

Day/Month	September 2014	October 2014	November 2014	December 2014	January 2015	February 2015	March 2015	April 2015	May 2015	June 2015	July 2015
Monday	1: INSET Day	29/9	3: Return to School	1		2: Buggy Malone at CCCC: Y6	2	30/: Easter Liturgies TBA this week		1: Return to school	29/6: ARTs Week
Tuesday	2: Return to School	30/9	4:	2		3	3	31/3		2:	30/6
Wednesday	3:	1	5	3		4	4	1		3	1
Thursday	4:	2	6:	4	1	5:	5:	2: Break for Easter Holidays		4	2
Friday	5:	3: School Mass for St Theresa/Harvest	7	5	2	6	6:	3: Good Friday	1:	5	3: Arts week celeb. FOST BBQ: 6-9
Saturday	6	4:	8	6: Family Disco	3:	7	7	4:	2:	6	4:
Sunday	7	5	9	7	4:	8:	8:	5: Easter Sunday	3	7	5
Monday	8	6	10	8	5: INSET Day	9	9	6: Easter Holidays	4: May Day Bank Holiday	8: Whitby Week: Y6 Residential	6
Tuesday	9	7	11: In Flanders' Fields UKS2 Show	9: EYFS Nativity (am)	6: Return to school	10:	10	7	5: Return to School	9	7: KS2 results published nationally
Wednesday	10	8 Big Sing: Y6	12	10: EYFS Nativity (pm)	7	11 FOST Mtg: 7pm	11:	8	6:	10	8
Thursday	11	9	13	11: 7pm: CCCC Advent Liturgy	8: FOST Discos	12	12:	9	7	11:	9
Friday	12	10: Joint INSET day with Corpus	14	12:	9:	13: Break for half term	13	10	8	12	10: Reports sent home
Saturday	13	11:	15	13:	10	14	14	11	9:	13:	11:
Sunday	14	12	16	14	11	15	15	12	10	14	12:
Monday	15	13	17:	15 KS1 Nat. pm	12	16: February half term holiday	16	13:	11 Y6 SATS Week	15:	13: HP Treat Day: NEW venue!!
Tuesday	16	14	18	16: KS1 Nat. pm Y5/6 Advent Service (evening)	13	17	17	14	12:	16: KS1 Sports Day: Key Skills am; athletics pm	14 : Leavers' Mass and disco
Wednesday	17	15: FOST AGM: 7pm	19 FOST Mtg: 7pm	17: Y3/4 Nat: pm. Nursery Party	14 FOST mtg: 7pm	18 Ash Wednesday	18 Parents' evening: 6 – 8.30	15:	13 FOST Mtg: 7pm	17: KS2 Sports Day FOST Mtg: 7pm	15:
Thursday	18	16	20:	18: Christmas Parties	15	19	19: Parents' evening: 4 – 6.30	16:	14:	18	16
Friday	19	17: Open Day for New Parents (am)	21:	19: Break up for Christmas	16	20:	20		15	19: Catholic Cup: 7-a-side tournament	17: Mass: 9.30 Break for summer
Saturday	20	18	22	20:	17	21	21	18:	16	20:	18:
Sunday	21	19:	23	21:	18	22:	22	19	17	21	19
Monday	22	20	24	22 Christmas and New Year Holiday	19	23: Return to School	23	20: Return to School	18	22	20 INSET Day
Tuesday	23	21:	25	23	20	24	24	21:	19	23	21 INSET Day
Wednesday	24	22: Ind School Photos and Pars' evening: 6 – 8.30	26	24	21	25	25:.	22:	20	24	22:
Thursday	25	23: Parents' evening: 4 – 6.30	27	25: Christmas Day	22	26	26:	23	21	25	23:
Friday	26: Macmillan Coffee Morning in School: 9.00	24: Break for ½ term	28	26	23:	27	27	24	22: Break up for Spring Bank	26:	24
Saturday	27	25	29	27	24	28	28	25	23	27	25
Sunday	28	26	30	28	25	1/3	29:	26	24	28	26
Monday	29	27 Autumn Half Term Hols		29	26: D-Side Drugs awareness week		30:	27	25 Spring Bank Holidays	29	27
Tuesday	30	28/10		30	27:		31/3	28	26:	30	28
Wednesday		29/10		31	28			29: Group Photos	27		29
Thursday		30/10			29			30	28		30
Friday		31/10			30			1/5	29		31
Saturday		1/11			31:				30		
Sunday		2/11			1/2				31		

*FHC dates will be published in the Newsletters; Fr Paul will also send a letter home to Year 3 parents as soon as dates have been set.

Governors' Newsletter: September 2014.

CHAIR'S WELCOME: I would like to welcome everyone back to school for the



start of another year at St Theresa's! Special welcome goes to those new to our school - particularly those joining us in Nursery and Reception and our new members of staff.

This is my first newsletter as I reflect on my first year as Chair and enter my 10th year as school Governor! It has been a very busy year and we have welcomed two new Governors into our fold – Deacon Sean Quigley as Foundation Governor and Marie Mahony as Parent Governor.

As we reflect on last year, we must not forget our brothers and sisters at Corpus Christi Catholic College and the very sad loss of Ann Maguire. During this very difficult time, our wider family of schools offered support and prayers for our colleagues, children and families of all those affected. There are special civic memorials for Anne later this term and Mr Hutchinson will represent our school and take our thoughts and prayers with him.

SUCCESES! What a fabulous year we have just experienced? – Our best SATS



results for a few years, the annual *Big Sing Liturgy Thing*, plus some amazing sporting successes including skipping competitions, winning practically every trophy possible for football, the superb Commonwealth Week topped off with a visit from Sir Steve Redgrave and Rugby League star Paul Broadbent who were launching the Sporting Promise at our school! This was a truly outstanding event and we received glowing

reports and praise from many inside but also outside our school! Five of our Governors attended the event and three of our lady Governors just had to get a picture with Sir Steve (See picture with Heidi Farrell, Fiona Science and Sharon Glynn)!



RESULTS: On the issue of SATS, I just wanted to give you an overview of the figures each Key Stage: F2/EYFS: GLD is 68% (2013: 53%)

KS1 2014	Reading		Writing		Maths	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
Level 3	25%	28%	13%	20%	16%	20%
L2a or above	46%	57%	30%	43%	43%	52%
L2b or above	70%	87%	66%	79%	75%	85%
L2 or above	88%	100%	86%	95%	91%	95%
Level 1				5%		5%

KS2 2014	Reading		Writing		Maths		Grammar Test	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
Level 5+	34%	43%	26%	29%	31%	53%	27%	57%
L4 or above	86%	95%	83%	88%	81%	90%	56%	79%
Level 3	11%	3%	15%	10%	12%	8%	37%	19%
Below L3 or absent	3%	2%	2%	2%	7%	2%	7%	2%

Although the school is “judged” on the end of Key Stage results (EYFS, Y2 & Y6), staff members across every year group contribute towards these goals and they are a team effort. Thanks must also go to those parents who back up the hard work of the staff in school by supporting your children in their learning. Being involved in your child's learning journey through school can be a very positive and rewarding experience and I cannot emphasise this enough.

The demands and expectations being made on schools continues to increase and those demands are also placed on the Governing Body. Indeed, Governing Bodies are now, more than ever being scrutinised by OFSTED during inspections and being held to account. Governors are primarily responsible for the standards in school and to hold the Headteacher (and school) to account in both a challenging and supportive way. This is a difficult balance to obtain, but I believe our current Governing Body do very well in this regard. However, as we know, it is not just about OFSTED and results. It is also about individual children whose specific needs vary and these may well go beyond the academic side of things.

As a Catholic school, we are voluntary aided and the majority of Governors are “Foundation Governors” who have an additional responsibility for representing the Diocesan perspective in school. This in itself raises a number of concerns amongst the Governors. We have a large proportion of baptised Catholic children in our school and yet the numbers of children who regularly attend Sunday Mass does not reflect this high number. We believe the children (and families) who make their First Holy Communion should embrace this as part of their journey in faith and not as a stand-alone event during their time at school. Governors feel strongly about this and one of our objectives for the coming year is to improve the relationship between the Home/School/Parish and to look to increase the number of children and families attending Sunday Mass.



We thought it would be good to ask one of our new Governors to explain a little about what we do and have done - *Marie Mahony* answers a few questions:

1. What were your views/expectations of being a Governor before you were appointed?

“I realised this would involve attendance at meetings in order to be able to give the parental perspective and some school visits.”

2. Have these changed since becoming a Governor?

“However, I failed to understand the full magnitude of what this would involve in relation to training requirements, participation in Full Governor Body (GB) meetings; Sub-committee meetings; Governor visits into school and join panels for staff interviews, and this is just the tip of the iceberg!”

3. Could you briefly summarise what the Governing Body does?

“The role requires a great deal of commitment and dedication from each of its members, who are all predominantly lay people and undertake their roles voluntarily. They have a shared willingness to undertake ongoing training in areas around school development where you may have knowledge gaps i.e. finances; leadership; premises, or OFSTED requirements in order to be effective. For me this has been a very exciting learning curve, understanding so much more about the school and how well it works. This is a truly rewarding role but definitely requires a high level of commitment.”

4. What do you see as the most important thing the Governing Body (GB) have done this year?

“A new development this year for the GB has been to invite individual Year governors to attend the termly Pupil Progress Meetings to assess the standards in school. For me this has meant joining the Year 1 meetings. At these I have seen first-hand how each child is encouraged and supported through different interventions and how more able children are challenged further. I have huge levels of respect for each of the staff team and in many ways feel every parent would benefit greatly from attending such a meeting to realise the dedication and work that all staff do.”

OFSTED: As a Governing Body we have been working hard with our school staff to improve what we do for our (your) children. An independent judgment of our school will be undertaken when we are next inspected by OFSTED. We expect this to take place this academic year and we anticipate this to be as early as this term!

In this regard, OFSTED will consider the views of parents – these are usually ascertained by looking at parental feedback via “Parent View” which is an OFSTED tool to gauge parental feedback. It would be fantastic if parents could actively leave feedback via the “Parent View” site on an ongoing basis rather than an influx the day before the inspectors turn up! Please visit <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> where you can register and leave feedback for our school. Although this information will be used as part of an inspection, the Governing Body will consider any feedback on the site to help us improve on an ongoing basis.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

So – what exactly have the Governors been doing during the past year?

The simple answer is “lots”. At our last Governing Body meeting in June, we reflected on the year and what “impact” we have had on the school during the past year or so. Below are a handful of things we have done:

- Governors actively involved in Pupil Progress Meetings. First hand evidence of standards in school.
- Key Governors meeting with Deputy regarding improving teaching in Maths and in particular to understand the “assertive mentoring” recently introduced. Excellent maths results this year!
- Some Governors have accompanied educational visits and seen teaching and learning first hand – this has included lots of creative learning for the children.
- Governors involved recruitment process of new staff and ensuring Diocesan perspective is maintained and safeguarding responsibilities are adhered to. Six of our Governors have completed the “Safer Recruitment online” training.
- Governor intervention regarding the reinstatement of the school crossing patrol following Mr Rowbottom's retirement.
- Encouraging Governance with neighbouring schools – working closer with our CCCC cluster of schools and plans to develop further and to share and work better together.

The school prayer for Corpus Christi Catholic College is particularly apt and I would like to conclude this newsletter with that prayer:

*Today, as we **WORK** together;
We ask you: **Be with us, Lord.***

*Today, as we **LEARN** together;
We ask you: **Be with us Lord.***

*Today, as we **PRAY** together;
We ask you: **Be with us Lord.***

*Today, as we **GROW** together;
We ask you: **Be with us Lord.***

*Today, as we live our **MISSION**;
We ask you: **Be with us Lord. Amen.***

Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter – on the reverse is a copy of the school calendar for the year.

Yours in Christ,
Damian Heaney
Chair of Governors