St Andrew's Church of England Junior School

Head Teacher: Mrs A Cornwall, Chair of Governors: Mr B Levitan
Vice Chair: Mrs H Billingham, Clerk to Governors: Mrs L Powell

Newsletter October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

School year review: coronation, strikes, climate change and war

Looking back over the past year one of the highlights was the coronation of King Charles III, and our school created a wonderful street frontage to celebrate the event. Of course, it has also been a year marked by industrial action by many public sector workers, including teachers. Our school remained open throughout, and although some classes did have to close on some days, we did our utmost to make the disruption as little as possible. The subject of climate change has been with us for many years now, and each year the forecasts grow grimmer as average temperatures continue to rise (last year was the warmest on record). We are trying to do our bit and have upgraded all our lighting to LEDs, as well as engaged in tree planting and rewilding as part of the Forest School work, some in partnership with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust [see note ¬]. The war in Ukraine has been much in the news, including UK's help and support, and throughout the year we had a Ukrainian refugee child at our school – he was very popular with staff and children alike. He returned to Ukraine in August, with his mother, and we wish them both well.

School improvement plan and inspection

All schools must have strategies that inform how the curriculum is structured and teaching is carried out. In early October the governors met with the head teacher and new staff governor to review our strategy. This will be fed into the updated School Improvement Plan that will be updated on the school website sometime in November or December. The new plan will be available on the web site at "Parents > St Andrew's CE Junior School - School Development Plan". Our last Ofsted inspection was in November 2021 (we are a Good school) so we aren't due another one for around 3 years, but this academic year we are due to have a SIAMS inspection [see note –]. Since we take our responsibility as a church school very seriously, and do our utmost to ensure that our vision underpins everything we do, we hope for a good result.

Parent and Foundation Governors needed

Last year three new governors joined our team. Mr Jon Hinett replaced Mrs Claire Smith as staff governor. Claire has served the governing board for many years and has been a valuable resource to the board during that time – we thank her for her work on the board (she, of course, continues as teacher and deputy head). One of our parent governors resigned and was replaced by Mrs Melanie Flynn, and our long-standing LA governor, Mrs Liz Strek, also resigned, and has been replaced by Mrs Sarah Neill. We welcome all three new arrivals. This still leaves us with two governor vacancies; one being a parent governor, so if you are interested, please head to the "About Us > Governor Vacancies" page for details and application form: applications

need to be submitted by 12.00 noon on Friday 27th October 2023. We are also looking for a Foundation Governor, who has to be a regular church-goer – if you think you might be interested in this role, please contact Mrs Liz Powell in the school office.

Tell us what you think

The views of parents are always welcome and most valued, and you can contact the school governors via Mrs Liz Powell in the School Office. However, just now we are running a parent survey and we would very much appreciate it if you could take the time to fill in the form online (or you can request a paper form from the office) – your views will help us to plan improvements. The survey can be found at the following link: https://forms.office.com/e/h579Dasffy. We will publish the results of the survey, and try to take on board your feedback.

Notes

1. You can read more about this here: https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/blog/wild-peak-programme-st-andrews-junior-school
2. SIAMS stands for "Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools" and sits alongside the Oftsed inspections and looks at how well the Christian ethos is reflected right across the school. You can find out more here: https://www.derbydbe.org/siams/