

ST. GEORGE AND ST. TERESA

Faith: We live it, love it and learn it.

Governor's Newsletter

Autumn 1st Half Term 2026

Number 5

Welcome to our fifth and first governor's newsletter of this school year.

We wish a very warm welcome to all new parents and children, and a very warm welcome back to everyone. We hope that this will be a very happy year for St George and St Teresa's School and ask you to join with us in our prayers for all the members of our school community.



Meet the governors:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Roles</i>
<i>Mrs Tina Willmott</i>	<i>FG</i>	<i>Chair of LGB, Chair of Curriculum Committee</i>
<i>Mr Mark O'Dwyer</i>	<i>FG</i>	<i>Vice chair, Chair of Admissions</i>
<i>Fr John Cross</i>	<i>FG</i>	<i>Parish Priest</i>
<i>Mrs Jackie Musgrave</i>	<i>FG</i>	
<i>Mr Clive McNally</i>	<i>FG</i>	
<i>Mr Andrew Neenan</i>	<i>Parent Gov,</i>	
<i>Mrs Sarah Holywell</i>	<i>Parent Gov.</i>	
<i>Mrs L Flanagan</i>	<i>Interim Executive Headteacher</i>	<i>Ex Officio Governor</i>
<i>Mr C Blewitt</i>	<i>Staff Gov.</i>	

Governors are appointed for a 4 year term of office which can be renewed at the end of the term for Foundation Governors[FG] who are appointed by the Archbishop. Staff and parent governors also serve for 4 years however, at the end of the 4 years elections have to take place.

We are absolutely delighted that Fr John has decided to become a Foundation Governor and join the Local Governing Body [LGB]. We are blessed to have his presence on the board and know his experience, spiritual guidance and prayers will enhance and guide our actions going forward. Thank you, and welcome, Fr John.

Mrs Theresa Blake has decided to step away from the LGB, we thank her most sincerely for her commitment and expertise during her time on the LGB and wish her well.

Celebration Time

When we last distributed our Governor Newsletter the school was still awaiting the delayed Y6 SATS results. When they did arrive what a wonderful set of results, they were. 😊

EXP= expected level, GDS =Greater depth standard[highest level], GPS=Grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Reading: EXP 90%, GDS 68%	National: 75%, 30%
Maths: EXP 87%, GDS 48%	National: 75%, 27%
GPS: EXP 87%, GDS 32%	National: 74%, 30%

Writing (Teacher Assessment): EXP 86%, GDS 33% National: 73%, 13%

*Note: The figure for 'Expected Standard' includes those working 'At' and 'Above' the Expected Standard (ie. at Greater Depth).

The percentage of children achieving at the higher standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined was 23% compared to 8% nationally which put us in the top 5% of all schools.

These results truly deserve to be celebrated. Very well done to all the children, we are so proud of you. Well done, to Mr Blewitt who supported, taught and prepared the children, and to all the staff who at any time taught this group of children—Year 6 is the culmination of all the years that go before. Very well done to everyone. Many schools would delight in these results, as we do, and for some it would be a real aspiration to achieve at these levels. We will share with all we meet as a true example of the excellence of our school.

In recognition of these excellent results, the school received a letter of congratulation from Steve Bell, Director of the Archdiocesan Department of Education, which was copied to Tina as Chair of the LGB, Peter Davis CEO of the MAC and Paul Bentley Chair of the directors of the MAC. In the letter Steve writes:

'As a Catholic family of schools, we recognise that strong outcomes are never achieved by chance. They are the result of faithful and courageous leadership, excellent teaching, dedicated support staff, strong governance and a shared commitment to ensuring that every child can flourish

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham, our mission is to "Form Christ centred pilgrims of hope with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for justice." Your achievements this year are a wonderful example of that mission being lived out in practice. Through your work, young people are being equipped not only to achieve academically but also to grow as people of faith, wisdom, compassion and service'

Steve thanked all members of the school community for their hard work.

SATS at the end of Y6 are not the only results to celebrate:

93% GLD[Good level of development] at the end of Reception, 84% pass rate in the phonic screening[Y1] and 78% of children scoring full marks in the Mental Maths test[Y4] against 44% nationally, are all extremely positive. Thank you to all staff for all their hard work.

Why not tell people you meet how well our school is doing?

GOVERNOR MEETINGS.

At our last governor meeting which had a focus on Curriculum matters we had some very interesting and robust conversations. We discussed at some length the new Archdiocese RE curriculum. This curriculum is designed by the Archdiocese RE department and is very comprehensive, focusing in a great part on children knowing key parts of the Catholic Faith. Staff are working very hard to develop and implement the new content and children are responding very well, maybe they have shared some of these key facts with you. Well done and thank you to both children and staff.

We also had a very informative English and reading presentation from Mrs Miller. It was wonderful to hear how our results reflected all the work going on in school, how progress is being made and measured, and that the school has strong plans in place to ensure all the children read extremely well for both pleasure and purpose. We were delighted to hear how many books children are reading supported by you as parents. We appreciate that it can be hard to find the time to read with your child and talk to them about what they have read and enjoyed, but it truly makes a difference.

MEET A GOVERNOR

We will introduce one of us in each newsletter:

Mrs Tina Willmott is our Chair of Governors.

My name is Tina and it is my privilege and honour to be the chair of the LGB. I was first appointed as a Foundation Governor in January 2018. At that time Mr Foxon was headteacher and I had enjoyed working with him and the 3 other heads of the South Solihull Catholic Primary School's Cluster for 20 years. I feel I know the school very well and can look back at all the events and changes over the past 28 years. The school has always been held in very high esteem across the whole of Solihull and this continues to this day.

I always wanted to be a teacher, at the age of 4 I happily 'taught' my teddies and grandad, [who often played up]! I spent my teaching career in Warwickshire, teaching in large and small schools including a SEND school supporting pupils aged from 4 -16. I became Headteacher of St Augustine's, in Solihull, in January 1997, spending many happy days and years until just over 20 years later I retired in July 2017 with the school judged as Outstanding in both RE and Ofsted inspections. I thoroughly enjoyed my career.

I live in Staffordshire, just over 30 miles away from St George and St Teresa's but my happy memories and strong connection to the school, and to OLASS, means the distance is not an issue. I have, over the years, checked with the Parish Priest that he is happy for me to serve as a governor even though I am not a Parishioner. Thankfully they have always said yes and Mark, the Vice Chair, does a wonderful job leading the links between school, parish and LGB.

I hope that my experience in education as teacher, head and Ofsted Inspector allows me to support, encourage and challenge both the school and the MAC. The school has gone through many changes but two things have always shone through: the love, dedication and expertise of all the staff of St George and St Teresa's, and the wonderful children, that are at the heart of our school. They illustrate the love, happiness, enthusiasm and wonder of attending a Catholic School and thriving.

It is a true joy and blessing to be part of this very special school.

Let's Celebrate

Each newsletter we will focus on one area, out of the many that we are very proud of.

We have decided this half term to concentrate on the new school promotional video that can be found on the school website and was created by an external marketing company, paid for by the MAC, but it is our pupils' contributions that makes it so special. As governors we are delighted with this video which has also been shared on Facebook and in the Parish Hall. You may have already seen it but if not it's definitely worth taking a look at it on the school website.

Here are just a few comments from people who have watched it.

Thanks for sharing this it's wonderful. It really promotes what St George and St Teresa's is all about: the children and their talents and well-being, the determination for everyone to be able to be their best and fulfil God's chosen vocation for them and most importantly our faith which is at the heart of all we/you do for everyone.

Thank you to everyone for putting this together. Please thank the children who presented it so eloquently

Well done to everyone who was involved in this project- it's so inspirational 🙌

Wow what a wonderful film. I love it and well done to staff and especially our young stars. Such a great little film.

Thank you, what a delightful video. I enjoyed watching it.

A few final thoughts:

"A new school year means new beginnings, new adventures, new friendships, and new challenges. The slate is clean and anything can happen."

-Unknown

"Let us remember: one book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world."

- Malala Yousafzai

"The more that you read, the more things you know, the more you learn, the more places you'll go."

- Dr. Seuss

The Local Governing Body

