



Daventry Rd, Southam, Warwickshire. CV47 1PS
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www.st-marys-southam.warwickshire.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we come to the end of what has been a very unusual year, it feels like a good time to give you an update on what has been undertaken over the last 12 months.

The first six months went smoothly in the life of St. Mary's School. We welcomed the new children into Nursery and Reception and also our new Parish Priest, Father Arul.

As a governing body, we undertook the normal roles of discussing progress and attainment, monitoring the school budget, checking on safeguarding alongside Health and Safety, and the Catholic life of the school, whilst ensuring that we supported Mrs Price and the staff with their decisions.

There was a buzz around the school as children and staff went about the important business of teaching and learning and Governors continued to monitor through learning walks and staff links. One of the decisions we undertook was to agree to employ an extra part- time Teacher for the growing Y5/6 class; a decision which worked extremely well and was appreciated by pupils, staff and parents.

Mrs Price welcomed a Diocesan monitoring visit into school and was proud of the "Good" report that followed but then, the virus struck and so many things changed.

The purchase of Google classroom was an incredible asset to the teaching resource of the school, with staff quickly learning how to use it to support children, and parents with home learning!

Governors had to find a new way of supporting Mrs Price and meetings were transferred to Zoom. This enabled all Governors to meet with staff remotely in these difficult times which means that we could:

- agree the three- year budget
- advertise, interview and appoint new staff
- agree a bid for new doors
- share the new school prospectus
- discuss arrangements for opening school for YR,1 and Y6
- agree in year admissions
- check admissions for September 2020
- read and discuss information from the government regarding opening fully in September





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From a staffing perspective, we have wished farewell to Mrs Palmer who managed the office for 10 years. As she begins her new role, I would like to thank her for all she has done to support both children and staff. It will seem very strange coming into school to see a new face in the office. Having a part-time business manager in Mrs Whiting and an administrative assistant in Mrs Worrall, will be a great support for Mrs Price and I take this opportunity to welcome them both to the school. I was thrilled to hear that two members of staff are to have babies although I know the staff and children will miss both Mrs Finch and Mrs Hall. I wish them both all the best for the future and am sure they will bring the little ones in to see everyone. I understand Mrs Finch and Mrs Maclean, the maternity cover appointment, have been zooming with the youngest children. I'm sure the children will help Mrs Maclean settle in very quickly.

The governing body have said goodbye to Andrew Lambe recently. He has worked tirelessly to support the school with his expertise and knowledge, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all he has done over the years. As such, there is a vacancy for a Foundation Governor who must be a Catholic. Sadly, Kate Sullivan's term of office as Parent Governor comes to an end shortly. She has very kindly agreed to stay with us until we can begin parent elections when we return in September. Please consider if you would be interested in either of these roles, especially if you have an understanding of HR or finance. I would like to thank Stuart Forgan for all he has done in updating and continuing to add items to the website. It has been a real pleasure to see what the children have been doing during lockdown, especially their Macarena skills!

I would like to thank the Governing Body for all the time they have given to the school, voluntarily, over the last year. It has been a privilege sharing expertise, knowledge and meetings together. I look forward to whatever next year will bring.

So, all that remains is for me to thank Mrs Price and her whole team for all the work they have put into ensuring that the children have been kept safe and educated, and for the support they have given to parents during this difficult time. I think that a phrase I've read recently sums up our school - "a whole heap of love and happiness."

Wishing you all the best for a happy and restful summer break and a successful return to school in September

Angela Scull
Chair of Governors

