

# St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

## Governors' Newsletter December 2020

*"Created by God to love and learn"*

### **Dear parents and carers,**

We have successfully made it to December in an eventful, challenging year. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr Hilliam and all the staff of St Augustine's for all you have done to ensure our school has remained the engaging, thriving school we love. I have no doubt that keeping our bubbles safe and our children happy has been the result of significant personal investment on your part. We are very grateful to each of you for your commitment.

### **Progress made in the first 2 terms**

It has been a busy start to the school year. Our first two terms have been focussed on rolling out our recovery curriculum, and identifying where each child in our school is in terms of their learning journey versus where they would be in a non-COVID year. Our teachers, along with our COVID catch up tutor, have been working with our children to close any gaps they may have. Progress has been steady and positive. We have prioritised English writing and phonics, and Maths.

Thank you to our PTFA who have donated £2,500 towards new books for the school and the school library!

### **Our school open days**

Mr Hilliam has hosted a number of prospective parents on external tours around the school in the first 2 terms. This, in addition to the virtual school tour on our website, has played an important role in creating awareness of our school, its dedicated staff and the facilities we are blessed with. We will be holding virtual coffee sessions for prospective parents in the New Year as well. If you know of anyone who is looking for a place in a primary school for 2021/ 2022, please put them in touch with the school office for more details.

### **Thank you to our retiring Governors**

Two of our governors have completed their terms of office in the last term: Paula Mainprise and Kate Stuart. Both Paula and Kate have been active members of our Governing Body for six and two years respectively. We thank them most sincerely for their investment in our school.

Their departure has opened up positions on our Governing Body for both Foundation Governors and Parent Governors. If you would be interested in serving as a Governor, the Governor section on our school website (<https://www.staugustinedownend.org.uk/page/?title=Governors&pid=62>) outlines the role of a Governor and how our Governing Body works. We welcome any interested parties reaching out to us for more information via the school office.

### **Celebrating Christmas differently in 2020!**

You may have seen the article in the Downend Voice for December/ January which showcased our St Augustine's Christmas Film. It stars our Reception class in their traditional class nativity, with our other classes joining in virtually with Christmas carols and accompanying readings. We are very proud of our small stars! We also held a Christmas dinner and jumper day at the school – all to ensure as many of our Christmas traditions as possible continue in 2020.

## Merry Christmas

On behalf of the Governors, we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas: may it be a time of peace, a safe and special time with family and friends. We look forward to a 2021 full of good health and positivity, and a year in which each child in our school feels appreciated and thrives. Our grateful thanks again to all the school staff, who have had a memorable year like everyone and yet are still giving of their best. Thank you to the children, who make it worthwhile.

God Bless

Jenefer Morgan

Chair of Governors

