

Dear Parents,

As Co-Chair of Governors I hope to write a message to you all each term to give some idea of the major activities of the governing body at that time. I and the Governors feel that it is a privilege to be part of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and we strive to do what is right for the children in our care. We have spent much time in school and feel that our staff offer so much to our children, from inspirational classroom environments to a variety of exciting lessons which enables every child to delve deeper into their learning. The pupil voice is strong and the children are always keen to explain their learning or show us the School Garden which they designed and made with your help. We look forward to meeting more of you at Parent's Evenings, coffee afternoons, workshops and the Big Talk presentation.

As we move into the third term of the school year the Governors have a number of important tasks to complete. One of the most important tasks is to ensure that we get staffing right. This year we say congratulations to Mrs Poncia who will be moving to the next challenge of her career in a Secondary setting and to Mrs Young who will be taking on the challenge of Deputy Headteacher at our local Catholic school St Peter's. We wish them both well and thank them for their hard work and dedication here at OLMC. Obviously, this leaves us with the task of making sure we get the right people to complement our existing team and Miss Mottrom will join us in September.

Safeguarding is of paramount importance to us and we regularly review and test out policies and procedures in school...from fire safety checks to record keeping. We are pleased to be inviting Big Talk into school again this year which is a 'Whole School Approach' to keeping our children safe, healthy and happy.

Our Catholic identity really does make OLMC stand out, carrying an 'Outstanding' judgment in our recent Section 48 R.E Inspection showing that Christ permeates through everything we do here in school.

Another important task is approving the budget for the next school year, but, each year there are new challenges with an ever decreasing budget. The Governors continue to try to make the best provision available for all the school within the available resources. Much of this comes down to detailed day-to-day management of all aspects of the school activities, which is done with great skill and imagination by Mrs Gamble and her senior management team.

Over the next term we will be reviewing our activities over the past year and our priorities for the next and we always welcome comments from parents on any aspect of the school and its future. I wish to thank you for taking part in the recent Parental Questionnaire as it helps to reflect and decide on a way forward.

Finally, on behalf of the Governors we thank you for your support and don't forget to check out the website if you want to find out more about our team.

God Bless Always

Shaun Pendlebury