



## GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Corpus Christi School Governors newsletter!

The school currently has 12 governors, from all walks of life, including two parent governors, Caroline Carberry and Miranda Sawyer. As governors, we have a specific job to do for the school. This includes

- Setting the strategic direction of the school (its aims over the next few years)
- Making sure that the co-head teachers are constantly aiming to improve the school (Corpus Christi has been rated as Outstanding, but shouldn't rest on its laurels!)
- Overseeing school finances to make sure they are robust
- Helping the school to engage with parents, staff, children, Corpus Christi parish and other stakeholders

## RESULTS

The Governing Board had a meeting in October in which we discussed the school's summer SAT results. Corpus Christi was one of the schools which achieved the highest results of the primary schools in Lambeth: 98% of the children achieved expected standard in maths, reading and writing and 96% achieved the expected standard in SPAGs. The governors were very happy to see that the hard work of last year's Year 6 had resulted in such good outcomes, and would like to congratulate the staff and Mrs Connery and Mr Coyle for their teaching and monitoring. This year, the school has brought forward the Year 6 SAT preparation lessons (Booster classes), to begin this term. After-school Booster classes allow teachers to teach the curriculum in school time and prepare children for their SATs as an additional provision. Bringing the Booster classes forward spreads the lessons over a longer time period, and means that the two-week Easter holiday is not interrupted, so that families can have a well-earned break.

## READING

The Governors were pleased to see that the school's new approach to reading has brought success. In the Juniors, instead of teaching through reading groups, whole classes have been reading a suitable text together. Children in Reception are read with individually until they are ready to join a reading group, which encourages quick learners, and more one-to-one reading with the children has meant that teachers have greater in-depth knowledge of each child's individual progress. And the school now has a visiting 'Reading Dog' from Pets as Therapy (PAT). Children who are otherwise reluctant to read aloud are selected to read to Hero the whippet.

## FUNDING

Schools across Britain are facing funding challenges. The Government's new funding formula has meant that Corpus Christi has had to make savings of several thousand pounds over the past couple of years. Despite this, the school's finances are in good shape, and the Governors and co-head teachers are

working hard to ensure that any budgeting does not affect the children's education and enjoyment of school. The school staff room was expanded and redecorated over the summer break at a very reasonable cost.

## FAMILY AND FAITH

The Governors are pleased to see that the school's new FAMILY values – Faith, Aspiration, Motivation, Independence, Love, You are unique – are now fully embedded across the school and have been very successful. Fr Adrian and Louie visit the school regularly on Wednesdays and attend Friday assembly. This helps to build on the Catholic ethos of the school, which is encouraged through the focus on class Saints, the Saints House groups and the FAMILY values.

## WELCOMES AND GOODBYES

The Governors would like to say thank you to Fr David for his service and wish him well in his new parish. We welcome Fr Louie to the school community, as well as Biba Dow, who joins us as a Foundation Governor. Another big thank you goes to Katy Byrne, chair of the Governing Board before Josephine Namusisi-Riley, who served as a Governor for 14 years before retiring in the summer. The Governing Board was very shocked and saddened to hear about the sudden death of Sonya O'Sullivan, who not only was an active and well-loved member of the school community but also served as a Parent Governor from 2010-2014. Sonya was a dedicated and dynamic school governor, and also organised many events for the children as part of the Parents Association. We keep Sonya and her family in our prayers at this time.

## PARENT GOVERNORS

Our two Parent Governors have served their full four years now. Caroline Carberry was the driving force behind the school's provision of a Breakfast Club and was also instrumental in increasing the provision of more sport for girls at the school. Miranda Sawyer helped Caroline in the girls' sports drive and has also been very involved in bettering the school's IT provision and improving children's computing skills. She set up the Year 5 Code Club in 2014, which she still runs with Ms Kriechbaum, the school's Computing Leader. Miranda Sawyer has been asked to stand again as a Parent Governor to help provide stability and continuity. The Parent Governor elections will take place towards the end of this month.

## AGM

The school's Annual General Meeting will take place at 5.30pm on November 26<sup>th</sup> in the Lower Hall and all parents are invited to attend.