

St Polycarp's Catholic Primary School
Headteacher: Mrs. P Best B.Ed. MA NPQH



Governors' Update

16th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Governor Update and Potential Building Project at Saint Polycarp's School

Our plans for the new wrap around care service are developing and we will have more details of this for you in June. The current contract with CASA will end in August and the new service will be in place for the autumn term.

Many of the governors have helped with the SATS tests last week and we were so pleased with the way that the year 6 children responded to the tests. We are glad that the children will be able to relax more now and will be having a lot of fun this week on their residential trip to PGL on the Isle of Wight.

The governors are also delighted to tell you about a building project that will be of huge benefit to our school community. We are considering extending the teaching hall to provide a larger multi-purpose space that will continue to be used for music classes. The extended hall will have much more storage so it can be used for a wide range of activities and the expanded hall will make it much easier to plan collective worship as there are now so many activities timetabled within the main hall that it is becoming more difficult to find a time for several year groups to be in the hall.

The planning application for the extended hall will be submitted very soon and we hope that it will be possible to begin work on this project in 2023. If planning permission is granted there are still a few hurdles before we will be able to start building, particularly in funding this work. As you know Saint Polycarp's has been part of the Xavier Catholic Education Trust for about three years. The trust has an amount of annual funding that they can allocate to schools, and we are in a strong position to have the majority of this project funded from the trust.

As a Catholic school we have always needed to provide an amount of funding for our capital projects. The exact amount is agreed on a project-by-project basis, but usually it is around 10% of the building cost. Previous projects that have been completed this way include the renovation of the school kitchen at a cost of around £500,000 and the construction of the building that includes

the reception and year 2 classrooms, at a cost of well over a million pounds when it was completed.

We are very lucky that we are able to improve our school with these projects and sometimes it is easy to forget how far the school has developed in the past years. I often show photos of the school from just over 10 years ago to the new parents. The photos are a great reminder of the layout of the school as it was. Back in 2010 there were a number of temporary wooden classrooms and the school lacked a formal 'central' building. So many people helped to develop the school from this to the wonderful learning environment that we have now, and with each project came the challenge of fund raising. The target set for the biggest building project in recent history was to contribute £120,000 to the building of the reception and year 2 classrooms. This was a huge task.

Some of the funding for these capital projects can come from the governors fund. Thank you so much to everyone who is contributing to the fund, regular contributions allow us to save a little of the money so that we can invest it in these large capital projects. If you are not contributing to the fund at present please can I encourage you to consider doing so, we have attached a standing order form. The governor funds have recently been used to contribute to the IT suite which has made a huge difference to our ability to help the children use technology within the school day.

One other important event that I would like to talk about is an update to the School Development Plan that is happening on the 7th June from 15:30 to 17:00. This is an opportunity to discuss what the school's development priorities should be for the coming years. If you would like to join us at this event please contact the school office. It would be really great to have a number of parents join this meeting.

Best wishes,

Martin Parr

Martin Parr
Chair of Governors

