



**Welcome** to the first newsletter of the 2016/2017 academic year from the governing body of St. John's School. Our aim is that we communicate more frequently with parents and carers so that you feel better informed about who we are, what we are doing to support the school and our areas of focus, as well as about ongoing initiatives within the school.

## **The governing body**

As a reminder, the full governing body meets 5 times each academic year. In addition, sub-committees work to drive forward relevant initiatives, working in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA). There are currently 12 governors and 2 vacancies – roles include a local authority representative; elected staff and parents as well as foundation governors. Our full details are on the school website.



## **Spotlight on .... Catherine Hasler** (third from left on the back row in the picture above)

*In each newsletter we will provide a short profile of one of the governors so that you get to know us a little better. If you see us around the school, please do come and introduce yourself.*

Catherine joined the governing body in September 2015, having previously been an associate member. She is Head of Legal for Waitrose, where she advises the business on all aspects of commercial law including contracts and regulatory issues, as well as intellectual property. She has also worked for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Samsung Electronics. At St John's she is the link governor for Literacy - a subject about which she is passionate. Both her parents work in education and her brother is also a school governor - so you could say it runs in the family. Catherine enjoys playing the piano (but her husband is relieved it is a silent piano that comes with headphones!) and spending time with her Frozen-obsessed three year old daughter.

## **Governing body meeting updates: what has been happening this term?**

In the first term of the academic year, there are two full governing body (FGB) meetings - in September and December – in addition to committee meetings and strategic planning sessions. Initially in September the FGB met to discuss the School Development Plan (SDP) with the SLT and each governor is now aligned to an area of the plan. Throughout the year the governors visit the school to track progress against the objectives and progress is tracked each term. In December we enjoyed presentations from the School Councillors and discussed other elements

such as safeguarding and we reviewed policies.

In addition both the resources and curriculum committees have met this term – if you are interested in finding out more about these areas of focus, please do let us know.

### ***Update on school results and performance:***

There are lots of successes demonstrated in the data from the end of the 2015/2016 academic year. The year 1 phonics attainment is that 92% of pupils are at the required standard. This is versus the inner London average of 81%, the London Authority average of 85% and the national average of 81%. In all areas of key stage 1 assessment (reading, writing and maths), pupils reaching the expected standard is above the national average. 92% of pupils are at the expected standard in Maths versus the national average of 73%.

In key stage 2 reading, grammar & spelling and maths are all above the national average for pupils reaching the expected standard.

Writing however is one of the focus areas across the school with our results generally sitting below the national average. This is an area where teachers assess their own pupils and the SLT are confident that in this first year of assessing pupils in this way, our teachers assessed the children rigorously and robustly. We are hopeful that we will see this percentage figure positioned more positively versus the national average in future years based on action plans in place.

### ***Let's celebrate:***

We are really proud of the 'breadth' and 'depth' of the school activities at St Johns. Here are just some of the highlights from the last 12 weeks:

- 'Meet the Teacher' meetings were run for all classes at the start of this term
- Parent information workshops have been well attended
- The Year 1 Harvest presentation was well received at St John's Church
- Years 4, 5 and 6 represented the school at Church at the Remembrance Service
- A coffee morning for the Macmillan cancer charity raised over £800
- Parents of Year 6 pupils are now being supported in the important transition to secondary school
- Over 110 shoeboxes were donated for the 'Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal' that supports families in need over the Christmas period
- Generosity and friendship have been the values that have been focused on this term in assemblies and in class. We are proud to see these values being adopted across the whole school community.
- Parent's evenings have taken place to update you on progress made by your child(ren)
- Prospective Reception parents have been visiting the school in advance of September 2017
- Parents, pupils and staff have recently been surveyed and the SLT are working through the responses received
- A new PTFA committee were elected at the beginning of the school year. The governing body would like to thank Lynette Cowen and her team for all their efforts over the previous years, and we wish Marie Price and her team every success. If 'Winter Wonderland' was anything to go

by, we are in for an amazing year! The community participation and the dedication of the staff and parents that volunteered made for a very special afternoon. Congratulations to all involved!

- There has been a focus on RULER training for staff and the intention is to further engage with parents in this area. It is a really important intervention as it focuses on the emotional literacy of our pupils, helping them to understand and recognise their emotions – a really critical skill to support them at all stages of life
- Sport highlights are numerous this term. Intra-school achievements include participation in the Mayors Cup where both the boys and girls teams played 4 games each: the boys won all 4 games, scoring 8 goals and only conceding 1 and the girls also scored 8 goals, winning 2 games and drawing 2 games. In the Tag Rugby and Football League Kids Cup, we were one of the few schools in the Borough to field 2 teams. In the Football League, the blue team reached the semi – finals while the red team progressing to the group stage, and in the Rugby, the Blue team reached the quarter finals and the yellow team made it to the group stage. In Inter-school competitions, children all the way from Reception to Year 6 have been provided with the opportunity to participate in either end of unit tag rugby festivals, Infant Agility festivals or Sportshall Athletics Awards.
- The St John's choir are attending the Tri-Borough Music Hub Christmas Festival this week – we wish them lots of fun at this event.
- And there are carol services, Christmas lunch and of course not forgetting Christmas jumper day all still to come before December 16<sup>th</sup>!

What a busy term! Well done to pupils, staff (and parents and carers!) for everything that has been achieved this term.

**We would love to hear what you or your children have really enjoyed about school this term!** Please email us at the address below and we will aim to feature the responses that we receive in the next newsletter!

### **FOCUS ON ... SIAMS Inspection:**

*The 'Focus on...' feature will provide you with greater detail on current projects or initiatives that governors are involved in.*

The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection took place at the beginning of October. The governing body would like to thank all staff and pupils for the hard work that went in to preparing for the inspection, where the school was given a 'good' judgement (the same as our previous inspection rating). Some highlights were:

- Christian values are at the heart of the school vision and ethos
- Pupils are provided with the opportunity to develop their own spirituality due to worship being central to the life of the school
- Pupils enjoy religious education (RE)

Areas that now require further focus include developing strong writing outcomes in RE and ensuring that RE resources are relevant, high quality and that they support learning.

We would appreciate hearing your views on this issue of the Governor's Golden Eagle and also to get your input on what you might like to read about in the future. Please email us ([governors@stjohnsce.lbhf.sch.uk](mailto:governors@stjohnsce.lbhf.sch.uk)) with your thoughts and feedback.

Wishing all families and friends of St John's a peaceful and very joyous festive period – there are notable celebrations for our Christian, Muslim and Jewish friends in the coming weeks and we wish everyone an enjoyable break.