



# St Cuthbert's Governor Newsletter



Summer 2017

## Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to our end-of-year newsletter and my first as Chair of Governors.

It's the end of another busy school year at St Cuthbert's and the Summer term has been packed full with Sports Day and other sporting activities, arts activities and school trips, not to mention the SATs, sharing assemblies, the Year 6 performance and the amazing St Cuthbert's Got Talent contest arranged by Head Boy and Head Girl.

We are pleased to welcome the new Governors to our Board of Governors: Mary Packham, Jim Eales and Rachel Campbell. Mary joins as Staff Governor, she is an LSA in Reception and has one daughter at the school. Jim joins as a Parent Governor and he has two children going into year 2 at the school. Rachel joins as our Local Authority Governor who has a legal background. We also have a new Associate Member, Colin King, joining us in September 2017.

As Governors, we want to say a huge thank you to Mrs Gillin, and all the teachers, LSAs and other staff for all their hard work this year. We also want to thank the parents for all their support and, last but not least, the children for making St Cuthbert's such a brilliant school.

I wish you all a very enjoyable and relaxing summer break and look forward to welcoming you back along with our new parents and staff in September. To all our Year 6 leavers I wish you the very best in your new senior schools.

Please feel free to get in touch at [chair.governors@stcuthberts.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:chair.governors@stcuthberts.surrey.sch.uk)

**Mark Rhodes-Jones, Chair**



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## Resources Update

The Resources Committee is a sub Committee of the Board of Governors and primarily focuses on financial aspects of the school.

### Playground improvements are coming...

It was mentioned last time that we had been successful in securing funding from the Diocese for drainage works re the front playground.

Since then we have had an independent inspection of this area and final assessments and costings are being undertaken, to ensure that the funding received will be sufficient.

Our current understanding is that it is, and that there may even be some money left in the kitty to resolve one or two additional drainage related issues elsewhere around the school.

In terms of when these works will be done, the expectation is that it will be in the autumn half term period.

There is a chance that the works may run into the first day or two of the second half of term, but having reviewed available windows of opportunity (it's the soonest) it makes sense to crack on. The expected improvements will outweigh any very short term disruption.

We will also be repainting the playground and improving the surrounding border, so quite literally watch this space!

### Thank you... and a polite request

It is always worth noting that the Governor's Fund is liable for 10% of any diocesan funding received, so this fund will be paying for 10% of the playground improvements bill.

To those of you who make monthly contributions to this Fund we once again say a huge 'thank you'.

If you would like to know how to contribute to the Governor's Fund then please call in at the office where you can obtain the relevant forms.

If you are a UK tax payer then we are able to claim an extra 25% of any contributions you make, so your kind donations are worth more than you may realise.

### **Andy McDaid - Honorary Treasurer, Chair of Resources**

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### **Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare Team**

Children's behaviour at St. Cuthbert's is outstanding and we regularly witness this during our school visits, and it has also been commented on by recent visitors.

Our working group continues to look at the three areas of Outdoor Learning, Indoor Learning and Emotional Inclusion and the impact various initiatives from these groups have on our children, whether it be break time or learning time. For example, we saw the opening of the Playpod during summer term and we have been hearing feedback from the children on how it has improved

their playtime. What a fantastic initiative from the Outdoor learning team.

Another area we monitor is Attendance and punctuality. Attendance at St. Cuthbert's is excellent and should be celebrated. Our work is to get an understanding of the new guidelines that have been issued by the government and to analyse data together with Mrs Gillin, supporting her putting strategies in place where needed.

We look forward to continuing our work come the new academic year and will be eager to hear more about the various initiatives the Team at St. Cuthbert's has planned.

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### **Governors' Surgeries**

Our last Governors' Surgery for this term was on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> July from 9 – 10 am.

Many thanks to the parents who have so far come in to speak with us. It was very good to catch up, listen to and understand your thoughts and ideas.

Please look out for future dates for the Autumn Term in the School Newsletter.



### **Parent View**

Your views are important to the schools' leadership, as well as external assessors like Ofsted, so it is essential that all parents complete Ofsted's online survey Parentview. If you have not completed the Parentview survey in the last twelve months please take a look at [parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk) and ensure your views are voiced.

*"We are a Catholic community, living and learning in faith. Through the Gospel values of faith, hope, trust and love, we aim to recognise individuality and enable each other to fulfil our potential"*

## English learning walk

As Governors, we listen to the Headteacher and her staff about children's learning and well-being; but we also ask 'how do we know children are learning and progressing?' The English learning walk gave us the opportunity to find out. Miss Hussey, senior leader and English Leader, led the Governors around the school at the beginning of the second half of the summer term.

The time was appropriate as all classes were starting new topics in English with a specific focus for each year group. The younger children were using their knowledge of phonics to write about Goldilocks and the three bears. In Year 1 to Year 6, the English taught in the classroom is supported by the Pie Corbett English scheme of work 'Talk for writing'; and teachers plan activities to develop children's skills in English. As a parent your child might come home and say 'we are doing the Egyptians, we have to dress up as Egyptians!' but the planning and teaching is about 'following instructions'.

It was good to see children engaged in their learning, some working independently and others benefiting from LSAs' support (Learning Support Assistants). Governors commented on the peaceful atmosphere in a classroom when music was playing in the background. Miss Hussey explained that parents are kept informed on the topics and skills taught for each year group in the weekly newsletter.

Thank you to Mrs Gillin and Miss Hussey for the very instructive learning walk and thank you to the teachers and LSAs; all very hard working.

**Claire McAdam**  
Foundation Governor and Vice-chair of Governors

## Getting to know the Governors – Jim Eales

Jim Eales joined as a Parent Governor in May of this year. He is married to Jane and has lived in Englefield Green since 1995. They have twins, Emily and Harry, who joined St Cuthbert's school in

September 2015 and are looking forward to Year 2 in September.

He works for the Civil Aviation Authority as a policy specialist and has a background in aviation engineering. He is currently working on a project to introduce space operations (satellite launch and sub-orbital spaceplanes) into the UK. He has joined the Resources Committee and the Behaviours Working Group and is looking forward to meeting parents in the coming months.



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Do please feel free to send governors your feedback, ideas and suggestions. This email is the best way:

[chair.governors@stcuthberts.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:chair.governors@stcuthberts.surrey.sch.uk)



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