

Governor's Newsletter.
Autumn Term 2016



I am delighted to congratulate the School on a fantastic result from its Ofsted Inspection on 13th & 14th September. I'm sure, like me, you will have been extremely proud to read the Ofsted Report. The School was judged to be **GOOD** in all aspects of its leadership, management, teaching and wellbeing of your children

Effectiveness of leadership and management.	Good
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment.	Good
Personal development, behaviour and welfare.	Good
Outcomes for pupils.	Good
Early Years provision.	Good

There are many outstanding comments in the report. I am sure you have your favourites. For me this comment from the inspector sums up what St. Catherine's School is all about ...

"This is a fully inclusive school where pupils are valued and taught to value others. Inspectors talked to pupils who had recently joined the school. They all agreed they had been welcomed by other pupils and soon made friends. A number of parents commented on the inclusiveness of the school. 'The children really seem to know and care for one another' represents a typical parent comment."

Your governors

The Head teachers have written to you recently announcing the re-election of Mrs. Denise Barrows and Mr. Jay Raynham as parent governors. I am very pleased that we continue to have such a strong and dedicated governing body. We still have a couple of vacancies to fill; your current governors are;

Peter Falconbridge	Co-opted governor
Cathy Irons	Co-opted governor
Mrs Staiano	Co-opted governor
Julia Thurlow	Co-opted governor
Vacancy	Co-opted governor
Meyrem Flint	LA governor
Mrs Wallis	Staff governor
Mrs Burt	Staff governor
Jay Raynham	Parent governor
Denise Barrows	Parent governor
Gemma Wilkinson	Parent governor
Rachel Pennant	Foundation governor
Mike Marsh	Foundation governor
Vacancy	Foundation governor
Mr Harvey	Associate governor

Your governors are keen to make sure you know who they are, what they do and that they provide you with the information you find most useful. That is why we have started to send out our termly newsletter. We would like to find out how useful you find the newsletter and get your input on other ways in which we could improve our communication with you. I will be sending out an online survey before the end of term to collect your thoughts. I will let you know when the survey goes live.

Parent View

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those parents who completed a 'Parent View' survey prior to our inspection. Apart from talking to parents, this is the main way in which inspectors find out what parents think about their children's school. You can give your views of the school at any time of the school year, not just when an inspection is taking place. Can I encourage parents to use parent view on a regular basis, at least once a term, so that the school and government are up to date with your views? If you have not registered yet you can do so at

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Once your login has been activated, it only takes a few minutes to complete answers to 12 short questions about aspects of the school such as; the quality of teaching, level of homework, etc. There is also a direct link to Parent View on the school web site under the key information section. Your views are important in helping us know what is going well and what could be improved as well as helping inspectors make a decision about the school, and

Anti-Bullying Week.

The school will be actively involved in anti-bullying week (14th-18th November). The children will be involved in lots of activities to help them think about bullying and their part in helping to deal with it. The School will also use the week to launch its revised behaviour and anti-bullying policies, so please be aware of how you, as parents, can get involved. Some children, from the school council, will be performing an anti-bullying drama on Wednesday 16th November at 2.30pm. Families are invited to attend if they want to. After the performance, you are invited to come into your child's class to find out about the anti-bullying work they have been doing. Governors are also getting involved in anti-bullying week. They are in school, throughout the day, on Wednesday 16th November. This is part of a new, termly programme of governor open days-where governors spend time in the school seeing children at work and finding out about activities and projects different classes are involved in.

Tesco Bags of Help initiative.

I want to remind you about the Tesco Bags of Help Initiative, which the Heads wrote to you about last month. Tesco supermarket has teamed up with Groundwork on its Bags of Help initiative, which see grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 – all raised from the 5p bag levy – being awarded to environmental and greenspace projects. The school put in a bid for one of the grants and has been successful, but the size of the grant is determined by how shoppers vote. Voting is open in stores from 31st October – 13th November. Customers will cast their vote using a token given to them at the check-out in store each time they shop. So if you're a regular Tesco shopper, or even if you're not can I encourage you to get along to Tesco's and do some shopping, at least until the voting ends on 13th November. The Head Teachers have got some great ideas about how the grant could be used to improve facilities for the children.

Site developments

There have been some exciting site improvements towards the end of the summer term, and over the holidays. There have been significant alterations made to classroom areas in the Upper Building which have greatly improved the teaching environment for pupils in those areas. High

quality interactive whiteboards have also been installed in all classrooms. On a visit to the school in September I was able to see how they were being effectively used to enhance teaching and learning. Currently, a toilet area is being built in the canteen building.

Governors work closely with the Head teachers to constantly review the condition of the school buildings and look at ways in which the school budget can be best used to improve facilities. I was most impressed to see the new 'Cosy Corner' nurture room, which has been designed specifically to provide a comforting space for children who need additional support.

I know that some parents have been actively involved in monitoring and evaluating the quality of the school site, especially around issues of access, via the LPPA. Can I encourage those parents, and others to consider supporting the school in its efforts to improve facilities and resources on site?

Remembrance Sunday

Pupils from the school will again be laying a wreath at the War Memorial in Hoddesdon town centre on Remembrance Sunday – 13th November. There will then be a service at St. Catherine's & St. Paul's Church, following the ceremony in the town. Please feel free to attend this event. Poppies are for sale before school in both playgrounds in aid of the Royal British Legion. Please give generously to support this worthy cause.

Up-coming Events

Sunday 13 th November	Remembrance Service in the Town.
Friday 25 th November	Christmas bazaar.
Friday 9 th December	Christmas Disco.
Tuesday 20 th December	Pantomime Trip

Mr P Falconbridge,

Chair of Governors

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