



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the second Governor newsletter for the autumn term 2015/16. Together with the senior leadership team at St. Mary's, we have been working on the School Development Plan (SDP) for this academic year. This contains the school's priorities for the year ahead.

School Development Plan (SDP)

The SDP enables us to achieve our School Aims and Vision by setting objectives for improving teaching and learning, and considering standards of achievement and pupil well-being. The Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team regularly report progress of the plan to us at Committee and full Governors' meetings.

Each of these priorities is supported by a number of SMART objectives.

Priorities of the SDP 2015/16 are:

- Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment: **To raise attainment across the curriculum**
- Outcomes for Pupils at the School: **To strengthen achievement and accelerate progress**
- Quality of Leadership & Management: **To continue to develop the quality of leadership and management across the school**
- Church School: **To ensure pupils continue to receive outstanding learning experiences in RE**
- Develop a more flexible financial model: **To ensure sustainability in a challenging financial climate for schools**

These areas for school development have been selected for the following reasons:

- In May 2014 Ofsted Inspectors observed that teaching was consistently good and improving. Over the last three terms, observed lessons have been consistently good or better, with a large number judged as good with some outstanding features and some judged as outstanding. There is an improving trend in the quality of teaching. We want to work towards a higher proportion of outstanding lessons across the School, ensuring that all pupils receive the best possible provision, reach their potential and that more pupils exceed expected progress.
- The staff worked hard throughout 2014-2015 to continue to embed the new National Curriculum. Due to the new curriculum and lack of levels, staff continue to work on implementing new summative and formative

assessment procedures to ensure that pupils continue to make expected and better than expected progress, so that they are ready for secondary school at the end of their primary education.

- Following an Ofsted judgement of 'good' for behaviour in May 2014, the School intends to move behaviour of pupils to an 'outstanding' judgment throughout 2015-2016.
- Following the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) 'outstanding' judgement for RE, the School wants to focus on achieving the RE Quality Mark.

Voluntary contributions

A huge thank you to all families who have already made their voluntary contribution of £5 per term per family, which we asked for in a letter sent out earlier this term. If you haven't already contributed but would like to, your support would be greatly appreciated as we want to continue to improve the fabric of the school buildings and facilities.

As a reminder of why we are asking for a contribution, as a voluntary-aided (VA) school, we have responsibility for funding 10% of any capital spend, including new building or external repairs (supported by a grant from the Department for Education of up to 90%).

Your views

Parent Forum

We are currently looking for Parent Forum Nursery Representatives. If you are interested, please contact the staff in the school office. The next Parent Forum meeting will be next term.

Parent View

Thank you to everyone who has already completed Parent View. If you haven't done so yet, you can complete [Ofsted Parentview questionnaire](#) at any time during the year.

Finally, we would like to thank you all for your continued support this year and wish you all a peaceful Christmas time and a good start to the New Year.

**Alan Kemp
Chair of Governors**

