

Governors' Newsletter

July 2016

The school governing body is composed of a group of volunteers, parents and teaching staff. It is an independent body that offers support and guidance to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). We provide a strategic view of the school. We hold the Headteacher to account by monitoring and evaluating the work of the school to raise standards and keep our children safe.

The responsibility of the management of staff and the school is that of the Headteacher. The governors meet twice a term as a full body and half-termly in sub-committees: (i) Finance, (ii) Performance and Standards (iii) Staffing, and (iv) Health and Safety (which will be merged with Finance in 2016/17).

St Nicholas C of E Primary School has undergone some dramatic changes over the past few years, some of these changes have been a deliberate choice, such as becoming an Academy, others have been thrust upon the school through governmental policy changes, such as the new curriculum.

The aim of this newsletter is to keep parents up-to-speed with current strategic plans for the school and inform you of the progress that we have made this year towards our goals. More detailed information is available on the School website, and we encourage parents to consult the website regularly -- particularly for advice on procedures and policies.

FINANCE

As an Academy, the School is responsible for its own budget. Funding is allocated on an annual basis from the Department of Education from which all salaries, building maintenance, utilities and equipment is paid. Major projects this year have included:

- the conversion of the IT suite into a dedicated music room and work area for teachers;
- the new electronic entry system which has improved security;
- the renewal of IT equipment for classroom use; and
- the new school website.

STAFFING

Adam Walsh began in September 2015 as the **Headteacher** of St Nicholas and Coughton Primary schools. His role is to provide the strategic direction of the school: a major part of this has been to re-structure the school management and Senior Leadership Team (SLT), to empower the current staff, who are incredibly capable, to take on leadership roles and to create a more dynamic management structure. As a result, job roles and titles have now been changed to reflect the new staffing structure more accurately. From 1st September, **Adam Walsh** will be the **Executive Headteacher** across the two schools. **Karen O'Shea** will be the **Head of School**, responsible for the day-to-day management of St Nicholas C of E Primary School and the

implementation of the strategic plans. Supporting them will be **Phase Leaders** who are: **Emily Day** (EYFS); **Alex Kolb** (KS 1); **Anita Hartley** (lower KS2); **Sue Godson** (upper KS2). In addition to this, it is expected that an Assistant Headteacher will be appointed from our existing staff in September. Full details of the structure and subject leaders are available on the staff page of the website.

Staff Changes during this academic year:

Leavers: Mark Walsh (senior deputy head), Lorrin Campbell (maternity cover), Lesley Jennings (teaching assistant), Lindsey Armstrong (teaching assistant), Adam Blundell (cleaner), Lucy Read (midday supervisor), Andrea Chapman (midday supervisor), Jane Griffiths (clerk to governors).

From September, Mrs S Andrews will be part time and no longer class based. She will be supporting children throughout the school with English

New appointments: Tom Woodcock (class teacher), Paula Jones (class teacher), Stacey Witts (class teacher), Rachel Perrin (teaching assistant), Tina Bond (midday supervisor), Jess Gwynn (midday supervisor), Sharon Stainer (midday supervisor), Sarah Strachan (midday supervisor & cleaner)

Maternity Leave: Miss Woakes will be returning from maternity leave in September as Mrs R Andrews. Mrs Pritchard, Miss Marshall and Mrs Druce are all on maternity and due to return during the next academic year.

As posted on the school website, the Governors and SLT acknowledge that there was a dip in attainment and progress in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 2 (KS2) in 2014-15. The staff have been working against an action plan to target specific areas for improvement. This list of actions can be found on the school website at <http://alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/parents/school-performance-data/>.

As a result of implementing this plan, we are pleased to inform you that the standards and levels of attainment have risen significantly this year and are well above the national average in all areas. The staff and children have worked really hard this year and have been rewarded with fantastic results of which we can all be very proud.

Percentage of children making a 'Good Level of Development'	2014-15 School	2015-16 National	2015-16 School
EYFS (Reception)	65%	71%	84%

Key Stage 2 (Y6) Percentage of children reaching the expected levels of attainment 2015-16	Reading	Writing	SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)	Mathematics
St Nicholas	84%	80%	86%	74%
National	66%	74%	72%	70%

Results in Key Stage 1 (Y2) are also very strong and significantly above the national average. Congratulations and well done to all the children, staff and parents on their achievements this year.

CURRICULUM MATTERS

In order to improve overall behaviour in school, promote a positive attitude towards learning, and to tackle important issues that the national curriculum does not, the staff have implemented a series of interventions that have been a great success with the children.

At the start of the year, we introduced a new **Moral Code** for school, which is printed in the children's **personal planners**. The planners were also a new addition to the book bags to improve communication between school and home.

In the classrooms, the children are being encouraged to be more inde-

pendent in their learning, rather than turning to the teacher when they get stuck, they have to consider **3B4Me**: (1) use your brain (e.g. persevere), (2) look in a book (e.g. be resourceful) or (3) ask a buddy (e.g. collaborate with others).

SuperstarWriters was introduced at the beginning of the Summer Term to encourage perseverance in handwriting. In Reception and Infants, children receive a Superstar writer pencil, in Y4 & 5 they receive a blue triwriter pen, in Y5 & 6 they receive a fountain pen.

In the summer term, a maths incentive scheme was rolled out across the school -- **Total Recall** -- the aim of which is to improve the children's com-

mand of number bonds and times tables. Stickers have replaced the badges that were originally used to reward the children who were successful.

Finally, **Golden Tickets** are being awarded to children who demonstrate exceptional behaviour, politeness and kindness. The Golden Tickets are then entered into a draw every term for a £10 gift voucher.



EXTRA CURRICULAR

Alongside the academic curriculum, the children have enjoyed a wide variety of other activities, trips and events in school.

In the autumn term, a new **Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE), Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and E-Safety scheme** was introduced to the children alongside 'circle time'. A Protective Behaviours programme was started in school to give children 'safe' language when talking about their bodies and also to help children identify networks of support when they experience problems.

Six Y1s participated in a science day organized by the Ogden Trust. Year 6 children also participated in science activities at Alcester Grammar School also under the auspices of the Ogden Trust.

In the summer term, Year 3 & 4 children and staff went on their bi-annual residential trip to **Edmond Hall** and Year 6 travelled to the Isle of Wight for the annual **PGL**. The children had an enjoyable time and joined in all the activities with

enthusiasm. For many of the Year 3 and 4 children, this was the first time they had been away from parents for two nights, and the children all coped very well. These trips enable the children to enjoy activities and experiences that are not available to them in school: they are able to develop and implement skills that have been introduced this year, such as perseverance and collaboration, but in a completely different context. The governors would like to thank the staff whose time and support made these trips possible.

Safer Internet Day 2016 took place on the 9th February, with the theme 'Play your part for a better internet'. Although this day occurs annually, the school is committed to ensuring the children are aware throughout the year of the risks the internet holds as well as the fantastic resource it can be. To this end, this year has been the first year that children have been selected as 'e-cadets' and this scheme will be contin-

ued next year. Should you wish to know more about e-safety there is an information booklet available in the 'Parent' menu of our website under 'policies' and more information on e-cadets can be found in the 'Children' menu.

Collective worship supported our school values. In autumn, we focussed on responsibility and trust, in Spring, compassion and peace, in Summer humility and wisdom.

Y6 Fencing at PGL



Y4 Climbing the Wrekin



GOVERNOR AWARDS

In a special ceremony in June 2016, 24 Governors were recognised by Warwickshire County Council for their long-service (over 20 years). Of these 24, five are Governors at St Nicholas C of E School: Laurie Yearley, Andrew Deeks, Vincent Foy, Sue Heap, and Jane Blayney (who retired in 2016). It is a testament to their dedication that they have given up so much of their time to support and guide the governing body, staff and children over the years. Their skills, experience and commitment are invaluable assets to the whole community of St Nicholas CofE Primary School.

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

The partnership between St Nicholas C of E and **Coughton Primary** Schools is judged by the Governors of both schools to be working very well and the restructure of the Senior Leadership Team from September will help support this relationship further.

The Government has recently stated that all schools should be part of a **Multi-Academy Trust** by 2022. Therefore, we intend to explore the various possibilities open to the School, and we will inform parents of the options once they have been investigated further.

GOVERNORS

Laurie Yearley,

Chair

Peter Alexander,

Vice-Chair, Parent
Governor

Adam Walsh,

Headteacher

Vincent Foy, Local

Authority Governor

Sue Heap,

Local Authority Governor

Dr Susan Juned,

Local Authority Governor

Tricia Bowler,

Foundation and SEND
Governor

Julie Lindsay,

Foundation Governor

Andrew Deeks,

Foundation Governor

Richard Chapman,

Co-opted Governor

Virginia von

Malachowski,

Co-Opted Governor

Alison Howson,

Parent Governor

Caroline Harris,

Parent Governor

David Campbell-Kelly,

Parent Governor

Mark Johnston,

Parent Governor

Richard Hunter,

Parent Governor

Sue Godson,

Teacher Governor

Alex Kolb,

Teacher Governor

Karen O'Shea,

Teacher Governor

Tina Ward,

Clerk to Governors

NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE

Launched in 2016, the new website is the first port of call for up-to-date information about the school, including curriculum, term dates, activities, events, school policies (including advice to parents), staffing, vacancies, and uniform information to name a few.



For any enquiries about the newsletter or feedback, please contact the Governors via the school office.

Have a safe and happy summer holiday!

St Nicholas C of E Primary School
St Faith's Road, Alcester B49 6AG
Tel: 01789 762578
www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk