



We belong and succeed with Christ

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

FOUNDATION STAGE / YEAR 1

FEEDBACK

Send your feedback to sg3267@our-lady-of-lourdes.oxon.sch.uk or just drop a note into reception for our attention.

ROAD SAFETY GROUP

Earlier in the year parents and governors formed the Road Safety Group to ensure the continued safety of the children during dropping times at the school. Various letters have been sent to all parents/carers to confirm the most appropriate places to park.

The increased awareness has meant that we are now seeing a big reduction in people parking in dangerous areas near the school – **thanks to you all for your consideration!** Feel free to remind other parents when you see them parking in the wrong place!!

The children have formed a STARS (School Travel and Road Safety) group which supports the road safety group. In conjunction with the local authority, they will be looking at ways of continuing awareness. They have completed an audit of how children travel to school, and are working on other ideas as part of the plan. Further updates will be forthcoming in the school newsletters.

This is our **BIG** project for the year and we are all very excited about how it will look when it is finished—we hope you will be too. Come and look at the plans on display in the school hall.

Building work is due to start as soon as term ends in July and is likely to take about 14 weeks to complete. This means that there will be some disruption to classrooms but certainly not to the education of our youngest children.

The budget cost for all the work is £200,000. We have been very lucky to secure £150,000 of LCVAP funding from the diocese and we hope to be able to make up the difference from our DFC funding and School Building Fund (see over for an explanation of funding streams)

Consultants have been appointed and the project is currently out to tender with contractors who have experience of working with schools and who have carried out projects similar to this. Once the tenders have been returned at the end of June we will be in consultation with the diocese to obtain the final approvals.

We are increasing the size of both the Foundation Stage and Year 1 classrooms as these are slightly too small. We are also moving the toilets to a new pod to be constructed at the front of the school so that the children do not have to walk through the classroom when they come in from playing outside. We are building a large glazed canopy so that the children have an outdoor play area that is usable all year round and we are re-designing the whole of the external play area to make it more attractive and educational.

We have already created a new footpath to give the nursery a dedicated entrance and we have cut down a lot of trees that were taking a lot of light out of the play area.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

As we know first impressions are important, not least for our school. No one can have missed the significant changes have taken place in the appearance of the front of the school with the new car parking area and entrance to the Nursery. We are of course also in the final planning stages for the foundation stage and year one class extensions. We hope you will agree that the first impressions of the school will be greatly enhanced once all this work is completed this year.

Parents, teachers, governors and of course the children have also been busy with other visual improvement projects around the school. The 'wild area' and pond have been refurbished by some enthusiastic year sixes with close supervision from Mrs Nelson, Miss Lumb and Mr Dick. Please go and have a look at the transformation that has taken place. The gardening club is in full swing run by Miss Lumb and her enthusiastic helpers. The new greenhouse has been built by Mrs Jones from all the plastic bottles the children brought in. Mrs Jones and the Eco team also look after the vegetable patch which is a wonderful addition to the extracurricular activities enjoyed by some of the children. Our school has also entered Whitney in Bloom 2010.

We plan in the coming months, with every ones help, to continue to enhance the visual impact of the school. A big thank you to everyone who has helped in any way to date.

YOUR GOVERNORS

Foundation Governors

Father Pat Armstrong
Anthony Brown
Christopher Flynn
Mary Hull (Vice Chair)
Sally Hartwell
Declan Jordan
Chris Morris
David Norris (Chair)

Parent Governors

Rob Dick
Shelley Jones
Jacqui Shaw

Teacher Governors

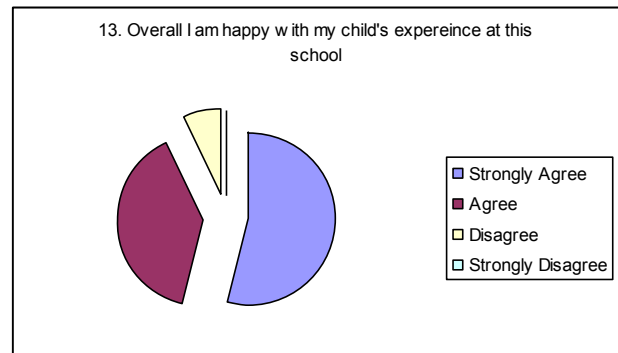
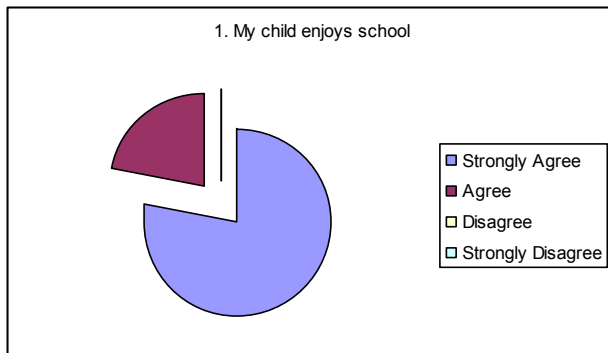
Margaret Hinds
Adam Rush
Jenny Walker (Headteacher)

Local Authority Governor

Jon Ray

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

In February 2010 the school undertook its annual parent questionnaire. The overall views of the survey were really positive and where there were comments then we have spoken, where possible, to parents to clarify. For example Key Stage 1 books could be improved and this will be addressed by September 2010.



93% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they were happy with the school. 100% feel their child is happy with the school, the school is well run and the school takes account of suggestions and concerns.

We would like to thank all those parents who participated. However the overall number of parents who completed the questionnaire was disappointing as this stood at around 30%. We would like to encourage more feedback as this is your opportunity to help improve the school – we cannot do it without you.

To look at the questionnaire results and feedback then go to the school website.

CAPITAL WORK AND THE SCHOOL BUILDING FUND

Devolved Formula Capital (DFC): An amount of funding is allocated each year to primary and secondary schools to be spent by them on their priorities in respect of buildings, ICT and other capital needs. Every year our school receives approximately £35,000 of this government money to spend. However, as a Catholic Voluntary Aided School we have to raise 10% of the funds received ourselves. If we do not raise the 10% contribution required we can not spend the money to improve our school and the money is taken back by the government.

School Building Fund (SBF): The School Building Fund is the account that the school pays all contributions received towards raising the 10% required in order to spend the DFC. The contributions into our SBF at present falls well below the 10% required. We are extremely grateful to those parents who already contribute to our SBF and we would ask all parents to think seriously about contributing.

Locally Coordinated Voluntary Aided (VA) Programme (LCVAP): If we have a large building project or require further funding for capital work we can apply for LCVAP funding. **Summary of purpose of LCVAP:** To provide modernisation, new pupil places and school access to VA schools.

Specific priorities for use of funding: Upgrading buildings and facilities, providing new pupil places and developing access to facilities for disabilities and those with special needs in VA schools.

If we require funding we have to submit our project to the Archdiocese of Birmingham. They then look and prioritise the work that is required in all VA schools in the Diocese and allocate the money they have received in order of priority. If a school does receive money from LCVAP funding this money has to be spent in the year received and we also have to find the 10% to enable us to spend any funds received in that year.

What has the money been used for?

In the past the money available to the school has been used for the purchase of the computers in the ICT room, the mobile laptop suite, a new boiler and general re-carpeting and re-decoration costs as well as a contribution towards the new trim trail. More recently, on the grounds of Health and Safety, the school car park has been greatly improved.

We hope from the above you have a better understanding of how capital work for the school is financed and how much work goes into these projects. Please remember your contribution can help make a big difference. Please contact Cath Waite in the school office to find out more information and hopefully to complete a form to start making regular contributions.

Please help us to keep improving the environment the children are learning in.

Remember, every £1 you contribute enables us to spend £10 to improve your child's learning environment.

DISABILITY EQUALITY PLAN (2010-2013)

'Our Lady of Lourdes School is committed to promoting positive participation of disabled people during their time at school. We believe that disabled children and adults are uniquely placed to support the school in identifying and removing barriers they face, in taking proactive steps to promote disability equality across the school.'

The Headteacher in consultation with a small group of parents and governors, has written an initial **'Disability Equality Scheme'**, this contains an action plan that sets out the steps the school is planning to take over the next three years to meet the General Duty. It will be reviewed annually and a report on progress will be made to the Governing Body. An annual update will also be published for staff and the school council.

Once this plan has been approved by the full Governing Body of the School, it will go on the school website for all parents to view. We have also just received news that, following the audit we are one of only two schools in Oxfordshire to receive a commendation in the form of an Oxfordshire Inclusion Letter (OIL) and we are very proud of this.