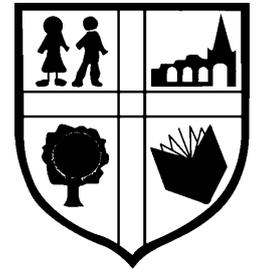


Governor Newsletter



BUILDING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Date: 27th March 2017

St Chad's C.E. Primary School

Message from Chair of Governors

Dear Parents,
One of the great privileges of being a governor at the school is being able to see the children in their working environment. Sometimes this is in the classroom and on other occasions joining them on an educational visit. Recently I accompanied a group who went to Chester for the day visiting the Dewa Roman Experience. The children were first of all 'marched' by a Roman Soldier through the city to the remains of the amphitheatre. There they learned all about the gladiatorial fights which used to take place nearly 2,000 years ago. The two members of staff accompanying them bravely engaged in mortal combat with the one that was defeated pleading for her life to be spared!

The children displayed just how much they already knew by asking and answering some very thoughtful questions and their behaviour, as always, was a real credit to the school. Another fascinating visit took place one evening recently to the Observatory at Keele University. Unfortunately the weather let us down with clouds preventing many of us from viewing Venus through the large telescope. However, the highlight for me was listening to an illustrated talk on the universe given by one of the University's academics. The knowledge of the children and the questions they asked was truly amazing.

However, the visit which will always remain in my memory was to the school one morning last autumn, when I sat through a philosophical discussion. Year six were asked to consider the most important invention ever made. The wheel perhaps? Maybe the computer? Perhaps mechanised transport? No, none of those! The choice was the 'water filter' which enables people the world over to benefit from clean drinking water. What a choice from a group of 10 and 11 year olds. It shows critical thinking, consideration for others less fortunate than themselves and an understanding of what is really important to everyone. I felt very humble indeed to be in their company and proud to be associated with the school where the next generation of adult citizens is being educated. I congratulate both the children and their teachers.

Mr I Sharp (Chair of Governors)

HEALTH & SAFETY

As parents we are all concerned with our child's welfare and want to protect them as much as possible. As governors we have to ensure that St Chad's is a safe fun place for everyone to work in. Governors visit the school to examine all aspects of school life and offer opportunities for improving safety. This can range from clearly painted access steps leading to the classrooms to viewing evidence that fire extinguishers have been maintained. Usually two governors perform a 'walk about' where we visit all areas of the school taking notes and photographs. We discuss with the teachers and speak with the children (from whom very sensible suggestions are often made). Examples of some of the day to day normalities that need to be checked but are not perhaps obvious to parents are the water temperature of the sinks used by the children, the temperature of nursery fridges that contain milk for the children and the inspection of electric wall heaters. There will always be areas for concern that can easily be missed and this is where parents can help. Should you have any concerns please feel free to approach any governor or speak directly to the school office. Mr A Hulme

FINANCE

At this time of the year we have received the budget for the coming financial year and so have to ensure that the school lives within its means. This is a challenge because 85% of the expenses are fixed (salaries) so ensuring that the school comes within budget can be difficult. It is then from this financial budget that the staffing structure is established and this is why there is a necessity for classes with some mixed aged classes. The Staffing Committee then has the responsibility for recruiting new members of staff. Even though we are only in March we are planning for the new school year in September. We also have to review about 25 annual contracts ensuring that the school gets best value for money. All in all a busy time but with good preparation we ensure that for the rest of the year we have quality information which can be reviewed termly. Mr C Higginson

Parent Forum

Our latest Parent Forum proved productive both for the school and the children. We discussed many ideas including the success of 'Conehead's' which was organised by our own School Council. One point which has been raised is our Drama Club. Many parents and children will be glad to hear that this has now returned and that they are working towards a production in the Summer Term. Also discussed was a trial of new disco times. We are hoping this will suit parents and staff. Other subjects discussed include the school website and parking problems outside of school. We will be holding our first parent forum drop in session immediately after school in May. There will be a crèche staffed by one of the teachers so parents can enjoy a cup of tea and a chat. Mr D Humphries

Religious Education/Assemblies

Links are being developed between local churches and the school. It is hoped that Holy Trinity will be visited by classes during the summer term so the children can carry out research at first hand. I have been involved in taking several assemblies over the year, the children are attentive and seem appreciative. I usually use a puppet to aid my teaching about God, which the children usually seem to understand. They certainly remember the puppet (Barnabas) and often ask after him when children meet me out of school. It is hoped to start an after school club in the summer term along the lines of the former Faith and Fun Club which we had previously.

Rev S Boxall

BRITISH VALUES

Individual Liberty
Democracy
The rule of Law
Tolerance
Mutual Respect

SCHOOL VALUES

HONESTY
RESPECT
BELONGING
COMMITMENT
EMPATHY
KINDNESS
INDEPENDENCE

Our school website is: www.st-chads-newcastle.staffs.sch.uk

A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE