



Providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice.

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November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

I've had a couple of months as Chair of Governors now and while I was maybe naïve about the amount of time it would take, I am enjoying it immensely. This newsletter contains information about:

- Our recent Governor Development Day
- Christmas

Governor Development Day

We recently had a lovely day in school for a Governor Development Day. We started with morning worship led by Moonstone Class. The children led a very reflective worship about Guy Fawkes and linked this celebration with quotes from the Bible about celebration "a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance" Ecclesiastes 3:4. The children gave personal accounts of what is special about bonfire night for them and read some of their own poems. The whole class joined in singing and dancing to Firework by Katy Perry. I've never truly listened to the lyrics before but they are all about not giving in, and finding the spark in yourself and letting it shine. Thank you Moonstone Class and Mrs Du Bruyn.

Following worship we did a tour of the school. For some of our new Governors this was the first time they had been round the whole site. We started on Trinity Site, where all the children bar Moonstone Class, who were leading worship, were in the classrooms working hard. As always the behaviour of the children was exemplary, despite having a quite a big group of Governors in their class and for some of the children their parent. We then moved over to the Rosehill Site. We started in nursery where it is clear to see Mrs Williams and Mrs Clayton are laying the foundations for the great behaviour our children show throughout the school. The children were just finishing tidying up and went to sit on the carpet for their milk and snack, with no fuss and minimal noise. I'm not going to lie, I was a little disappointed my own daughter didn't break routine and come to see me! The classrooms this time were empty as the children were in the hall taking part in worship. This gave the Governors an opportunity to look at the classrooms and discuss any questions with Mrs Swift, without disturbing the children. I'll finish with a comment from one of the Governors - "I loved seeing how the teachers have turned their classrooms into places to celebrate learning, spending time in your classrooms right across the school and seeing the children at ease in this school."

Another highlight of the day was meeting the School Council. The School Council is made up of children from year 3 to year 6, all voted for by their class peers. We had the opportunity to ask them questions - some of which were quite tricky. We talked about their decision to suggest all children followed the School Food Standards guidance for contents of Packed Lunches, how they researched the guidance and voted on the decision. The children who take packed lunches did admit it was a particularly tricky conversation! We also asked if anyone had ambitions of being Prime Minister and what would they do if they did. Freya the Vice Chair said she would and the first thing she would do would be to increase the cost of plastic bags to help protect the environment. Every time I am in school I am amazed by the deep thinking of the children and their ability to speak in front of others.

Also on the day, we started an evaluation of the Governing Body, compiled our Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 (soon to be available on the website), spent time with the teachers in a Religious Education twilight session (training after school hours) and held a discussion about all the great activities school has planned for Christmas.

Christmas

Firstly, the Governing Body is aware of the conversations and comments on Facebook about school and its procedures and would like to reiterate what was said in the School's October Newsletter. The school cannot respond to Facebook posts. In the best interests of parents/carers, children and the school, the Governing Body is required to have a complaints procedure for people to follow. Consequently, where you have a concern, to enable a satisfactory outcome to be reached, you should speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. Experience has shown that this is the most effective way of resolving issues and preventing rumours and unnecessary worry.

The decision regarding when to have school performances is an operational one made by the Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). I feel it is important to raise awareness that Years 1 & 2, and 5 & 6, will be doing a performance but that it has been moved to summer. The children will still be taking part in many other Christmas activities and learning about the story of the birth of Jesus. I am really excited to see which biblical stories the children will be performing in summer and for the Year 6 children I think it will really give them something to look forward to in their last month at this school.

I would like to draw your attention to the list of just some of the wonderful Christmas activities our children will be taking part in:

- Early Years Reindeer Walk
- YN performance 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Rosehill site
- LKS2 performance 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. (every child will see the "dress rehearsal")
- YR performance 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Rosehill site (every child will see the "dress rehearsal")
- Advent "collapsed curriculum" RE day
- Carols in the playground
- Carols around the tree at Holy Trinity with St Mark church – Monday 17th December. See November newsletter for more details
- Year group parties or Christmas Celebrations
- A Y6 class is taking a lead in a Carol Service with other Y6 children from local CofE schools
- Madi from Holy Trinity with St Mark, continues to work in our KS2 classes during Advent
- Mrs Swift's Advent challenge – see November newsletter
- Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal
- Children making Christmas Cards for the homeless
- Advent Prayer spaces
- Our RE (Religious Education) scheme of work focusses on the themes of Advent and Christmas in every year group
- We are using the Archbishop Of York Advent Challenge resources to deepen our understanding of the themes of Advent and Christmas

We are confident that our work is "deeply Christian" and we know that we find God at work in our school every day. I hope to attend as many of these activities as possible and look forward to seeing you and your children, please come and say hello if you spot me.

I would like to congratulate Mrs Swift for her work this year, as Keith Morrison (General Advisor Stockton LA) said following his appraisal "Well done, you should be proud!"

Just to close, as the Governor responsible for overseeing attendance, I would also like to say a huge well done to year 2 Purple Class for achieving a massive 99% attendance in October, great work! Thank you to all the children in Crimson, Red and Green classes for letting me be part of your open morning, particularly for sharing Cyril the Swan with me!

We thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Himsworth Chair of Governors

Head Teacher: Mrs A Swift
Chair of Governors: Mrs C Himsworth