



St. John the Baptist RC Primary School
Management Committee of Governors
Newsletter Number 1
January 17

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we start our second term, the Management Committee of Governors wishes to take the opportunity to update you on some of our news including details of the latest pupil performance data and the School Improvement Plan for the year. In order to break down these areas, I have used the Ofsted framework headings, which I trust you will find informative.

Outcomes for pupils

Earlier last term we received the national performance data for children's attainment and progress. As you may be aware, the measurement of attainment and progress has changed this last year nationally meaning that, for most of the data, we are unable to make direct comparisons with previous years. Some of the headlines are detailed below.

- Foundation Stage - 71% of children achieved a 'good level of development' compared to 69.3% nationally.
- Year 1 phonics screening – 89 % of children passed the test compared to 81% nationally.
- We had our highest results ever at Key stage 1 with 87% reaching the expected standard and 29% reaching above the expected standard. Progress across Key Stage 1 was also better than expected.
- Attainment at KS2 was above that of children nationally in writing, reading and maths.

The combined score for these three areas was 70% for the school and 53% nationally.

Children's progress in all three subjects was above the national average, with a higher than average percentage of children in our school exceeding progress particularly in reading and writing.

The school data is available on our school's website.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment

Self-evaluation of teaching, learning and assessment in our school continues to indicate that we remain securely good in this area. This is monitored internally by the head teacher and also through our work with other schools. An Ofsted trained advisor (known as our School Improvement Partner) also visits the school regularly to assess standards and monitor the ongoing self-evaluation. Her next visit is at the end of January.

Nonetheless, work is of course ongoing to ensure consistently high quality teaching and learning across the school. This year's School Improvement Plan includes objectives regarding:

- further improving progress particularly in mathematics
- ensuring that specific groups of children continue to make good progress, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and 'Pupil Premium' children who are or have recently been eligible for free school meals and AMA (more able pupils).

Personal development, behaviour and welfare

This area continues to be a strength of our school, and staff work closely with other agencies where additional support is required. Attendance is currently just above our 96% target at 96.2% but the school works closely with the Education Welfare Officer to monitor and challenge persistent absence and lateness.

Leadership & management

The head teacher and the middle leaders have been working hard last term to develop and implement the School Improvement Plan and to monitor early progress against this. Governors regularly come into school, looking at school data and tracking school improvement priorities. In October we had a comprehensive two day Financial Audit. The school scored highly in all areas of this audit with minor recommendations to further enhance already sound procedures. This term so far the school has already undergone comprehensive audits in Safeguarding and Governance to ensure that we are up to date with the very latest developments in these areas. The school has termly visits from the SEND (Special Educational Needs) advisor and the Early Years Advisor so that we are using expert advice to ensure that our pupils have the very best and safest provision.

Other initiatives

The school has started work on the Dyslexia award. This is expected to take a few years but involves having access to the very latest training in this area and auditing our classrooms to be 'inclusive' for all. Two members of staff have attended 5 days training in Autism. Mrs Brown is doing a course to become a 'Numbers Count' teacher (a year long programme accredited by Edge Hill University) and gives her expertise in delivering maths support to children who really struggle.

We are currently having our website rebuilt by Jack Bridges, a past pupil, and are hoping to have it up and running this term. We are also hoping that it will be easy to use and informative.

Communication with parents

Last term we had a curriculum parents evening in which there was a chance to meet your child's teacher and see and discuss their learning for the year.

An overview of the curriculum is put onto the website each term so that parents have access to their child's learning for the term. Please check the website for the spring term's update. There have been a number of parent workshops including online safety, phonics and reading during the autumn term. We are hoping to run a maths workshop later this term. Face to face appointments to discuss your child's progress happened the first week back in January and will be repeated next term. Parental questionnaires were given out at these meetings. If you have missed this then please see Helen in the office for a questionnaire. We always welcome parental views on what we are doing well and areas that we can improve on. Your feedback will be discussed by the Management Committee of Governors.

Our Management Board of Governors

We are hoping to have 2 to 3 new Governors coming onto our board in February. Thank you to those who have come forward to support our school.

Our current Management Committee:-

Governor	Role
Laura Upton	Chair of Governors (Parent, SEND, Pupil Premium Governor)
Natalie Jackson	Vice Chair (Staff Governor, Deputy Safeguarding)
Fr Nick Debney	(Safeguarding, Community, Religious Culture)
Liz Hamilton	Head teacher
Judith Muir	Clerk

We still have 2/3 vacancies. If you feel that you could spare some time and would like to volunteer to help the school in this way then please see myself or Mrs Hamilton for more information. Meetings happen once a month, on a Friday afternoon.

I hope that you have found this Governor's update informative. As a Management Board we are hoping to send out a Governor's newsletter a few times a year.

Laura Upton

January 2017