

Governor Newsletter



BUILDING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Date: 27th March 2018

St Chad's C.E. Primary School

Dear Parents

As you are aware, Ian Sharp stood down as Chair of Governors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the hard work and time he gave to St Chad's. For the last 6 years, he has helped to steer our school to where it is now, a very good school. The governors, staff, children and I'm sure parents would like to wish him well in his retirement and I'm pleased to say he would still like to visit school and attend trips etc.



A few weeks ago must have been one of the busiest I have known at school. On the Tuesday we had a visit from Entrust, then on the Thursday we had the pleasure of an OFSTED inspection. I spent the morning with Entrust and he was really impressed with our school. He spoke about how well the school was led, the quality of teaching and particularly how respectful and well-behaved the children were.

Then, with no time to enjoy the positive comments, along came OFSTED. It was four years since our last visit, so we knew that they would be knocking on our door any day now. The result isn't published yet, so I cannot make it public.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work and commitment to the school, without them we wouldn't be where we are today. Not forgetting the children; they were amazing coping with two visits in one week. And finally, thank you to all the parents for all you do for St Chad's.

Parent Forum

Last month's Parent Forum was well attended and we also had a visit from our local PCSO. Topics for discussion were attendance, school holidays and parking. Since our last meeting it has been good to see the PCSO up at school at the end of school monitoring parking. The safety of our children is paramount and it is up to us all to park safely and consider others when parking. It was also noted that our attendance has gone up and is above national figures. Well done children, keep up the good work!

We are always looking for new ideas and new parents for Parent Forum. The summer date will be announced shortly.

Thank you

Dave Humphries

Dear Parents

It is a busy time in school currently as the finance team receive their allocation of how much money the school will receive and then budgets are set for the next financial year. All schools have to set a 3 year budget to ensure the school plans for the future and sets the resources appropriately.

One element which is of particular interest to parents is the use of Pupil Premium. This is an additional source of money which the school receives in respect of pupils eligible for free school meals and having special



educational needs. As a board we channel some of this funding into subsidising Laches Wood and Standon Bowers so that it is more affordable for parents and we also use some of it to subsidise music lessons. This ensures that pupils have access to some excellent activities helping the children to have fun and interact outside of a school environment.

We have also used Pupil Premium to subsidise our School Ranger which is an initiative unique, we think, to our school. This gives pupils access to non-academic activities and shows the children that there are plenty of opportunities open in the future to children of a non-academic background. Colin Higginson

BRITISH VALUES

Individual Liberty	The Rule of Law
Democracy	Tolerance
Mutual Respect	

SCHOOL VALUES

HONESTY	COMMITMENT
RESPECT	EMPATHY
	KINDNESS
BELONGING	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



What a great time we had in Holy Trinity on Mothering Sunday! Some of the children came down as a Choir and sang in the Service. Two of them also read a passage from the Bible. The participation of

the children really enriched the time together and it would be wonderful if this type of working together could happen more and more. It would be great to have a children's choir at Holy Trinity, maybe it is something that we can explore?

Working together with the local Church of England Church is part of what makes a school like St Chad's special. As a Church School, we believe that a human being is much more than just flesh and blood, there is a real, though invisible, spiritual side to our life. In too many places this spiritual aspect of our lives is ignored and as a result, we are all the poorer. The summary of the Law that Jesus gave, (You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength [and] you shall love your neighbour as yourself), forms the basis of our vision and values. We believe that putting God in first place results in everything else falling into place, and leads to a full and meaningful life.

Simon Boxall

Dear Parents

Health and Safety and child welfare is important to us all at St Chads and as governors we have to ensure that both our staff and children have a safe environment in which to work. Governors work hard to ensure that our school complies with legislation surrounding health and safety; that adequate resources are available to meet health and safety requirements and that procedures are in place for monitoring. St Chad's acknowledges the importance of safety within the school and as result this is a key topic of conversation and an agenda item at every meeting held.

It is reassuring that earlier this term, when audited by the County Council in relation to the Health, Safety and Wellbeing of the school, the auditor agreed that we have an established level of Health and Safety management within the school and was happy to report that "Health and Safety has been fully adopted by managers as a core part of their role and are leading by example". This is great news and just shows the continued commitment of Miss Clarke, our staff and governors!

If you have any concerns, please feel free to approach any governor or speak directly to the school office.

Zoe Comley



Hi everyone

As one of my key focuses on the Governing Board is all things "Pupil Voice", I have spent some time this term observing the various forums in our school that develop and promote good citizenship and wanted to share my thoughts with you.

I have met with our Head Boy and Girl, House Captains and Play Leaders, who all have a valuable contribution to make towards the happy running of our school. Mr Dobberson leads the children in a variety of discussions including their roles and responsibilities on a daily basis, the selecting and organising of the termly House Competitions - including the recent St Chad's Got Talent production - and ideas for new equipment for the children's playtimes. It has been wonderful to see these discussions being held and get a far greater understanding of just how involved the children are and all the many ways their opinions are considered and implemented.

I also spent a lovely hour watching our School Council in action as they debated school improvements that they wanted to propose to Miss Clarke and prepared for their recent visit to the local nursing home. In all honesty, I wasn't really sure what I was expecting to see at a School Council meeting so I was thrilled to see the roles of Chair and Secretary being executed perfectly, valuable discussion being had regarding the pros and cons of each idea and all KS1 & KS2 classes being represented impeccably. My biggest take away was observing the children having such fun without realising the life and business skills they were learning by adopting such a professional framework to run their meetings. A big well done to Miss Hollins, Miss Forrester and our little councillors!

The only forum I have yet to spend time with is the Eco Council - which I intend to do early in the Summer Term - and am keen to hear from Mrs Kirkham and our Eco Warriors what they've been up to so far this school year and what they still have planned for the rest of the year? I will therefore be reporting back to you in the summer term Governor Newsletter on my findings.

Once again, I would just like to let you all know how much I am loving serving our school in the role of Parent Governor and that I am on the school yard every morning and afternoon if you ever want to chat.

Louise Hunt

