



St Paul's Church of England Combined School



Growing in strength, wisdom and faith
School Values: Courage, Respect, Hope, Enjoyment,
Family/Unity/Community

Governor Newsletter - December 2024

A Message from The Chairs

Well, that went quickly! It feels like moments ago that we were packing our children off for the first day of term. Then there was a whirlwind involving pumpkins, packed lunches, fireworks and spelling tests, and before we knew it we were all counting down to Christmas. I think we should all say well done to ourselves for getting here, but we also want to say a huge thank you to the teachers and staff for not only teaching and looking after our children, but arranging all sorts of festive events and activities, some of which are highlighted in this newsletter.

We are very fortunate to be almost at full capacity on the governing board, and we have been working with Mrs Dennis and her leadership team to support them in their plans for the school for the remainder of this year, and beyond. As part of this, we have reviewed how best we as governors can experience and understand the daily life of the school and be a more familiar presence for staff, parents and carers, and the children. This term, we therefore launched the class governor scheme, on which Sam Moore, Chair of the Learning and Standards Committee, gives more detail below.

Another important part of our role as governors is understanding how you as parents and carers feel the school is doing. The huge response we had to the parents' and carers' survey at the end of last year was therefore invaluable, and thanks again to all those who completed it. A summary of the results is attached with this newsletter and includes details of how the school intends to reflect and act on feedback, so please do take a look.

We would also encourage all parents and cares to complete the [Ofsted Parent View survey](#), Ofsted will usually contact parents asking them to fill this in at the point of an inspection, but it is permanently available and open to responses.

For now, we wish you all a lovely and relaxing Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Ed Arnold and Laura Willis, Co-Chairs of Governors





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Class Governors

At St Paul's, we believe that strong connections between our governors and students enhance the educational experience. By assigning a dedicated governor to each class, we gain invaluable insights into the learning journey of your child as they move through the school. We also aim to foster a connection between the governors and children that ensure their memorable moments and achievements are acknowledged and celebrated.

From my visits to Finches this term, I had the privilege of engaging with students during class assemblies and discussions, witnessing their creativity and confidence firsthand.

Together, we can create a nurturing atmosphere that inspires growth and achievement. Join us in embracing this exciting initiative at St Paul's and working together to support your child's learning journey!

Class	Governor
Kingfishers	Sophia Harrison
Robins	Melanie Havelock
Swifts	Rev Paul Cudby
Sparrows	Karen Larkin
Finches	Sam Moore
Firecrests	John Walton
Owls	Charlotte Zittel

Sam Moore, Chair of the Learning and Standards Committee





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Nativities

Nursery Nativity

The Nursery Nativity this year was based on the Little Owl and the Star. Once the Star had caught the attention of the little owl, we saw how he follows it, flying over three men on camels, over the hills with the shepherds watching sheep and then finally he finds the manger with Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. It's full of participation for all, and it was clear from the outset that all the children were thoroughly enjoying being a part of the performance, with many smiles and enthusiastic participation as they retold the nativity story.

Before the nativity itself, the audience were treated to Christmas carols and songs, with huge amounts of enthusiasm and fun being shown, especially during Jingle Bells! Well done to all involved.

Chris Barson-Cain, Development Governor

KS1 Nativity

What a triumph! This year saw the KS1 children, giving no less than three performances of "Baubles", a retelling of the Nativity through the eyes of a group of school children and a very hard-working school caretaker! Mr Potts worked tirelessly to make decorations for the school Christmas tree, which then led the children and their headmaster through the story of the Nativity, via some excellent musical numbers. As a Swifts parent, I'm very aware of the huge amount of work that the children and teachers put into the production and it really showed, with not one prompt needed (I understand the children went "off book" in rehearsals weeks before the production!) and all the children delivering their lines with amazing confidence and clarity. As always, Swifts were brilliantly supported by the wonderful singing of Kingfishers and Robins.

It really was a treat for all those lucky enough to attend and huge thanks to all the teachers who made it happen.

Ed Arnold, Co-Chair of Governors





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Governor visits

iSing Pop

I was delighted to have the opportunity to attend the KS2 iSingPOP concert held at St Paul's Church. This is always a highlight of the year and very well attended and enjoyed by our whole school community. It is an event full of joy and fun. Sandy, from iSingPOP, teaches the children the songs and actions and is very personable. The children love his fun approach and the values he is teaching alongside the music. The songs embody the Christian values of the school, the importance of looking after others and our world. The children performed brilliantly and even the audience joined in with the final song - with actions! We all had a fantastic time. Thank you to the children for a super evening of entertainment and to all the staff who supported them in this endeavour.

Melanie Havelock, SEND Governor

Read and Snuggle

I must admit that when we were getting our girls ready for Read and Snuggle Day, the excitement seemed much more about wearing pyjamas and taking your teddy to school, and I wasn't sure how much reading would get done!

I visited the Swifts classroom first, where the teachers had set up various activities for the children to do, encouraging them to interpret and retell the stories they were reading, through drawing, poetry etc. The children really engaged with this and showed great understanding of the texts they had been reading. The session was also well attended by parents and there were some lovely opportunities for them just to sit and read with their children.

The Owls session in the afternoon showed equal enthusiasm from the children. Once the reading dens were built, children were reading with parents and teachers, and to each other. They were also discussing their books in groups, and one group decided that they should read the first five pages of each other's books and see which they liked best! The session was great, making reading a fun and social activity.

Ed Arnold Co-Chair of Governors





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Governor visits

Owls Victorian Day

I was fortunate enough to be invited to join the class for an exciting and educational day in their recent Victorian classroom experience! Miss Harkcom transported the children back in time by role-playing a Victorian classroom environment and the children joined in wonderfully, dressed in brilliant Victorian costumes. The children were curious to learn how subjects were taught differently back then.

Our young historians practised cursive handwriting on blackboards with chalk, and stood to recite multiplication tables together. It was great to see them adventurously try out these old-fashioned methods with enthusiasm! A highlight of the day was when the class split into small groups to make gingerbread. Each group was given ingredients and a recipe, and the children worked together to follow the instructions. They supported one another beautifully, ensuring everyone had an active role. It was wonderful to see how engaged and confident the pupils were as they discussed the baking process. After completing their gingerbread mixtures, which were taken away to be baked, the children churned butter by hand. This hands-on activity helped them connect their practical experience to recent learning about fat molecules.

It was a fantastic day of learning and fun, and I look forward to visiting Owls again in the Spring Term.

Charlotte Zittel, Parent Governor

Development & Maintenance Fund

The festive season is a time when you may be thinking about your charitable giving for the year ahead. A regular gift donation to the St Paul's School Charitable Development Fund, no matter how small, makes a BIG difference to supporting maintenance and projects to further improve our wonderful school! All contributions, whether one-off or ongoing, would be greatly appreciated. Please click here to find out more and support the fund: <https://www.stpaulsschool.co.uk/development-maintenance-fund/>

John Walton, Vice Chair and Chair of the Finance, Premises and H&S Committee

