

St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Stanley Grove, Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire PR1 0JH

Tel: 01772 742331

Email: bursar@st-teresas-penwortham.lancs.sch.uk

Web: www.st-teresas-penwortham.lancs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Jillian Holmes

"Christ be in our heads, in our hearts and in our hands"

Thursday 16th July 2026

Dear Parents,

Chair of Governors' End of Year Update

At the end of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to briefly update you on the work of the Governing Body and celebrate some of our pupils' key achievements this year.

We started the year, as always, by joining staff for our Start of Year Mass. This lovely occasion allows us to come together, reflect on our responsibilities as a Catholic school and celebrate our shared faith.

Throughout the year, we have continued our role of providing strategic oversight and direction for the school through our termly governor and sub-committee meetings. Governors drive continual improvement and provide constructive challenge, ensuring that decisions are always made in the best interests of our pupils. To assure ourselves of the school's effectiveness, we also undertake subject leader updates, learning walks, pupil interviews, book scrutinies, School Council updates, collective worship visits and assembly observations. Each governor is assigned to a class each year and undertakes visits to gain a deeper understanding of school life.

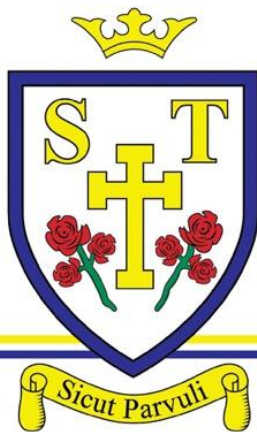
Several of the objectives in our School Development Plan this year have centred around RE provision and collective worship following new guidance from the Diocese. The tremendous commitment of all staff and pupils has been reflected in the judgements and comments within the recent Catholic Schools Inspectorate report. Our thanks go to the parents who contributed to our Consultative Group on this subject. Key judgements within the report stated that our mission statement is lived "authentically with love and care for all". With respect to leaders, it concluded that "the governors and senior leadership team are inspirational leaders of Catholic education and, as a result, relationships across the school are a key strength". A full copy of the report is available on the school website.

Our governor, Mrs Bull, sits on the Equality Consultative Group, chaired by Mr Biggs and Miss Wright, and provides the Governing Body with updates each term. There are several elements required to achieve the Lancashire Equality Mark and this year our focus has been on achieving the Holistic Diversity Badge. We were delighted to learn recently that we have achieved this badge, and congratulations must go to all who have contributed to this success.

Governor Mr Pearson acts as our liaison with members of the parish in the development of a Laudato Si' environment garden adjacent to the church. The Pupil Council has supported this project and was present at its opening by the Mayor of Penwortham. This wonderful addition will help our pupils develop a greater awareness of caring for creation and protecting our environment.

The school is blessed to have a strong and supportive PTFA, and the impact that monies raised have on our pupils' enrichment opportunities is significant, in addition to the fun enjoyed at numerous PTFA-organised events. Key events this year included a film night, several discos and a "Dancerciseathon". The year concluded with the gala, hosted this year in glorious sunshine. This event raised an incredible £4,500. The governors





St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Stanley Grove, Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire PR1 0JH

Tel: 01772 742331

Email: bursar@st-teresas-penwortham.lancs.sch.uk

Web: www.st-teresas-penwortham.lancs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Jillian Holmes

"Christ be in our heads, in our hearts and in our hands"

extend their heartfelt thanks to the PTFA for their amazing dedication and hard work. Events such as these do not organise themselves, and the PTFA is always keen to welcome new members, fresh ideas and additional support. If you can spare some time to help, please contact the school office for more information.

Building improvements continue to ensure the school remains well maintained while enhancing our provision for pupils. A significant capital project currently being undertaken and funded by the Diocese is the reroofing of substantial areas of the school, together with improvements to rainwater drainage. It is hoped that, in addition to keeping us dry for many years to come, the additional insulation will also help keep classrooms warmer in winter and cooler during the summer months—particularly relevant at the moment! The play area in the KS1 playground, which includes a wooden boat, monkey bars and AstroTurf surfacing, is reaching the end of its lifespan. During the autumn half-term break, it is scheduled to be redeveloped with a new surface, while retaining and relocating the popular monkey bars.

Our role as governors is entirely voluntary, and our reward comes from sharing in our pupils' development and success. This year has seen success in both sport and the arts. Highlights included our Year 4 pupils winning a poetry recital competition organised by the local WRIST group of schools, while Year 2 pupils won a competition to name local waste collection vehicles. We also achieved second place in the South Ribble Dance Competition. It was also a pleasure to see the creativity and confidence of our pupils showcased in the School Council's St Teresa's Got Talent event, where Governor Mr Pearson was delighted to serve as one of the judges.

In sport, success came across the board. The school started the year by being awarded School of the Year for PE and Sport. First-place finishes were achieved in Year 5/6 mixed football, athletics, cross-country and KS1 multi-skills competitions. Participation in school sporting events and clubs has reached its highest level ever, and it is wonderful to see so many children taking part. Well done to all involved!

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor to join the Governing Body. Over the summer, you may wish to consider whether you have an interest in contributing to school life at a strategic level and can commit some of your time to this rewarding role. At the start of the autumn term, we will write to parents with further information about expressing an interest and the recruitment process.

On behalf of the Governing Body, may I thank you all for your continued support in making this another successful year for our pupils. I am sure you will also join us in thanking our Headteacher, Mrs Holmes, all of our staff and our wider school community, whose hard work and dedication underpin so much of the success we celebrate at the end of this academic year.

We wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break and look forward to another successful year ahead in September.

Regards

Paul Hood

Chair of Governors

