

The Annunciation Catholic Junior School



Governors' Newsletter

October 2017

Dear Parents,

Now that memories of the summer holidays have faded and the autumn term is well underway, I thought it an opportune time for the Governing Body to update you on recent events.

During May and June, Year 3 children received their First Holy Communion in their home parishes. These occasions, attended by school staff, marked an important step in the sacramental life of our children.

The Annunciation Parish had an opportunity to celebrate on the 24 June when Deacon Carlos, a regular visitor to our school, was ordained priest at Westminster Cathedral. This term Father Colin, who is a member of the Governing Body, celebrated the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood with Mass in school for pupils, staff and governors. We wish Fr. Colin and Fr. Carlos every blessing in the future.

The end of the summer term saw the departure of three staff, Miss Mohan, Miss Alexander and Miss Waddel to pastures new. The Governors would like to thank them for their contribution to our school and wish them every success in the future. We also said goodbye to Year 6 who moved on to their new secondary schools.

In September we welcomed Mr. Doherty, an experienced Deputy Headteacher, to our school community together with Miss Atwell, Miss Griffin and Miss Perkins. In addition, since the start of term Year 3 children settled in well to their new environment.

There has been much media coverage this year on education funding, particularly in the lead up to the general election when it was very much to the fore. One of the core functions of the Governing Body is to ensure that the school's finances,

allocated by the local authority, are well managed. Again this year, despite a cut in funding and increasing costs, the school managed to set a balanced budget. You will no doubt be aware that currently many school budgets are in deficit. Unless additional money is given to education in April 2018, more schools will be 'in the red'.

In June, two parents, Mrs Amoah and Mrs. McCaul joined the Governing Body, bringing our total number to twelve. We are grateful to them for their additional commitment to the school. Parent governors serve on the Governing Body as parent representatives and not parent delegates. As a board we always welcome the views of parents but in general, parent governors are not expected to seek parental approval for their actions.

The pace of change in education constantly increases in a bid to raise standards. To this end, Mrs. Minihan and her staff, both teaching and support, work hard to ensure that pupils achieve their full academic potential.

At the time of writing the provisional Key Stage 2 SATs (2017) results indicate that with the exception of reading, all test results were above the national average. While reading results were unexpectedly disappointing, measures are already in place to raise reading outcomes this year with intervention taking place where appropriate and more guided reading sessions timetabled.

The recently erected scaffolding around the school marks the start of roofing and other works which will continue in the coming months. The new roof will be a welcome improvement to the fabric of the school. This term also saw the installation of an emergency exit at the end of our field which will aid egress in the event of the main entrance becoming impeded.

The Governing Body was successful in obtaining a grant of £188,000 for these works but as a voluntary aided Catholic school, the Governors have to raise 10% of this amount. The voluntary contributions made by parents to the Governors' Fund are the only source of income the Governing Body has to pay these costs so it is essential that all families contribute. A big thank you to parents who have already done so this year.

You will appreciate that for a small school such as ours, it is difficult to raise the £18,000 necessary for the governors' contribution to the roofing works. With this in mind, four past parents of the school recently organised a golf day which raised approximately £7,000 towards the cost of the new roof. The whole school community appreciates their efforts, the generosity of sponsors (many of whom had no previous connection with the school) and those who supported the day in a variety of ways.

Governors look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the course of this academic year and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and assure you of the governors' ongoing commitment to The Annunciation Catholic Junior School.

“This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We nurture seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.....

We may never see the end results,

But we are workers, not master builders;

Ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own”

Extract from The Oscar Romero Prayer.

Yours sincerely,

Anne O’Shea
Chair of Governors