



## St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

*"a place of educational excellence  
with Christ at its centre"*

**Spring Term 2**

*Head teacher: Mrs L. Concannon*

### A message from the Chair of Governors.

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well. I am thrilled with the news from Government that all children will be back in school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Again, our thanks go to Laura Concannon and her whole team for all the hard work that has gone into supporting our children, both for those in school and those at home throughout the current lockdown. Thank you to parents who completed the recent parent surveys, this data is invaluable and allows us to ensure we are doing everything we can to provide an outstanding education and support for our children. I look forward to the coming months when I hope to be able to see you all in person at school events.

Kind regards

Rebecca Iley, Chair of Governors

#### The Governing Board

Rebecca Iley – Chair of Governors

Ksenija da Silva – Foundations Governor

Steve Prance – Parent Governor

Rosie Russell – Parent Governor

Debbie Brimson – Staff Governor

Fr. John – Foundation Governor

Lisa Beavers – Foundation Governor (recruitment in process)

We will shortly be sending a communication to recruit to our governing board. We are fully committed to being an inclusive board and ensuring equal opportunities. We are keen to make our board as diverse as possible. Please do consider how your experience and skills could benefit the board; we would love to hear from you.

**Premises** – Thank you to Steve Prance (parent governor) who has been working closely with Laura Concannon to ensure we are working towards and achieving our premises 'To Do' list. It is essential that the school buildings and grounds are a safe, modern and inspiring environment for our pupils; this as I am sure you can appreciate takes a lot of work and finance. The diocese support major works from their buildings funds, however we are required to pay 10% of the final cost. Major works on the list are the school roof, which has been repaired and is safe but will require replacement in coming years.

Thank you to those that have contributed to the school buildings fund, we are truly grateful as it enables us to continue with the list of improvements. If you have not already done so and would like to start contributing, please contact the school office for further details.

General maintenance is always needed; thank you to those involved with updating the music room, and outside areas, the school is looking great and ready for the return of pupils on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**Standards and Achievements** – The recent lockdown will undoubtedly have had an impact on the academic progress of our pupils, however we are equally concerned with their well-being. Well-being is the first crucial step to our pupil's ability to achieve success academically; it will therefore be a focused priority for all alongside their academic priorities. We will be continuing with the COVID catch up sessions; these worked extremely well in the autumn term with all pupils making progress. Additional interventions for those that need them will be in place, to cover academic and well-being requirements. Thank you to Mrs Bergendorf and Mrs King for their work in supporting families and helping to minimise barriers facing families.

Please continue to support the teaching team by supporting your child with their homework, reading regularly, and spellings and times tables; together we will be able to minimise the impact the pandemic has had on our children.

All SATs have been cancelled for this academic year; however, teachers will continue to assess and will be able to give progression reports to secondary schools.

**Parent Survey** – Thank you to all parents who completed the parent surveys. The data was very positive, and for those parents that raised concerns, if they have not done so already the school will be in contact to listen and resolve where they can. We have been pleased with Oak Academy, it is of course no substitute for classroom learning but many of you agreed it made home schooling much more manageable this time around. To support parents with their children's learning we hope to be able to run parents information evenings, these have been very successful in the past. For this academic year, we may look to keep them remote, but will keep you updated with dates as soon as we are able. Should you have any questions regarding your child's learning please do contact the school.

A particular challenge has been ensuring pupils have had enough work to complete at home without putting undue pressure on families who are juggling multiple priorities. We hope we have been able to get the balance right.

Another strong theme from the survey was appreciation for the live class catch up sessions. This we hope is having a positive impact for pupils well-being and will help to alleviate any anxieties of returning to school in March.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss anything detailed on this newsletter or any other matters.

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