

The Annunciation Catholic Junior School



Governors' Newsletter

September 2018

Dear Parents,

It's that time of year again when normality resumes with the start of the autumn term. Although the long days are regrettably drawing to a close, the good weather continues. I hope you and your families had an enjoyable and restful summer break and that your children are refreshed and enthusiastic for all the challenges and learning opportunities that a new school year brings.

School holidays provide a period of time, free from the daily demands and routines of school schedules not only for pupils and staff to take a well-deserved break but also for repairs, maintenance and improvements to be carried out to the fabric of school buildings. To this end, Mr. Wilson, the Premises Manager, was busy on a variety of tasks during the holidays to ensure that the school was ready for the return of pupils and staff in September. In addition during August, contractors completed the remainder of roofing works. This project was made possible following the Governing Body's successful bid for additional capital funding for these works and the replacement of existing fire doors and windows, work which is due to be carried out during the October half-term break in order to minimise disruption to pupils' learning.

Whilst a grant of £98,000 is good news indeed and enables us to undertake improvements to the school building, it comes with a price tag of £9,800. This is because the grant covers just 90% of the cost of repairs and the school is responsible for paying 10%. Our ability to accept the grant and pay our 10% contribution is only made possible because of voluntary parental contributions to the Governors' Fund. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support of the school and urge you to continue to do so in the future so that the school building remains fit for purpose. Without your assistance, this necessary essential work cannot be carried out.

A new school year introduces us to a new group of Year 3 pupils and their parents, embarking on another chapter of their educational journey. We welcome you and hope that you will quickly feel part of our school family and that your time at The Annunciation Catholic Junior School will bring you much personal fulfilment and success.

The Governing Body extends a warm welcome also to a new member of staff, Miss Joseph. It is worth remembering that due to the current shortage of teachers, recruitment is not easy. Mrs. Minihan, the Senior Leadership Team and Governors spend time interviewing staff to ensure that your children are taught by the best.

Also this year, three new governors begin their term of office: Mr Celestine Buluma, elected by parents at the end of term who will bring an additional parental perspective to the Governing Body, Miss Lorraine Lally, a former pupil of the school and Mr. Tim O'Keefe appointed foundation governors. We would like to express our gratitude to outgoing governors, Mrs. O'Sullivan and Ms. Oliver for their time, commitment and contribution to The Annunciation Catholic Junior School during their tenure as foundation governors.

The most important item governors look at is the educational achievement of pupils and hold the school to account. The Religious Education Teaching and learning Committee scrutinises individual pupil data. We look at the attainment and progress of all pupils in our school compared to other schools using the latest national data.

As Governors, we pay close attention to the quality of teaching in the school which is reviewed regularly by Mrs. Minihan and her Senior Leadership Team. We also have a role to play and take part in learning walks where we see the school in action. During the last academic year, Governors noted: high teaching standards, teachers' high expectations which resulted in high levels of pupil attainment and progress, exceptionally high attendance levels and excellent pupil behaviour which remains a strength of the school.

As a Governing Body, we were particularly pleased with this year's Key Stage 2 SATs results.

	<u>School</u>	<u>National Average</u>
Reading	92%	75%
English Grammar Punctuation and Spelling	94%	78%
Mathematics	96%	76%
Writing (Teacher Assessed)	85%	78%
Science (Teacher Assessed)	89%	82% (2017 data)

This success came about as a result of the hard work of pupils, the support of parents and the commitment of staff in ensuring that every child achieved his/her best. You will no doubt have noted that these results are well above the national average, again testament to the willingness of all involved to go the extra mile to support pupils.

As a Governing Body, we monitor safeguarding procedures and undertake safeguarding audits. In this respect, we are pleased to report that all necessary checks are made and all the necessary procedures are in place to keep children safe.

In April, the Governing Body managed to set a balanced budget despite a reduction in funding. You will be aware from the media that school budgets are being increasingly squeezed and this presents an ongoing challenge for schools. Changes to the national funding formula have affected many schools and it is expected that budgets will tighten still further once the new funding formula is fully implemented in Barnet schools. Needless to say, Governors will continue to monitor the school budget and keep a close eye on school finances.

As we begin a new school year, the Governing Body will focus on how we continue to ensure that the best all round education is provided for your children in a community which has the teaching of Jesus at its centre.

We look forward to meeting you during the year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Anne O'Shea
Chair of Governors