

The Saints Federation



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GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

December 2016

Dear parents,

Welcome to the autumn term governors' newsletter, which we hope you will find to be a useful 'round up' of governor activity over the last term.

Firstly, we would like to welcome back Miss Robson, following her operation. We wish her well in her continuing recovery. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Walker for all her hard work during this period.

The Governing Board meets on a termly basis and as smaller sub committees on a regular basis to discuss finance, the curriculum and standards and health and safety issues. In addition to these meetings, governors have individual roles and responsibilities and have been very pro active in their work this term. The Maths and English governors have been particularly busy, spending time in classrooms, looking at pupils' work and talking to the co-ordinators in schools, in order to stay abreast of changes in curriculum planning.



Governors also attended the recent SIAMs (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection at St. Peter's V.A. First School, Alton. The inspection judges the Christian distinctiveness of the school, the teaching of RE, Collective Worship and the leadership and management of a church school. The report highlights the school's caring nature which it states:

"Nurtures each individual person. As a result, children and adults thrive emotionally and spiritually in an encouraging environment."

It comments on the pupils' attitudes and behaviour saying:

"Pupils have a very positive attitude to learning. Behaviour and relationships are very good because the children look out for each other with a strong sense of empathy in belonging to this church school family."

The inspector also reported that, "All children make rapid progress" and noted that less able children receive "very good support with differentiated interventions to close any gaps in learning".

The outcome of the full day's inspection was 'good with outstanding features' , moving on from satisfactory at the last inspection.

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

At the time of writing, Christmas celebrations are being held at each school in their own unique way. Below is a brief flavour of these events.

St. Augustine's held a Christmas market on Friday the 9th December. The evening began with carols sung around the Christmas tree before the market was officially opened. Parents then had the opportunity to purchase handmade gifts and decorations that the children produced themselves.



St. Peter's held two nativities in church which were very well attended. The evening performance was particularly special, as it ended with the church dimly lit and all children lighting the Christingles they had made, whilst singing traditional carols.



All Saints' held a nativity with a difference on Wednesday 14th December. The play was held outdoors where parents sat on hay bales and sipped warm mulled wine whilst watching the performance. To complete the evening, Big Ears the donkey and Mr Boden's sheep made an appearance to make the evening particularly special.



The Nursery and Reception children from all three schools visited the Adventure Farm. They enjoyed a tractor ride, took part in a nativity play in a barn with real donkeys and met Father Christmas himself! The children also made reindeer food and learnt how to be a good elf.



The Federation have also booked a visit to the New Vic theatre in Stoke to watch a performance of The Snow Queen and activities for the new year have been jointly planned following this.

On behalf of the staff and governors of the Saints' Federation, I wish you a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2017!

Terry Davies, Chair of Governors