

## St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Abingdon

### Governor Update for Parents, January 2016

Dear Parents,

The Governing Body would like to share with you the continued progress made by our school in Terms 1 and 2 this year. As in our previous updates, the sub-headings from the current OFSTED framework have been used.

#### **Effectiveness of Leadership and Management**

- A summary of our School Self-Evaluation is available on the school website (under Documents and Links) for parents to read. This is a statement of where we currently are as a school and what we aim to do to make further progress. Senior Leadership and the Governing Body are currently using the evaluation findings to draft our School Development Plan and we intend to share a summary version with parents on the website in the Spring Term.
- Governors questioned the Leadership team to follow up on issues raised in the Parent Survey in the Summer term and the answers to these questions were sent out to parents via Parentmail and are also available on the school website.
- There have been some changes on the Governing Body: Simon Robson has taken over as our Safeguarding Governor and Tammy Lavers is now responsible for Health and Safety. We have 2 vacancies for Foundation Governors and we will also need a new Parent Governor from September 2016. Please do consider if you could fill one of these roles. Helping support our school in this way is an immensely rewarding experience.
- Our school website has been identified by the Diocesan School Department to be both informative and well-presented and we have been asked to allow it to be used as an exemplar website for other Diocesan schools to refer to.

#### **Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

- The new assessment system of target cards which are brought home once a week have given parents of Year 1-6 pupils a better insight into the work their children are focussing on each week and the progress they are making in English and Maths. The Parent Evening in September in which this system was launched was well attended and gave parents the chance to ask questions about "Assessment without Levels".
- Our Parent Curriculum Evening provided the chance for parents to ask questions about the new National Curriculum in Literacy and Maths and to experience some of the work which our children are undertaking in class in these subjects. Some very useful guides to help support your children at home with Maths and English were also distributed. These are available on the school website under Our School/Curriculum/Helping at Home.
- Governors continue to work closely with Subject Leaders at school to support the development of the various subject areas at St Edmund's.
- Parents will no doubt have witnessed at least some of the wonderful festive events led by the children at St Edmund's before the Christmas holidays. They were a fantastic opportunity to experience the musical, artistic and dramatic talents of our children.

#### **Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare**

- The visit by the Sion Mission to St Edmund's was hugely successful and helped develop our children's faith and spirituality in so many different ways.

- Our new Behaviour policy in conjunction with our system of rewards and sanctions was rolled out across the whole school and has helped to improve consistency across our school.
- We held our annual Anti-Bullying week in November which was very successful, culminating in a thought provoking whole school assembly featuring performances from different classes.
- Our newly elected School Council members worked on a number of initiatives last term including Anti-Bullying week. Suggestion boxes for the School Council are available in all classrooms – please encourage your children to share their opinions and ideas with the School Council in this way.
- Another successful Community Day was held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September which brought together members of the school community in projects which enhanced the outside space at school. Our next Community Day will take place in Autumn 2016.

### **Outcomes for Children and Learners**

- The outcomes for children at St Edmund's in Summer 2015 were fantastic. Highlights include 87% of pupils in year 1 who passed the Phonics test which is well above both national and local averages, huge improvements in Maths and Writing at Key Stage 1 which mean that our children are writing and calculating well above national and local averages and the continuation of excellent results at Key Stage 2, particularly in writing. Congratulations to all the staff and pupils for their hard work and dedication to learning!

### **The Effectiveness of Early Years**

- Teaching and learning in the Early Years continues to go from strength to strength. As you are aware the staff are now working on making sure that the quality of the outside provision matches the high quality inside provision. We are grateful for the extra money raised by so many of you via your support of all of the Parent Association events which will allow us to start buying many of the extra resources identified by the Early Years team.

Thank you for reading!