



# GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER



ST THOMAS MORE ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL KIDLINGTON

## WELCOME

**Mrs Bowles:** Mrs Breda Bowles has joined the school as our new Executive Principal. She has hit the ground running and has a clear vision for the school which has impressed us as a committee. Her welcoming and approachable manner on the playground is wonderful and the feedback from the children is positive too!

**Miss P:** We also offer a warm welcome to Miss P. She has returned to St Thomas More after completing her teacher training course. She is now teaching year 4.

**Inaya Doda:** We were delighted to hear that Mrs Doda has welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Inaya, into the world. Congratulations! We can't wait to meet her.

## NEW POSITION ..... JOIN OUR TEAM!

The academy committee, also known as school governors, are made up of 8 foundation governors (who are members of the parish) 2 Staff governors (elected) and 2 parent governors (elected). We have recently restructured the committee and are delighted to announce that there is an opening for one parent governor. We have an enthusiastic committee with a range of experience with the majority of members having joined in the last year. Why become a parent school governor?!



- 1. Make a difference:** you have an opportunity to have an impact on education and positively influence children's lives.
- 2. Get to know the school and community.**
- 3. Develop and gain new skills.**
- 4. It's a challenge and its fun!**

More information is available online, in the school office and via email: [stmcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:stmcommittee@gmail.com). Please note that the school supports governors by providing free accredited training for the position.

If you are interested in the position please contact us via email or submit an application directly to the school office. If you are also a member of the parish you can apply to become a foundation governor there is also a position available. Further information available via email.

Adapted from the website <https://www.sgoss.org.uk/>

**Contact us on email: [stmcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:stmcommittee@gmail.com)**

## CHANGES IN THE COMMITTEE

John Hussey has stepped down as Chair of the Academy Committee (Governors) during the summer due to health reasons. Nickie Rogan has stepped in as Acting Chair.

## STELLAR RESULTS



As we reported in our summer newsletter St Thomas More has had fantastic results. Details of the results can be viewed online. To summarise, as a school we are achieving above the national average in almost all areas. But we are not complacent and expect with further improvement we will aim higher this year!

## CHECK IN WITH STM

### WEBSITE



To keep in touch with school news across the year log on to the school website. Follow your child's class news as well as access the up to date events calendar.

### EMAIL



All newsletters and letters from the school will be sent out via email. These will help you keep in touch with the school community but also important events in your child's class and education

### OFFICE

Our office-staff work hard at all aspects of school administration. They are there also to help answer questions and direct you to further resources where needed either in person or on the phone. In short, they are there to help.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

Although we are all delighted to have our school name recognised on our children's uniform both inside and outside of school, we appreciate that the issues with Tesco uniform supply have been challenging and unhelpful. We have also received some positive and negative feedback about the quality of the uniforms. As discussed at the uniform information session in June we are open to reviewing the uniform supplier if there is a consensus among parents. We are currently looking into alternative suppliers in light of the issues with TESCO. Please contact us via email (below) or through the office or via school comms with specific comments related to quality, delivery, etc of the school uniform. Please consider including potential solutions to problems associated with the uniform. The more parents we hear from, the better we can address your needs.



## KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE

As you will probably be aware, we have made some changes recently with regard to safeguarding. These changes, brought in from the start of term, have been made in order to make sure your children are kept safe while they are at school and that the premises are suitably secure. It's really important we have robust safeguarding measures in place, both for the safety of the children and staff at school, but also to comply with Ofsted regulations. It is something we would be judged on in an inspection.

The changes include locking the main school gate and side door access into the school at 9am. Foundation stage parents who find themselves inside school after 9am, as can be the case with dropping off the youngest members of our school community, can make their way out as directed by the teachers.

—Thank you for your support in this matter.



## FUNDING



As budgets tighten, schools across the country are finding it harder to fund all projects. This is a national problem that is felt harder by schools like ours that are *voluntary aided*. A voluntary aided school means that the local authority (government) funds 90% of the maintenance of the school (buildings upkeep, school supplies, furniture etc) but the last 10% is up to us as a school to fund. The Friends of St Thomas More (a parent-led organisation) works hard to raise some of this. However the maintenance needs of the school this year are looking particularly difficult.

**We are currently identifying a list of the areas of the school that are in greatest need. If you would like to get involved in our approach to raising these additional funds please contact us.**



It was wonderful to see so many parents and parishioners at the whole school **Harvest Mass** on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The children were wonderful singers- and became especially animated with the Harvest Samba! Thank you to the readers, all the Staff who help with mass and Father Prem. Don't forget to drop off your food donations for the **North Oxfordshire food bank by Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>**.



## WHAT AND WHO ARE THE GOVERNORS?

The Academy Committee (also known as school governors) support the Head Teacher and professional staff in determining the school's ethos and aiding development such that its pupils learn effectively and achieve their full potential. It offers leadership, support, constructive advice, a second opinion on proposals and help where needed. It also challenges, asks questions, seeks information, and tries to arrive at the best solution. More information about us can be found on the school website.

**Nickie Rogan – Acting Chair/Foundation Governor**  
Parishioner, First Communion Catechist, runs her own business

**Jennifer Lavertue – Staff Governor**  
Year 1 teacher and KS1 Coordinator

**Sue Pollard – Staff Governor**  
Teaching Assistant

**Stephen Finn – Parent Governor**  
Has 2 children in school and works in IT

**Chris Robbins – Observer**  
Retired government employee

**Breda Bowles – Executive Principal**

Our Executive Principal covering our school and St Josephs in Carterton

**Emma Rhodes – Foundation Governor**

Has 2 children in school and works in the Charity sector

**Sally-Anne Reckless – Foundation Governor**

Has 2 children in school and works as a doctor

**Marianne Balaz – Foundation Governor**

First Communion Coordinator, an active parishioner

**Tracey Wyse – Foundation Governor**

Parishioner, working in the healthcare sector

**Contact us on email: [stmcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:stmcommittee@gmail.com)**