

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Carol Scanlon

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Daniel Getty



Thursday 22 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Governors' End of Year Review

As we come to the end of another school year, it is clear that the Covid pandemic has continued to have a massive impact on all of us in the St Mary's school community. The last few weeks have been difficult for everyone, with a number of year group bubbles bursting and many of our staff and pupils having to isolate. It was particularly sad for our Year 6 children to miss their last week of primary school; and the members of staff leaving us at the end of this term did not have an opportunity to say goodbye to their pupils and colleagues.

However, despite the challenges, there is much to celebrate at St Mary's. First and foremost, the wonderful staff team. We are so fortunate to have such committed and caring staff, who despite being exhausted at the end of another extraordinary year, continue to go the extra mile for all our pupils.

We also wanted to share with you some of the work that the governors have been doing as we have reflected on what we have done to fulfil our core functions which are:

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

As well as reflecting, we are looking to the future and making plans for the coming year and take this opportunity to thank everyone contributing to those plans and ensuring the wellbeing and development of the school throughout the year including the fantastic staff, Friends of St Mary's and parents and carers.

~ Pray ~ Learn ~ Love ~ Enjoy ~

What have St Mary's governors been doing this year?

This year has been particularly busy for the governors at St Mary's as we have recruited a new leadership team. We were pleased to find the right headteacher for our school in Mrs Scanlon and we are very fortunate to have recruited Mr Getty as our new Deputy Headteacher.

In addition, the appointment of Mr Chown as our School Business Manager has made a huge and positive impact on the financial management of the school and governors continue to work closely with Mr Chown to ensure that the school's money is well spent.

When it was safe to do so, governors have also been back into school, meeting with and speaking to staff and pupils about a range of things including wellbeing issues, the school's development of the curriculum and Inclusion.

Thank You!

Governors are so grateful to and thank the brilliant team of staff at St Mary's who have been amazing throughout the last year, they have adapted quickly to the changing circumstances for the benefit of all pupils and worked passionately to deliver the best possible experience to the children in our school. The staff team always keep the children at the centre of everything they do and are an inspiration to us all.

Governors would like to extend a particular thank you to Mrs Hills who, as our Acting Headteacher, steered our school community through the challenges of the Covid pandemic and ensured a steady ship through a period of change.

We would also like to thank the Friends of St Mary's who have continued with their fundraising efforts despite the difficult circumstances. Covid restrictions have prevented many of the planned events from going ahead but they have still managed to come up with some inventive and fun ideas to raise funds for the benefit of the pupils in our school.

Conclusions

The governors of St Mary's believe that the school has progressed very well over the last year. Although there have been leadership changes, they have been managed with care, and with an absolute commitment to our pupils. We have great confidence in the recently appointed leadership team and believe St Mary's is poised for many years of success as a school, which means positive pupil outcomes and a secure, happy and fun environment, with inclusion and our Catholic ethos at the heart of our school.

Finally, and most importantly, we wanted to reach out to ALL of you and thank you for being such a supportive group of parents and carers throughout this challenging year. We know it has not been easy for any of you but your resilience and support through this time has helped our school to adapt to the necessary changes and move forward together as a united community.

There is a lot to celebrate at St Mary's and we look forward to progressing on the exciting journey together in the new school year. Until then, we take this opportunity to wish you all a restful summer break.

Best wishes

The Governors of St Mary's

