**Governors News – for newsletter 11th November 2016**

In an attempt to make the members of the governing body more visible to everyone and to share the work we do, going forward you will be finding regular updates from us on the school newsletter, more information on our school website and can also see us on the board in the entrance to school.

In our role, we work closely with the senior school leadership to set the overall direction and aims of the school and to monitor the progress. We act as a ‘critical friend’ to the school offering a balance of support and challenge. Our responsibilities include appointing the head and other senior staff, overseeing the school’s finances, making sure the curriculum is balanced, has strong British Values, is broadly based and that the school sets challenging targets for pupil achievement (academic and non-academic). We also run the Parent Forum as one way of ensuring parents voices are heard.

As a school, we are in the very privileged situation of being awarded an ‘outstanding’ by both OFSTED and in our last church inspection, our facilities are excellent and our pupils have once more achieved results that are above or well above national average. This however does not mean that more can’t be done.

The governing body has agreed 13 strategic priorities that will ensure our children continue to receive an excellent primary education in a Christian environment. These priorities then guide us in setting the shorter term targets for the school.

Over the last two years, we have built up a fantastic new website, we are in the process of renewing all our IT hardware and continuously invest in keeping our buildings and school playground smart and well maintained. During half term, new interactive screens have been installed in all classrooms and new laptops will be purchased shortly, replacing existing desk tops and complimenting the iPads.

We have invested money in employing more high caliber staff and training our existing staff to ensure that teachers have the time and expertise to tailor lessons to the needs of the child. We have also focused on further enhancing our curriculum making it as relevant and as engaging for children to learn as possible. You will have seen this with the introduction of ‘Warm-up for Writing’ and the new topic based curriculum.

We have also decided to offer wrap-around care at very low prices. In addition to the very successful morning club (from 8am) a flexible after school care system is now provided until 5.30pm.

In addition to this, we are working closely with the Multi Academy Trust, ensuring that we benefit as much as possible by being in a trust with other small village schools in the area.

You can view our strategic priorities and more information on us and our role on the school website. Or if you have any questions regarding governorship at St Loys, you can contact the chair of governors at barbaragundle@aol.com.