



St Nicholas' School

Governors' Newsletter

April 2015

We hope everyone enjoyed their Easter break and are feeling refreshed and enthusiastic for the start of term 5!

This newsletter includes updates from all 4 committee areas, information on what the governors have been working on for the last couple of terms, news of recent Governor Reconstitution, our school library project and an update on pupil premium impact.

But first... a thank you! The Governing Body would like to take an opportunity to thank all those parents, carers and members of the school community that volunteer their time for the benefit of the school. This includes those of you that read with the children, volunteer to run after-school clubs, take children to the library, update the school website, help out on school outings, the list goes on. The school would not be the place it is without your contributions, so a big thank you!

St Nicholas' Governors Reconstitution

In line with guidance from Department of Education, we have been looking at the constitution of our governing body; in relation to its size, membership and skills.

We have re-evaluated our responsibilities as governors, our skills, and our effectiveness to ensure that any changes lead to a positive and proactive governing body for the future of our school.

What is changing?

From September 2015, the new structure will be in place. The number of governors will be reduced from 14 to 12, and the categories will change in line with the new guidance.

We have reviewed our working committees and will be moving to three committees instead of four and will have task groups for specific projects.

Future governing body vacancies will look to provide a specific opportunity to fill any skills gaps.

We will keep you informed and publish the new structure in September through Newsletters and the school website.

We are a strong and cohesive team, and thrive on having a sufficiently diverse range of viewpoints and debates leading to good decisions in the interest of the whole school community. I would like to thank the governors for the time, commitment and skills they offer in their voluntary capacity.

Shilpa Bhatt – Chair of Governors

Report from the Learning Committee

Our focus this term continues to be Reading.

St. Nicks is in the process of being recognised as an 'Outstanding Reading School'. An action plan is in place to

achieve progress in reading throughout the school: school initiatives include; Reading for Pleasure; Book Swaps; Library Improvements; collaborating with other schools; and further training for staff in the teaching of reading.

A very successful Parent Reading Workshop has also been held.

Alison Hodgson – Committee Chair

Report from the Community Committee

The community governors are just about to send out the parent questionnaire for 2015! Included in this year's questionnaire is a question regarding participation in residential visits. Feedback from as many parents as possible would be greatly appreciated. The school is busy working towards applying for its International award and for renewing its green flag status, both awards considered very important to the school. Recently there have been a few changes to the interior of the school regarding classrooms, ICT space and presently the after school club is also relocating to Daisy Class. The school community is pleased with the new changes to the premises which mean that the base and school are fully integrated and working together for the benefit of all its children and staff alike. May we take this opportunity to thank all involved for their support.

Lynn Banerji – Committee Chair

Report from the Premises Committee

The face lift to the library is looking great with the area an improved space to read and to have some quiet time and the tree in the centre is wonderful. Thank you to everyone involved with this who have created a fantastic space. Phases of the building work have started with the work to the computer rooms and classrooms. The old Daisy classroom has been fitted out with new kitchen units and is now the location of the breakfast club and after school clubs. There are plans to reconfigure the school kitchen to create extra space for the increased school lunch provision. We would like to take the opportunity to thank all the staff, pupils and parents for their patience and understanding during the period of building work.

Mark Longford - Committee Chair

Report from the Resources Committee

Our main focus is on managing the school budget, which now exceeds £2.1m for the year. We aim to spend the money we receive each year on the current pupils rather than build big savings (although a certain level of savings is required to meet unforeseen circumstances). This year, our latest forecast was that we would end the year with less than £30,000 unspent, and able to be carried forward to the new financial year. This represents under 1.5% of our budget.

Almost half the budget is spent on our teachers (with another quarter spent on the teaching assistants in the classrooms). We therefore also have spent time this year looking at the school's policies surrounding teacher's pay and appraisals to ensure we are valuing teachers appropriately for the key work they do in developing our children's learning.

We also work closely with the Premises Committee to identify resources to maintain and improve the school premises, with the latest priority identified to improve the school kitchens following the increase in numbers after the introduction of free school meals at key stage 1.

Sean Collins – Committee Chair

Pupil Premium impact report

Earlier this year the school published its annual report on the impact of pupil premium for the last academic year 2013/14.

The Pupil Premium Grant is allocated by the Government to schools to work with pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years. Schools also receive funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months, children who have been adopted from care or who have left care under a Special Guardianship or Residence Order, and children of service personnel. Schools are entitled to spend this funding as they see fit.

St Nicholas' Primary School is committed to ensuring that all pupils are given every opportunity to fulfil their learning

potential. This includes pupils who require support to make progress and close the attainment gap between them and their peers.

For 2013-14 St Nicks received £65,104 for its pupil premium allocation and below is a summary of the ways we have used this funding to support our pupils' learning:

Activity	Target Pupil Group	Impact data Average and time scale
Every Child A Reader	Y1 & Y2 10 children	Reading Age +1y 4m Over 20 weeks
Project X CODE	Y2 14 children	Reading Age +1y2m Phonic Age +1y Over 10 weeks
Project X CODE	Y3 & Y4 22 children	Reading Age +5m Phonic Age +6m Over 10 weeks
Project X CODE maintenance	Y2 9 children	Reading Age +5m Phonic Age +6m Over 10 weeks
Project X CODE	Y6 5 children	Reading Age +9m Phonic Age +4m Over 10 weeks
Phonic Booster	Y1 and Y2	Reading Age +9m Phonic Age +10m Over 10 weeks
FFT Wave 3	Y4 1 child	Reading Age +1y Comprehension Age +1y 2m Over 20 weeks
1st Class Number	Y2 6 children	Maths +1 National Curriculum sub level Over 10 weeks
Wave 3 Maths Booster 1:1	Y1 & Y2 27 children	Number Age +9m Maths +1.2 NC sub level Over 10 weeks
Rapid Maths	Y1 & Y2 14 children	Maths +0.9 NC sub level Over 10 weeks
1:1 Tuition (Writing)	Y3 & Y4 9 children	Writing +0.6 NV sub level Over 10 weeks

New Reading and Thinking (Comprehension)	Y5 2 children	Reading Age +8m Comprehension Age +1y6m Over 10 weeks
1:1 Tuition (Writing)	Y5 10 children	Writing +0.6 NC sub level Over 10 weeks
Maths Booster	Y6 7 children	Maths +0.9 NC sub level Over 10 weeks
1:1 Tuition (Maths)	Y5 4 children	Maths +0.25 NC sub level Over 10 weeks
Maths Booster	Y5 17 children	Maths +0.6 NC sub level Over 10 weeks
Wellbeing Mentor, including a Young Carers group	R-Y6	All 4 children in Y6 identified as Young Carers attained a Level 4b+ in KS2 SATs English, Maths and Science. The school was awarded a Silver Standard in recognition of our work with children who are Young Carers.
Forest School outdoor "Bird House" building project & Sensory Garden Art projects	R-Y6	Two qualified teachers ran these projects, to help develop cooperative skills and speaking and listening skills. Observational evidence reported a positive impact on the children's interaction, listening and language skills.
The Harbour School	Y3 1 child	The school funded a place for a child to attend part-time. It helped to secure further future additional support via a Statement of SEN.

The Art Room	Y5 1 child	This provided positive opportunities for a child to prepare for learning through art therapy, as well as developing an existing talent.
Home-School Community Link Worker	R-Y6	This role continues to support numerous families with signposting to locally available support services; providing support for the wellbeing of all family members through the CAF/ TAC and Social Care procedures.
Family SEAL	30 parents of children in Y2	The feedback from parents was very positive in the way that they are given opportunities to discuss parenting issues and problem solve.
School based Attendance Officer	R-Y6	The whole school attendance increased to 96.1%
Contributions towards Residential Trips	Y2, Y4, Y6 8 children	Inclusion for all. To support confidence outside the school setting and widen educational experiences.

School library refurbishment

The school library is currently undergoing a makeover. This has been allowed by donations from FOSNS as well as donations of time and creativity from members of the school community. Please pop in and take a look if you have the chance, and thanks to everyone that has been involved!