

St Mary's C.E. School
Kirkby Lonsdale

Chair of Governors Annual Letter - 2016



Nurturing Creative Thinkers ...

Dear Parents and Members of the School Community

As many of you will be aware, St Mary's CE Primary School is celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the school being open on its current site. As we pause to consider our history, whilst also looking forward to the future, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on the achievements of our school and the staff and pupils at the heart of it.

Firstly, I would like to thank Mr. Jones. He arrived at our school in September 2015. It instantly became clear that his vision for our school was going to lead us forward to exciting times ahead. His warmth, compassion and understanding of "how" children learn is inspiring. It is clear to us, as a Governing Body that, Mr. Jones, supported by our dedicated and committed staff has, in a short space of time, made a huge and overwhelmingly positive impact on the daily life of our school.

I cannot thank enough the St Mary's staff team and volunteers that work directly or indirectly for the benefit of our fantastic children. They are all so dedicated to developing the young people in our school. As Governors, we have noticed during our visits to school and link classes that our children are keen to learn, enthusiastic and beautifully behaved. At an early age they are already becoming self-motivated, independent learners. A vital skill for our modern lives. It is obvious, walking around school, that the children are becoming increasingly creative and expressing themselves in so many different ways.

This year has seen a dramatic improvement in the progress of our children during a time of increasing educational change. From the Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 the children have excelled themselves, performing wonderfully. They should be incredibly proud of themselves. During the Governors visits in SATS week it was obvious that the children were prepared, calm and supported throughout the assessments. Thanks go out to all the staff for the supreme effort involved in enabling the preparation and assessments to take place in this manner.

I am sure you will have noticed the many recent improvements to the school environment and we have plans to develop this further. There has been a significant investment in new windows and the entrance area to school which transforms the look of the school. A huge thank you to our committed PTA, charitable support and private donations which have enabled the new Learning Pod to be installed.

The PTA tirelessly fund raise and support our school. We would like to thank them for their time and hard work in putting together an exciting calendar of events which raises funds and supports our community. Many of you know that Matt Kerslake has recently relinquished his post as Chair to the PTA after many years of undertaking this role. He has not only been present at PTA events, but has also represented our school on various community fund raising committees which have supported the PTA and ultimately, our children. Thank you Matt.

So many children this year have represented school. In various sporting events and for their house where we have seen superb sportsmanship and healthy competition. In addition to the increase in sporting opportunities we have seen an expansion in the occasions to celebrate our musicians at concerts, services and performances throughout the school year. Our children are active in the local Pupil Parliament and this month sees our Y6 pupils setting off to London to the Houses of Parliament. It is encouraging to see the amount of residential and visits that are taking place. It allows the children to show what excellent, confident ambassadors they are for the school.

This leads me to thank the parents of our children. During the recent parent/teacher meetings we had the opportunity to meet many of you and hear your views. By spending this time with you we can continue to improve our lovely school. Your contributions to the new school values were gratefully received. We appreciate, not only the time you give to us, but also to the many contributions you make at home. Costumes for productions and Book week, weekly homework support, the wonderful Home Learning Projects, enthusiasm and support for the school's chosen charity events and many, many more.

A summary of our results 2015-16:

Key Stage 1 Phonics 2016:

	2015/16
School	83%
National	81%

Key Stage 1 SATS 2016:

Reading		Writing		Maths	
School	National	School	National	School	National
73%	74%	63%	65%	77%	65%

Year 6 SATS 2016:

	School results	Cumbria	National
<i>Reading</i>	70 %	68 %	66 %
<i>EPGS</i>	83 %	70 %	72 %
<i>Writing</i>	83 %	67 %	70 %
<i>Maths</i>	81 %	70 %	74 %
<i>Combined</i>	70 %	50 %	53 %

Finally, I would like to wish you all, on behalf of the Governing Body, a peaceful and joyful festive season.

Jo Gill - Chair of Governors

