



Turncroft Road  
Darwen  
Lancashire  
BB3 2BW

Tel: 01254 701299  
www.stpeterscep.co.uk

**Developing our  
Spiritual & Cultural  
lives through ....**

- \* **Love**
- \* **Trust**
- \* **Care**
- \* **Respect**
- \* **Joy**

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# St. Peter's CE Primary School

## Governor Newsletter

Issue 02

Summer (July) 2014

### Our School is GOOD !!

*"The school is well-placed to move from strength to strength" - Ofsted 2014*

Welcome once again to our Summer Issue of our seasonal Governor's Newsletter. We start with the great news that following the Ofsted Inspection which was undertaken on 25/26th June 2014, the school received the Ofsted Report this week and it's official St Peter's CE Primary School is **GOOD!**

We as school Governors would like to pass on our grateful thanks and appreciation to every single one of you; not just you, the parents and carers, not just Mrs Weddle, her staff and support staff, but more importantly a huge thank you goes out to every single pupil of St Peter's, including those who left last summer. Without the children's commitment to learning and abiding by the schools' spiritual and cultural ethos, we would probably never have made it, in fact we would not have made it ....

That's a Fact !

The Ofsted Inspector's comments were extremely heartwarming and gives us the motivation to drive on and further develop St Peter's school in to the BEST Primary School that Darwen can offer.



**We Did It ~  
GOOD - Ofsted 2014**

Following the previous (2012) inspection, we gave ourselves the target of achieving an Overall Effectiveness of Good when the inspectors would next visit our school in 18months.

The strategy we set ourselves in order to meet this subsequent

inspection was extremely challenging to say the least, it meant that a great deal of hard work had to be undertaken; both behind the scenes as Governors and within the school and classrooms. This resulted in us making some difficult decisions along the way. But by appointing and entrusting in an excellent leader and head-teacher, Mrs Weddle and her team have worked extremely hard in this short space of time. Initially identifying areas for improvement and implementing much needed resources, trust, openness, honesty and delivered commitment throughout school. Targeting key areas such as; the quality of teaching, general pupils attainment levels across all years, behaviour issues and as Governors we needed to be able to monitor and track these attainment levels and be able to challenge and ask questions. Thank You, The Governors.

### School Leavers

In the coming weeks we will be saying a fond farewell to our Yr6 pupils as they take the next step in their educational journey. We would like to thank those pupils and parents/carers for their commitment toward learning and sharing our core values throughout the years and hope that they have achieved their best, laying a firm

educational foundation for their inception in to secondary school.

We also say farewell to key members of our staff and support staff this summer; Mrs Whitney and Mrs Walsh both of whom are retiring and Mr Braithwaite, Mrs Whittaker, Mr Stanton and Mrs Riley who are moving onto new and exciting

challenges..

These members, together with the Yr6 pupils should be proud of their achievements (however great or small) with regard to assisting in our GOOD Ofsted rating.

We thank them for all their hard work and wish them the very best for the future.

# Welcome New Governors



Welcome to our  
New Parent  
Governors

As we wrote in our last issue, we were seeking to recruit two new parent governors to fill the duties of our outgoing governors. You will be aware that three candidates came forward and we had to go to a parent poll to elect. All three applicants were extremely good but unfortunately we only had the two vacancies.

We welcome the successful new parent governors Laura Duncan and Tracy Moynihan to the team and wish them well

for the forthcoming years and value their input and commitment as we aim to jointly raise the standards together with the head-teacher and the staff within St Peter's.

Both candidates will bring essential skills and support to the governing body with their financial, problem solving and strategic directional skills which was demonstrated within their self appraisal for election.

The Governing Body of St Peter's welcomes you both.

## Staff Changes

The Governors are delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Beccy Uttley as our Acting Deputy Headteacher from this half term.

Continuing in the role as Special Needs Co-ordinator, Mrs Uttley will also take on a greater management role within the school, providing support with Mrs Weddle in the overall management of the school.

We have every confidence in Mrs Uttley who has stood up to the challenge and wish her well in this next chapter of her career.

## What's Been Our Focus?

This issue provides you with an insight into what we have been focused on since our previous Ofsted Inspection (Oct-12). The report back then was initially difficult to accept by the senior leaders and governing body, however it did prompt us to rise to the challenge and this has spurred us on and will continue to do so following this inspection.

We have a new dedicated team focused on the key areas for improvements in order to address the recommendations.

We focused on one of the main key areas (identified in our main news story on Page 1) requiring the school management team to improve monitoring and tracking systems, to develop and improve our pupils progress and overall achievement levels.

The focus group we set up was

within our Curriculum sub-committee entitled "Data". To be able to provide continuous improvement across the whole school, the governors had to initially understand how data and the general collection and meaning of how it works, identifying and questioning vast numbers of data. We meet every half and mid term to review (anonymously) each and every pupils progress, levels of attainment and the improvements are evident. This focus is seen as key to the future development.

Over the last 18months the governors have dedicated many hours of our time to learn and understand how the school pupil tracking systems work (pupil progress and level achievements), enabling us to appropriately challenge and question for the benefit of the school and ultimately

our pupils. The school is measured on results and achievements at Key Stage 1&2, however we have five other years to consider and we aim to achieve a more consistent level of progress across the lower and mid years as well. We are now more confident in understanding the data and have the knowledge and ability to question as to whether those pupils who are seen as either 'on track' or achieving above are still being challenged to improve beyond their levels of achievement. We can assure you that every child is taught to achieve their best & more and we hope that you will see these results when meeting with their class teacher. We also assess how pupil premium money is expended and how appropriate resources, interventions and support services impact on each individual pupil.

*"Governors have taken the judgement in the previous inspection very seriously. They have worked hard to successfully improve their own performance and consequently contributed significantly to the school's success"*

*- Ofsted Jun-14*



Happy  
Summer  
Holidays

## A Closing Note .....

We hope that this second issue has once again proved to be informative for you the reader, as we continue to close the communication links with you.

It leaves us to wish you and your families an enjoyable and safe summer holidays and we very much look forward to seeing you in September.

Happy Holidays,  
The Board of Governors

## Leaving Us ...

Alex Whittaker one of our foundation governors and a valued member is moving on to pastures new. We thank Alex for her commitment, dedication and input over the past 3yrs. We wish Alex and her family best wishes & good luck for the future, as they move across the Pennines.