

Governor Newsletter



BUILDING TOGETHER  FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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

April 2019

St Chad's C.E. Primary School

Hi everyone.

This time of year we are always very busy setting up and approving the budgets for the coming financial year. I feel for the Head and the Bursar as they seem to be given new software to be used every year and so all the data has to be migrated over from the old software just adding time to the process. This is before the problems with the Government adding to the employment costs but not giving any additional funding to cover this. This also highlights that if anybody is entitled to free school meals and they have not informed the school, this is important on two fronts - firstly the school will receive additional funding and secondly you as parents will receive subsidies on school residential visits. I also sit in on the Governors Outcomes Committee which covers attainment, progress and curriculum- it was really interesting being in the Senior Leadership Team meetings where the topics are fully reviewed in order to ensure an innovative approach to all subjects, looking at what works well and what can be improved, including input from our pupils. The meticulous planning going in to the pupils' learning is amazing and it really goes to show that they get a great start to school life here at St Chads. With Easter being late I am sure you are looking forward to the Easter Break so fingers crossed the sun shines down on us.



Colin Higginson (Chair of Governors)

PRAYER

Lord, As we gather together as family and friends,

We invite you once again into our lives.

May the hope of your resurrection colour our days.

May the promise of your spirit working in us light up our lives.

May the love you revealed to us shape our giving.

May the truth in your word guide our journeys,

And may the joy of your kingdom fill our homes. Amen



Hi everyone!

What a busy yet wonderful time I am having at St Chad's. The Headteacher, Board of Governors, Leadership Team, Rev Simon & myself have been working hard to ensure the school is meeting the SIAMS criteria, as set out for this year's coming inspection, with a distinctively Christian ethos. I have had the privilege (alongside Rev Simon) to interview pupils to obtain a sense of what their perception has been on what it means to be taught in a Christian school and what makes it different from a non-Christian school. It was a fun way to get to know the pupils and their quirky thoughts! I have been leading some of the Collective Worship on Wednesday mornings and have been involved with Friday morning assemblies as invited. Rev Simon and I have also been staying on after Wednesday morning Collective Worship to speak with class groups as a form of pastoral care and spiritual encouragement for pupils. It is fantastic to see how enthusiastic each class is in showing off their "Reflection area". It was great fun to join staff and Year 5/6 pupils on their visit to Jodrell Bank during science week and also Miss Steele's class Comic Relief assembly...brilliant dance routine!!! I have also been involved in leading the special Mothers' Day service, which was held in the school hall, with Miss Clarke of which I was really excited about. Here's looking forward to a new term with all its joys and challenges. TTFM, with blessings. Rev Sharon. (Foundation Governor)



Values
Independence
Empathy
Belonging
British
Liberty
Democracy
Respect
Commitment
School
Tolerance
Kindness
Law

Dear parents,
Spring has sprung and it's already proven to be a very busy term! As a Premises, Health & Safety link governor I am always keen to ensure that I am up to date with the latest legislation and policies so myself and Miss Clarke spent a Monday morning attending a training session ran



by the Local Authority, at The Douglas MacMillian Hospice. We left with plenty of work to keep us occupied on how the school would continue to operate in every eventuality! We have also had several statutory inspections this term from external auditors; one from the Local Authority assessing how well we comply to H&S regulations; a Fire Risk assessment and also an Energy efficiency audit all of which we scored well on. However there is always room for improvement so we will be putting a plan in place to strengthen these areas further over the coming months.

Meetings were also held by the Safeguarding committee where policies were revisited, updated and approved by governors. This term these policies included Attendance; Safer Recruitment; Toileting and Missing Child, to name but a few, all of which can be viewed on our website.

One of the many benefits of being a governor at the school is that we are invited to accompany the classes on their school trips. I was lucky enough to join the nursery on their very first school outing to Glebe Farm. This tied in perfectly with their topic work this term – Farm Animals. The children had so much fun feeding the animals, stroking their fur and riding on the tractor. Our children were all so well behaved, a real credit to the school and they were rewarded with an ice-cream before heading back to school – delicious!

I hope that everyone enjoys their Easter chocolate and that you all have a restful and well deserved break.

Regards,
Zoe Comley (Parent Governor)

Hi everyone,

As we approach the end of the Spring term, it feels like this Easter break is long overdue as everyone in and around school has been so busy! This term has been filled with some fabulous class trips, wonderful learning and very enjoyable assemblies and performances from the children! In addition, our Leadership Team, all the Staff and the Governing Board have been busy assessing the school's performance, curriculum planning for the Summer term and setting the budget for the new school year! Phew! It's definitely time for a week or two off!

In relation to Pupil Voice, I have once again spent time with Mr Dobberson, our Head Boy and Girl, our House Captains and our Play Leaders...discussing any issues and their points of view on the day-to-day running of the school. Now completely settled in to their roles as 'pupil leaders' at St. Chad's, it is lovely to hear their thoughts on improvements that could be made to the processes they are responsible for such as collating House Points each week, clearing the dining hall each day and supervising all playtimes to ensure all our children are having a lovely time! We also discussed ideas for the House competitions - which will be run by the House Captains - and will ensure all KS1 and KS2 children are able to take part and win points for their Houses!

I have also loved attending this term's assemblies - in particular Miss Steele's Comic Relief assembly and our wonderful Mother's Day assembly. Both were fun and entertaining, and gave our children the chance to demonstrate their great singing and dancing abilities, but both also made important points that we should all remember! The children demonstrated their depth of knowledge regarding the true meanings of both topics - raising money and awareness for people around the world less fortunate than ourselves and taking time out to reflect and honour the people who love and care for us the most! Truly lovely performance and yes...they made me cry...like they always do!

Finally, I would like to wish all staff, children and parents of St Chad's, a happy and peaceful Easter holiday! You are all under strict instructions to have lots of lie ins and eat chocolate for breakfast!

Many Thanks!
Louise Hunt (Parent Governor)



We all send our blessed best wishes to Reverend Simon for a speedy recovery from his recent illness- we miss him.



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