

# St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

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*'Learning and growing together through prayer, belief and love'*

## St Anselm's Governors Newsletter July 2017

Dear Parents and Staff,

This is my final newsletter to you as Chair of Governors. After 9 years as a parent and 8 as a Governor, the last 5 of which I've served as Chair, I've decided the time is right for me to step down and allow new leadership in the Governing body of St Anselm's. I have been very fortunate and feel privileged to have been a part of this community as a parent, a member of the SPA and a Governor over all this time and I'm proud to have witnessed the school develop and grow, just as I have watched my two children develop and grow during their time at the school.

Turning first to developments this past school year, I would like to thank the all children, staff, parent volunteers, senior leadership team, Father Guy and Governors who participated in the recent RE inspection. My congratulations goes to the school for being rated as 'Outstanding' by the inspecting team. The Catholic ethos is central to the school's teaching, learning and management. This rating is a reflection of everyone's continued contribution in this area.

More generally, I would also like to pay tribute to all the parent volunteers; those who work in the library, provide reading support, those who manage the road safety system in the mornings for their ongoing support to the children and school community. We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude for the contribution they make to the school community and for the difference they make to the lives of the children they help every day.

I'd also like to highlight the tremendous the work the SPA continue to do for the school. The fantastic events for the children and parents not only raise critical funds for the school but also encourage the school community to come together regularly throughout the year. This year the funds have allowed considerable enhancements to the ICT facilities which are already benefiting the children.

Of course I must also pay tribute to the people who run our school - the staff. Every one of them contribute to its success and in creating the best possible environment for your child to grow and learn. Mrs. Monahan, Mrs. O'Connell, the Senior Leadership Team, the teachers, the LSA team, the support staff and the office staff. Much work goes unseen but everybody plays a vital role to ensure that the school runs smoothly, allowing the school to provide the best Catholic education that it can for your child.

This last year the Governors and Senior Leadership Team have particularly focused on the wellbeing of all our staff. As you may be aware, there is a shortage of teaching staff across London and the country. This means the demands and expectations placed on all staff are very high. It is a challenge for all schools to balance the fast pace of change and demands of the role with maintaining excellence in our schools. At St Anselm's, the team have managed to do this year on year. However, it is important that we, the Governing Body, support the Senior Leadership Team in promoting the wellbeing of all our staff in all aspects of their job. This, in turn, will allow St Anselm's to maintain a stable staff group and give staff the opportunity to develop and grow within the school community as well as advance their careers in the teaching profession.



On the subject of staff, I would like to offer our thanks and best wishes as we say farewell to Mrs. Corrigan and Mrs. Hickman, both of whom are retiring after many years of service at St Anselm's. They have touched the lives of countless children and families over the years and I hope they thoroughly enjoy their retirement. We also bid farewell to Ms. McKay and Mr. Boyle who are moving out of Harrow to other parts of the country. I wish them well in their new schools and thank them for their positive contributions to all aspects of school life during their time at St Anselm's.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Governing Body for their continued efforts, time and dedication to support the school.

There have been changes to the Governing Body over this academic year: Mr. Damian Cox and Professor Derek Gilroy completed their terms of office as Parent Governors. Mrs. Maria O'Shea and Mr. Victor Rajalingham, both Foundation Governors, resigned from their positions and Mr. Stephen Elliot completed 8 years as a Foundation Governor. I would like to thank all the above for their contributions and support to the Governing body over during my tenure as Chair.

We have also welcomed new Governors this year. Our new Parent Governors are Mr. Graeme Jeffs and Mrs. Leanne O'Brien. Our new Foundation Governors are Mr. Simon Frearson, Mrs. Maria O'Brien and Mrs. Carmel Farrell.

A reminder that Governors are all volunteers who come from a variety of backgrounds, such as (but not limited to) education, health, finance, science, architecture and legal. The aim of the Governing Body is to support and challenge the school in providing the best Catholic education for your children. The structure of the education system in the UK means the school relies on Volunteer Governors to support the effective running of the school. If you would like to learn more about the role of a Governor, please speak to one of the current Governors via the school office.

Key duties of the Governing Body are:

1. To ensure the school has a clear vision, strategic direction and ethos.
2. To agree priorities with the school and monitor these throughout the year.
3. To understand pupil achievement and progress throughout the whole school and have an overview of pupil behaviour.
4. Overseeing the financial performance of the school; in particular ensuring money is prudently spent and that resources are allocated in line with school priorities.
5. Regulating admissions to the school: Governors review all school applications and rank them in accordance with the admissions criteria. They then work with the local authority regarding the allocation of school places.
6. The Governing Body is an Employer of staff at the school.

As I leave the Governing Body I'd like to wish everyone associated with the school well. But above all I would like to wish all the children in the school good luck, whether they are just completing their reception year or about to leave to secondary school. Each child contributes to the school community and each child is unique and brings their own special skills and talents. I believe being a part of the St Anselm's school community is something special and that will stay with them for a long time. I sincerely hope it provides strong foundations for their future successes.

I wish you all a restful and happy summer holiday.

*Lynsay Shaw*

Lynsay Shaw -Retiring Chair of the Governing Body

