



STM Governing Board Newsletter - Autumn 2018

This newsletter sees us officially welcome **Mrs Kathy Little** as our Executive Head Teacher. Of course it goes without saying this isn't the first welcome Mrs Little has received on joining the STM family - students, staff, parents and carers have done a wonderful job of that! We also welcome **Mrs Sally Meredith** to the Governing Board as a Staff Governor and look forward to work with the STM Senior Leadership Team to ensure our school continues to be the wonderful and caring learning environment we all enjoy.

As always we are thankful to our teaching faculty and welcome all those who started this Autumn term:

Mrs Emma Adams - Reception Teacher and EYFS leader
Mrs Mary Simons - Year 3 Thurs-Fri
Mrs Urszula Onion - Year 4 Mon-Wed
Mrs Fiona McDonagh - Year 4 Thurs-Fri
Miss Rachel Stone - Year 6
Mrs Suzie Furmston - Office Administrator Mon,Tues, Thurs

We would also like thank **Mr Simon Richards (Yr 3 Mon-Wed)** for his time with us and wish him good luck for the future.

WHO WE ARE

Peter Fitzgerald	Chair of Governors
Jan Davis	Vice Chair
Kathy Little	Head Teacher
Sally Meredith	Staff Governor
Fr David Burke	Foundation Governor
Theresa Kelly	Foundation Governor
David Swarbrick	Foundation Governor
Leanne Butler	Foundation Governor
Monica Murray	Parent Governor
Laura Connor	Parent Governor

All governors serve STM in a voluntary capacity

A CATHOLIC APPROACH TO BUILDING CHARACTER AND GRIT

By Monica Murray - Parent Governor

If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last. Mark 9:35

As you can see in the Head's recent newsletters, our school values will be evolving towards building a greater sense of community/team effort and away from initiatives which promote individual achievement.

We should not just insist on values like team, solidarity and kindness, but we should live them through the teaching mechanisms we have in place at the school. This means 'no' to individual "Learner of the Week", but 'yes' to highlighting group-based success, kindness and helpfulness. Excellence, far from being a destination, is a journey. You have to learn how to fail as well as succeed. And learn how to fail again ('*only fail better*', as Beckett said) for in failure there are lessons also. Along the way we should always encourage a spirit in our children that seeks to help others, not just oneself.

These are universal, not just Catholic, principles. They will act as a compass for our teachers to help them guide the next generation of pupils at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School.

Our Mission Statement

"Learning to love, live and celebrate as we grow in the knowledge and love of Christ" underpins all that we do at St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Our Vision

To provide an outstanding education, with Christ at the centre, underpinned by a Catholic, spiritual ethos

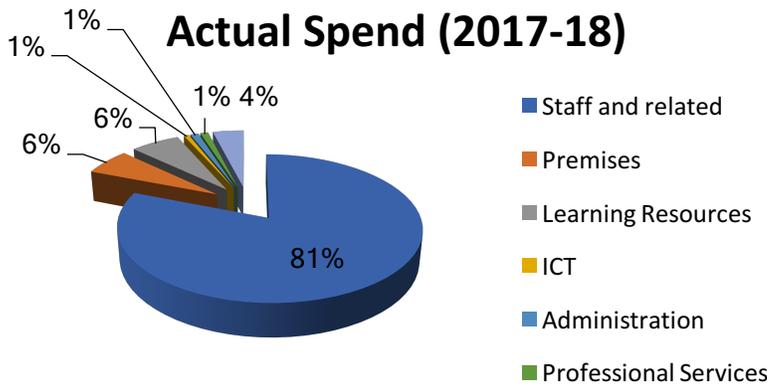
Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about STM. The survey can be completed at any time; you don't have to wait until the school is being inspected. Ofsted will use the information you provide when making decisions about which schools to inspect and when. See STM website for link



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As with all organisations finance plays an important role, as do those who manage them and STM has some very hardworking people behind the scenes! We wanted to share the budget summary in this newsletter as we feel transparency, raising awareness of finance and where money is spent is an important issue.

Financial Statement Expenditure Allocation 2017-18



The Governing Body and the Headteacher monitor the budget via the Resources Committee, ensuring that best value is obtained across all areas of expenditure. Staff costs continue to make up the largest cost area as they should. Our costs have risen by approximately two percent from £863,604 last year, with premises costs rising substantially, due to the outsourcing of cleaning. This rise has been mostly offset by savings in staffing costs and computer support.

Generous donations from the St Thomas More School Association for school trips and learning resources have ensured that the children continue to benefit from a rich learning environment and experience.

We continue to seek funding from the Diocese to complete the replacement of our roof. Once more, as a voluntary aided school, we need to contribute ten percent of the cost, however, this cannot be taken from the school budget. We rely on the school’s Building Fund and generous donations to meet this obligation.

Jan Davis – Vice Chair

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY AND FOR EVERY DAY
By Fr David Burke – Foundation Governor

Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and the life to come. Henri Nouwen

We wish you all a wonderful and peaceful Christmas break and a very happy new year. We look forward to welcoming all that 2019 holds in store for STM and the start of a brand new year and exciting new term!

With thanks from the STM Governing Board