

We also look forward to jointly developing our Mission statement with you the parents, the children and the teachers guided by Mrs Sollars. There are also some exciting trips and visitors to the School planned and a unique venture in the form of a fantastic Forest School presented at the Governor Parent meeting.

Finally, with the constant pressure on academic achievement and the focus on the instability created by the recent issues it's often easy to forget how much else goes on at the school: the dedication of staff and Parish towards seasonal and liturgical events such as Nativity plays, School Masses, the extra-curricular clubs, the creativity we all witness throughout the school and on school notice boards which reflect our children's school days, parents voluntary involvement in PTA events and planning, our parent run Film Club, gardening volunteers and so much more. The work that goes into all this is simply staggering and a real all-school effort.

We should all feel very proud of St Dominic's, its children and staff.

Kind regards

Board of Governors

Your Current Board of Governors comprises

Jacqui Sollars	Head teacher
Charles O'Neill	Foundation Governor
Simone Thurbon	Vice Chair of Governors
	Foundation
	Safeguarding/Child Protection Lead
	RE/Chaplaincy Lead
Marilyn Greenhalgh	Co-Opted
	EYFS/Creative Curriculum Lead
Ufuoma Bakpa	Foundation
Alison Figueiredo	Parent
Philip Rush	Foundation Governor
	Mathematics Lead
Scott Hawkins	Parent
	Website
Georgina Mansell	Staff
Christine Kiley	Clerk to the Governors