



## Chair of Governors' Term 2 update – December 2018

As the term draws to a close it is good to reflect on all the activities and achievements of the past few months. Term 2 is full of special events like Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Bed Time Story, the Christmas Fair and of course the Nativity play and all the Christmas festivities and concerts; and these are all organised in parallel with on-going learning and normal school routines. So, we say a huge thank you to the Staff and PTA who have organised them and enriched our children's lives. It is also appreciated that parents give a huge amount of support to Christmas events and activities as well. We hope that all our new children have settled in well and that they are discovering the joys of being part of the St Stephen's School family, as well as the St Stephen's Church community.

During Term 2 governors joined the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in observing their detailed book inspections covering Maths and English. This term the SLT changed their approach and spent a whole school day reviewing first English books and then another day on Maths books, with the governors joining them for the final summary session and preparation of feedback to individual teachers each day. We were very encouraged by the reported progress in writing and the holistic approach being adopted across the curriculum, not just in English; and also the continued development in Maths throughout school, building on our excellent SATS results.

We also accompanied the SLT on a Learning Walk focused on the learning environment throughout school. It is such a privilege to be able to go into every classroom and to see at firsthand how learning occurs. Overall the governors are very impressed that the space in school is so effectively and creatively used by teachers, despite the limitations of having an old and beautiful school building. We feel that the learning environment is good and is conducive to excellent learning. However, there is much that could be improved as well, should funds become available, in terms of replacing old floor coverings, painting of walls, replacement of blinds and the provision of storage boxes, etc. We would dearly like to make this possible.

We continue on our journey in adapting to new ways of working with the Bath and Wells Multi-Academy Trust, but remain confident that we made a good choice in deciding to join them. We are developing a sound working partnership with them and feel that we are already experiencing some real benefits, including staff development and financial and business support. In addition the governors have attended several key training activities this term with BWMAT, including Safeguarding and Pupil Premium.

We are very thankful for our committed and talented team of class teachers and support staff who work tirelessly for our children, under the guidance and leadership of Andy Bowman, in providing a caring and inspiring place to be and thrive.

We wish all of you and the staff at St Stephen's a joyful and peaceful Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

Best wishes,

*Kate*

Kate Seeley, Chair of Governors

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