

# GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER

## A few words from our Chair of Governors...

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been an exciting year, with lots of hard work by our lovely children, the Teachers and School Staff, and, of course, you, the Parents and Carers. Well done!!

The Governors managed to provide tea coffee and cakes at the recent Summer Event without incurring sunstroke! A big, "Thank you!" to all the Parents, Carers and Helpers from our Parish, who donated cakes and helped in any way. It was a particular pleasure to be able to welcome Mr Mark Hilliam, our new Head Teacher from September this year, who served cakes and made tea as an honorary Governor for the day. I know a number of you were able to meet Mr Hilliam, and as always, you made him feel very welcome. The event is really important for the School's PTFA, who generously raise money every year to help finance the extras that make your child's school experience even more memorable and fun. We really appreciate all the hard work that the PTFA put into the school. At the time of writing we are not sure how much money was raised, but we believe over 400 people came to the event. Thank you all.

The Governors are very pleased to report that Mr Mark Isaacs, our Acting Head Teacher this year, has kindly agreed to act as Deputy Head in the coming year to ease the transition to our new Leadership Team. We are delighted. It will make Mr Hilliam's job far easier. Mr Isaacs has done such an excellent job this year, and the Governors are happy to express their appreciation of his super leadership and determination to ensure an excellent standard of teaching and learning. We are sure he and Mr Hilliam will form a great team.

The whole school has worked very hard on attendance this year, and this has shown in the results the school

achieved. Overall, attendance figures were up 0.2% to 95.5%, with improvements in every published area of performance. So well done, even though we did not quite achieve the Governors' target for the year of 96%. It is worth reflecting on why this target is important. It is simply that our teaching staff cannot teach a child who isn't at the school. So, we will be continuing our efforts to improve attendance in the coming academic year.

Finally, may I repeat some of the comments I made last year about the children at the school? I am sure Parents and Carers are very proud of them. As always, they have been hard working, cheerful, resilient and caring, really looking to help others and to do their best. They have enthusiastically embraced and put into practice our school mission, "Created by God to love and learn". It is a pleasure to meet them and talk to them. They are a credit to you, their Parents and Carers, as well as the school.

We are very pleased to welcome to our school children from a variety of cultures and non-Catholic faith backgrounds, or no faith background at all. We greatly value these children and their Parents and Carers. By providing a different point of view, you help us to avoid insularity, and you provide children with a much clearer view of the multi-cultural and rich community we enjoy in Britain. We are pleased to have appointed Parent Governors from differing backgrounds, who are making an especially valued contribution to the work of the Governing Body.

We hope you have a lovely summer holiday, and we look forward to welcoming you back safe and refreshed in September.

Kindest regards

Peter Taylor (Chair of Governors)

## Farewell

We are very sad to see Mrs O'Connor and Mr Bell leaving the school. Their contribution to the life of our school has been exemplary, and is greatly appreciated. We are pleased to say that both have been promoted, and will be making a senior leadership contribution to their new schools. We wish them well for the future.

## Welcome to Jenefer Morgan, our new Foundation Governor



I'm a qualified Chartered Accountant (South Africa) and currently develop and facilitate leadership development programmes predominately for professional services firms. I was a member of the School Governing Board for St Teresa's School (Sisters of Mercy), Johannesburg for a number of years. I have recently moved to Bristol and joined St Augustine's Catholic Church.

I owe a great deal to exceptional teachers who nurtured me during my school career. I'm immensely grateful for the wonderful Catholic ethos of my school which is the foundation of my Catholic faith. I am volunteering my time and skills to the Governors and to the school to contribute to a new generation of school children having the positive, nurturing experiences I had.

## Could you be a Governor?

We are looking to welcome more new Foundation Governors on to the Governing Board. The work is varied and interesting and gives an opportunity to be closely involved in the life of the school.

If you would like to know more about the work of Foundation Governors, please contact the Chair, Peter Taylor, via the school office. You can also find useful information by following this link to the Diocesan website:

<https://schools.cliftdiocese.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/School-Governor-Booklet.pdf>

## Gift Aid

We are always grateful for regular or one-off donations to the school, no matter how big or small, as they directly benefit our children and provide them with an enriched education.

If you are donating, or would like to donate, please could we request that you complete a 'Gift Aid Form' in order that we can re-claim the tax on donations, thus making a larger contribution to your child's educational journey. Gift Aid forms are available from the school office. Thank you!

*"Created by God to love and learn"*