



GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER



ST THOMAS MORE ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL KIDLINGTON

FAREWELL AND ALL THE BEST

As the school year comes to a close we celebrate the year that was but also say good-bye with heavy hearts to some very special people:

Mrs Hamper has been with us for the past year as our Acting Principal. We are grateful to Mrs Hamper for taking on the role for a term and staying for the full year! She has enabled our school to make terrific strides this year. Her calm, assured ability to work with children, parents and staff has been an asset to us and we wish her well.

Miss Button has been at St Thomas More for nearly 15 years and as she moves on we wish her well and thank her for all that she has done for the students across the years. Recently she has worked hard as the Foundation Stage Coordinator and nursery school children have been blessed to have her.



Year Six: Farewell to the year 6 children. This year the children have impressed us not only with their academic success but their sporting and artistic talents, in particular the spectacular show 'Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits'. We wish each one of you the best in your future and hope that you continue to be strong and confident role models in all that you do.



WELCOME: MRS BRED A BOWLES

Mrs Breda Bowles will be starting as our Executive Head Teacher in September spending four days a week at St Thomas More. As an executive head she will be overseeing the leadership of our school and St Joseph's Catholic School in Carterton. She was delighted to meet our children at last week's assembly.



"St Joseph's Carterton is a rapidly improving and increasingly popular school that owes much of its success to the ethos created by Mrs Bowles. She has a wealth of experience which she has shared across the DBMAC schools for a number of years. Mrs Bowles is Principal Director and brings a strategic view of school development to DBMAC. That doesn't mean she doesn't get involved with the day to day. I can tell you now having worked with Mrs Bowles for the last six years or so that she gets stuck into everything!!" –John Hussey, Chair of Governors.

STELLAR RESULTS



We would like to congratulate the hard working students and staff at the school for their stellar results! SATS, Key stage 1 and Year 1 all achieved highly in their assessments. Across the board the school is achieving superb academic results. Turn the page to read more about the many achievements in diverse areas across the school.

SCHOOL 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.

Remember the weekly school newsletter will be sent out electronically from September.

SCHOOL DINNERS

School dinners have been a success this year. The children's favourite is Friday fish and chips closely followed by roast dinners and macaroni and cheese. The school dinner team work hard every day to ensure the children get their hot meals and we are grateful for their hard work. The menu will be changing in September with some exciting new additions which should include some more crowd pleasers. Let us know what your children think of school dinners.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

Our new caretaker, Mick, started working this year and spends mornings at the school. Since he has started he has wielded saw, paintbrush, hammer....no job is too big or too small for Mick! Of note he has built a sturdy gate enclosing an outdoor area for Year 1 children, allowing safe access to the school nursery. Our bins are no longer unsightly in the car park as he has built a wooden enclosure. Thank you Mick for all your hard work!



This year we took on a new cleaning contract and feel that the school cleanliness has improved. We appreciate that there are still areas that need developing and improving within school and with a new year we hope will come new projects and ideas to improve the physical environment in which our children learn and play.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Congratulations to all the pupils of our school who have made such excellent progress this year in all aspects of school life – spiritual, academic, social and physical. We have had some amazing successes:

- Year 6 Confirmation and Year 3 Holy Communion - Thank you to the catechism team, Father Prem, parents, and all staff who helped prepare the children.
- PE: Our school was awarded the highest GOLD award for commitment to PE and school sport.
- Music: Our children have travelled to Dorchester Abbey to sing in the *Festival of Voices*. The school bands and choirs filled the air with music at this year's Kidstock Festival. Violinists from beginners to advance performed at the school assembly.
- Many of our children celebrate successes outside of school including: swimming, karate, acting, dance, scout activities and football.

Parents: We are immensely grateful to the Friends of St Thomas More. They have worked tirelessly to raise much needed funds to help improve our children's learning environment. Our school is voluntary aided which means that we start the school year needing to raise funds to meet our capital costs such as new computers, building work, and books. Thank you to all of you who help and attend events. We have all particularly enjoyed the recent Wimbledon Café and the International Dinner.

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Do you shop online?

Raise funds for the school with each purchase by using on the link below:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofstmrcs>

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. We are made up of parishioners, parents, and teachers. More information about us can be found on the school website.

John Hussey Chair / Foundation Governor

A Head Teacher currently working with Birmingham Diocesan Education Service

Nickie Rogan – Vice Chair/Foundation Governor

Parishioner, 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

Julia Hamper Acting Head Teacher

Breda Bowles will take over this role when Mrs Hamper leaves

Emma Rhodes – Parent 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: chairstm@dbmac.org.uk