



*"We learn together, we play together, we pray together,  
we grow together in the love of God"*

## Dear Parents and Carers

It's hard to believe that we are in the second half of the Autumn term. It was only a few short months ago we were celebrating our school's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and so much has happened since.

- Last year's Year 6 pupils moved onto new horizons in their chosen secondary schools. I know they were well prepared by our staff, their parents, class mates, and parish communities, for the brave and exciting journey ahead. They will be proud ambassadors for our school.
- We started our new school year with the addition of new pupils in our Reception class and a number of pupils joining existing classes. They are all eager to be part of our inclusive community so as to learn, contribute and enable us all to "grow together in the love of God". I know that staff and parents will join me and the Governors in welcoming our new pupils and their families to our school.
- You will have seen that the Friends of St Theresa's have been incredibly industrious, and raised a fantastic amount of money to buy 32 new laptops for our pupils to enhance their learning opportunities. On behalf of the Governors I wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone involved.
- We have a senior leadership team headed by Mrs O'Melia, and supported by Mr Troy, Miss Johnson and Mrs Holland with a wonderful team of dedicated teachers, teaching assistants, mealtime supervisors, office staff, site manager, cleaners and kitchen staff. All are enthusiastic to steer our pupils and the school from strength to strength.
- Finally, we have had a change within the Governing Body. We said a sad farewell to our Chair of Governors and Parent Governor, Alan Crossan. I'm sure you will join me in thanking him for his unfailing support for our school. We will all miss him terribly, but wish him every success in his new adventure.

So that leaves me to introduce the new Governing Body. In the box below, you will see a list of our names. We are currently in the process of updating the school's website with our profiles, and I invite you to have a look at these in a couple of weeks' time. You will also be aware that we are currently seeking additions to the Board and invite you to consider joining us, either as a Parent Governor or Foundation Governor. Please see information on the notice board at the school gates or on our website.

This term I have been meeting regularly with Mrs O'Melia and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Our Board's Committees have also been meeting, and together we are updating and refreshing our school's self-evaluation form (SEF), and school improvement plan (SIP). These will be presented to the Governing Board at our next meeting, and will be summarised on the school's website.

This term the SLT have analysed our pupil progress for the last academic year, appointed and inducted new members of staff, monitored curriculum provision and quality of teaching and learning across the school and ensured that the needs of all learners are met. The data analysis from RAISE online for 2016-17 shows that our pupils continue to make very good progress in both Key Stage 1 and 2.

## A couple of important messages

1. **Serious safety concern – Drop off and Pick up at the school gates.** We have had a number of 'near-miss' incidents involving our pupils over the last few weeks. This has been highlighted to all parents and carers through the school newsletter. Please adhere to the advice given. Our Board's Premises Committee is seeking further advice from the London Borough of Barnet.
2. **Changes to school holiday dates:** Mrs O'Melia has had numerous requests from parents regarding the up-coming return from Christmas holiday start date. On this occasion term dates have been revised please refer to letter from Mrs O'Melia.

God Bless and best wishes,

Margaret Cronin

**Chair of Governors**

### Your School Governors are...

**Chair of Governors:** Margaret Cronin (Foundation Governor)

**Vice Chair of Governors:** Sheena Varnava (Foundation Governor)

**Foundation Governors:** Fr John Dermody and Gerry Costello

**Local Authority Governor:** Tony Shotton

**Parent Governors:** Ony Ogodazi

**Staff Governors:** Linda O'Melia and James Troy

**Associate members:** Joe Brohan, Christine Fleming and

Jean-Marc Evans

### How to contact us.....

If you would like to contact the Chair of Governors please do so in writing via the school office. Envelopes should be addressed to the Chair of Governors.

**Further details can be found at:**

[www.st-theresas.barnet.sch.uk](http://www.st-theresas.barnet.sch.uk)