

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Abingdon

Governor Update for Parents, April 2016

Dear Parents,

We hope you all enjoyed the Easter holidays. As we enter the Summer Term we would like to inform you on the progress made by our school in Terms 3 and 4.

Effectiveness of Leadership and Management

- We would like to encourage parents who have not yet completed the Parent View survey on the OFSTED website to do so. We are expecting a visit from inspectors this term and this is a very useful way for you to support us in our work preparing for this visit. There is a link to the survey on the right hand side of the school website.
- We have carried out a survey with pupils to find out their views of school. We look forward to sharing the results of this Pupil Voice survey with parents once the results have been counted.
- To ensure that our Safeguarding procedures and practices continue to reflect outstanding practice we recently completed a Safeguarding Audit with Oxfordshire County Council's LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer). This was a demanding, but rewarding process which confirmed that Safeguarding is given the highest priority at St Edmund's School.
- We welcomed Maryanne Steele to the Governing Body as a new Foundation Governor. We are currently seeking two Foundation Governors (to start asap) and a Parent Governor (to start in September). Please read the accompanying letter to find out more about these roles.
- Governors from St Edmund's are attending meetings of both the Abingdon Partnership Governor Network and Diocesan Governor Network meetings in order to ensure we continue to share excellent practice in Governance.

Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

- Last term saw a Science Day, Magic Maths Week and World Book Day being celebrated across the whole school. Governors were very pleased to witness how much our pupils enjoyed these events and the impact they had on their learning.
- Governors continue to monitor closely pupil progress and attainment through data analysis, book scrutiny, discussions between governors and subject leaders and pupil conferencing. During a pupil survey carried out by Governors in January we were very pleased to hear that 95% of pupils said they really enjoyed / enjoyed problem solving and investigations in Maths. We were also particularly pleased to hear the number of times the children spoke of being "challenged" in Maths lessons. A great many children mentioned that Maths was their favourite subject.
- The musical talents of the children at St Edmund's were showcased at both the Abingdon Passion Play and the ASDMA concert at Radley College last term.
- Our children's experience of different sports has been greatly widened this past term through the continued provision for Martial Arts by Can Do Martial Arts from the Abingdon Dojo and visits by Year 3 and 4 to the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre.
- Please continue to check the school website for photos of the range of learning opportunities provided to St Edmund's pupils.

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

- We continue to work as a school to develop our work on Anti-Bullying. Key Stage 2 pupils all completed an online questionnaire before Easter about bullying, the results of which will be analysed by Senior Leadership and Governors.
- We continue to set - and achieve - high targets for Attendance which are above the national average and are regularly monitored by both the Leadership team and Governors. To help support our high expectations regarding Attendance a summary of the procedures we follow was sent home to all parents and can be found on the school website.
- We were delighted to be chosen last term to host a special Internet Safety assembly as part of the Google Legends Tour. This was an enjoyable and insightful experience for our pupils that greatly helped the work we are doing in school surrounding e-safety. Please refer to the school website for our school e-safety policy and a list of useful links.

Outcomes for Children and Learners

- By now parents will be starting to see Target Cards filling up with evidence of how hard all the children are working to meet their targets.
- Your child should be able to tell you what their targets are, and their progress towards achieving them. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's targets please speak to the class teacher or Mrs Delany-White who will be happy to give you further information.

The Effectiveness of Early Years

- The Early Years team, led by Mrs Demarchi, have worked extremely hard to update the outside space in our Early Years area. Just before Easter parents and pupils were invited to an Early Years Open Day to experience the results of this hard work. Each class came down to the Early Years to sample the outdoor learning opportunities which proved very popular with pupils of all ages!

Resources & Premises

- We continue to maintain a balanced budget whilst at the same time investing in the schools' resources and buildings in support of our school vision to make St Edmund's an outstanding school. Some recent and planned investments (subject to available funds) are listed below

Recent / In Progress

- Nearly £30k is being invested in subject specific materials and resources to fill needs identified by subject leaders and the Senior Leadership team.
- New desktop computers are being ordered to support Interactive whiteboard teaching in all classrooms.

Planned (work to be done during the coming summer holiday)

- Resurfacing of the parking area at the front of the school to fill in the developing potholes.
- Extension of the canopy in the Early Years outside area to provide a truly all weather / all year learning space.
- Redecoration of a number of classrooms.

We hope that you continue to find these Governor Updates useful and informative. Thank you for reading!