



STM Governing Board Newsletter – Spring 2021

Our Mission Statement: Learning to love, live and celebrate as we grow in the knowledge and love of Christ
Our Vision: To provide an outstanding education, with Christ at the centre, underpinned by a Catholic, spiritual ethos

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter and welcome back to school! It has been yet another extraordinary term and not one I am sure we were all expecting. The Governing Board are very grateful to the dedicated staff who have not only planned and delivered a solid remote learning offering for our students both at home and in school bubbles (with very little time to action it!), but have also done an incredible job at keeping the spirit of the school alive through class Google Meets and other activities and challenges. It has been heart warming to see the school community come together in this way despite being physically unable to for a large part of the term.

We wish to say a big **THANK YOU** to one of our long serving Foundation Governors **Theresa Kelly** who leaves the Board this term. Theresa has dedicated over ten years of service to the STM Governing Board holding key roles and responsibilities for Safeguarding, SEND, Pupil Premium, Equality & Diversity and Catholic Life of the school. Theresa has served on both the Curriculum Committee and Complaints and has been a key part of many School Inspections over the years, always an advocate and wonderful ambassador for the school in addition to being a great support to the SLT. Theresa, you have been a kind, caring and thoughtful member of the Board, who always has time to listen. We will miss you very much and we wish you well in your new adventures!

As always, we are thankful to our teaching faculty. This term we are very pleased to welcome new staff to STM:

Ms Imogen O’Sullivan - EYFS Teaching Assistant

Ms Clare Jevon - Yr 1 Teaching Assistant

A Prayer for Easter Eyes
From **Fr David**

My Lord, Jesus, You have risen to new life!
I pray today for Easter Eyes.
Give me new eyes with which to recognise your presence in the world around me.

Sharpen my vision so that I see beyond the ordinary events of each day and into the extraordinary reality of your grace.
Brighten my view of the world with renewed hope in the coming of your Kingdom.

Soften my gaze so that I view others with the kind of tenderness and compassion you showed to so many.
May each day of this Easter season provide glimpses of your glory. In your name, Jesus, I pray for Easter Eyes.

Amen.

WHO WE ARE

David Swarbrick	Chair
Laura Connor	Vice Chair
Kathy Little	Head Teacher
Eoin Power	Staff Governor
Fr David Burke	Foundation Governor
Leanne Butler	Foundation Governor
Jo Cosgrove	Foundation Governor
Gary Brine	Foundation Governor
Monica Murray	LA Governor
Michelle Anderton	Associate Governor
Peter Fitzgerald	Associate Governor

All governors serve STM in a voluntary capacity

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 the STM website for the link or click on the link here:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

The Last Time - from **Monica Murray**:

Our little hamster, Starlight, is getting very old and is going to leave us very soon. It seems “silly” how a little creature, which lives with you no more than two years, can have such a huge impact and bring such a deep pain.

The concept of loss is an universal experience: every one of us, at some point in our life, will experience loss. But when I talk about it, I think also of those experiences and people that we will see for “the last time”. Sometimes we know when this is, other times we don't: our last day of school, the last time we visit our hometown, the last time we see our grandparents. Every birthday of our children is one step further forward for them and one step further from us. It happens every year and it's as it should be: life is full of these last times.

The 8th of March was not only the International Women's Day; it was the first day back to school for all of our children after maybe the hardest lockdown we faced. It took in Christmas and the coldest, darkest months of the year. But it passed and here we are back to our daily life routines, finally!

Let's admit it, this was a “celebration” for the parents. We felt a sense of release leaving our kids at the school gate, back to the teachers who helped us so much with the online home schooling (something we would never have “dreamt” of one year ago). Was it the last lockdown? Was it the last time we would live through something so extraordinary as having our kids at home for months, being their parents, their teacher, their play mate, their carer?

The end of home schooling can be bittersweet for parents. With each passing month, the time spent together will cease to be a kind of “nightmare”, but instead be remembered as something special. It will seem like a period when we could live and enjoy (sometimes!) those precious moments with our kids which, in general, take place away at school where they spend most of every day.

For their wellbeing, I hope that I never have to home school my children in this way again. But I will feel sad this part of my life with them is over.

And finally, a note from our Chair of Governors **David Swarbrick**

As we head into the Easter holidays I am sure it will feel slightly strange for some of our children (and their parents) – many of them only started back to school on the 8th March and it is holidays already!!! I am sure; upon the children's return you will have noticed the new security arrangements for the premises. Our greatest priority is the safety of the children and the new fence will turn what was a comparatively open site into a much more secure environment. The electronic gates will be a benefit for those visiting the school during school hours (such as staff, delivery vehicles and governors) whilst making life easier for the school office staff.

As I let you know some time ago another priority for the Governing Body has been the production of a Strategic Plan for our school for the next 5 years. Developing this during the pandemic has been a challenge but it is now complete and has been approved. We plan to post it on the website after Easter so if you are interested do look for it

As Governors, we are very grateful to the teaching staff for their efforts in continuing the education of the children through remote lessons during this lockdown period so as to keep any disruption caused to their learning to a minimum. We are also confident that as the children return to school they will take the steps necessary to identify any issues and work with them over the coming months. Assuming we continue progress on the ‘roadmap’ the children can look forward to a summer term with restrictions gradually diminishing so that, hopefully when the start the new academic year in September life will be close to normal.

At Easter we remember Christ's sacrifice and celebrate the fact that it brought about God's promise of a New Life. Perhaps this Easter we should also offer a prayer of thanks to God for bringing us through this crisis as well as a prayer requesting His continued support for our attempt to bring our lives back to normal.

Have a happy Easter and hope you do not miss the remote lessons!!

We wish you all a peaceful Easter break and look forward to seeing you for the start of the Summer Term

With thanks from the STM Governing Board