



# St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

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1<sup>st</sup> July 2016

Dear Parents,

This is to let you know about some staff changes that will be happening in September and our staffing for the next academic year.

At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to two much valued and long-serving members of staff. **Mrs Marylyn de Haas** has been a teaching assistant here since 1994 at a time when her own children were at the school. She has shown such dedication to the children and puts in so many extra hours to ensure that the children receive the best education and care. Many of you will be unaware that she is always in school by 7.30, helping to prepare the classroom for the children and organising everything meticulously so that the children can start work straightaway. She is well known for her rigorous approach to hearing the children read and learn their phonics and many generations of children have her to thank for their strong reading skills. As well as her classroom work, Mrs de Haas is one of our senior First-Aiders and has comforted and treated many children over the years. She has also been our chapel sacristan for many years, which involves looking after and cleaning the chapel, preparing for Mass and other liturgies, washing the altar linen and other vestments and maintaining the sanctity of the chapel.

**Mrs Kim Cutts** has been the cornerstone of our school since she started here in 1999. She has managed our school finances efficiently, as well as managing all the countless administrative and organisational tasks that come with a primary school. She is always in school very early in the morning, manning the phones and the office and making sure that the school is well organised. She dealt with the complex process of converting the school to academy status and even found the time to design and manage the rebuilding of the school office and manage the introduction of the hot school meals. She has supervised and supported many other members of staff both here and in other schools and has always been there as a fount of knowledge and advice whenever needed by anyone. Numerous parents and children will have very fond memories of her kindness and she has always done this with a smile and a kind word. Mrs Cutts has been the face of our school for a long time and she will be very hard to replace.

Both members of staff will be sorely missed and we wish them all the best in the next stages of their lives. We will be thanking them formally at our Leavers' Mass on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 10am at St Joseph's Church – you are warmly invited to attend.

## Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants for 2016-17

	Class Teacher	Teaching Assistants
<b>Reception</b>	Mrs Evans	Mrs Dunning (am), Mrs Brown (pm)
<b>Year 1</b>	Miss Barlow	Mrs Elliott
<b>Year 2</b>	Miss Chandler	Ms Rogers, Mrs Brown (am)
<b>Year 3</b>	Mrs Chase	Mrs Smith, Ms McDonald
<b>Year 4</b>	Mr Dennis	Ms Smith
<b>Year 5</b>	Mrs Berry	Mrs Wilkins
<b>Year 6</b>	Miss Lambourne and Mr Brown	

Please note that as Year 6 will be having 2 teachers, they will not have an allocated teaching assistant.

We will also be bidding farewell to some of our governors at the end of this term.

**Mrs Rose Bruce**, our Chair of Governors, has been a governor for more than 20 years and has dedicated much time and effort into supporting and moving the school forward. She visits the school unfailingly at least once a week and is always on hand for advice and support. She has also been a valuable link between the school and the parish, helping us to maintain the Catholic nature of the school. Mrs Bruce has brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to the role, as well as being a friendly face to all the staff and she will be greatly missed.

**Mr Dick Holton** has been a governor for 12 years and for much of that time has been the Chair of the Finance Committee. He has helped the school manage its finances effectively and his business skills have been invaluable. He has also taken the lead in various building projects, including the swimming pool area, the new front entrance and most recently the refurbishment of the chapel.

**Mr Vern Palmer** has been a constant presence in school for the past few years, taking on the important role of Health and Safety and Attendance Governor. He has put into place procedures around car parking which have really improved safety around the school gates and regularly carries out all our legal Health and Safety checks. He also keeps a weekly check on attendance and meets with parents to discuss any issues. Both Mr Palmer and Mr Holton are former pupils of the school and it has been wonderful link to the past having them both as governors.

**Mrs Jane Brennan** and **Mrs Marta Lazek-Mazur** have given a lot of their time to serve on the Governing Body and have contributed in many ways to the life of the school.

We offer our grateful thanks to all these governors for giving so freely of their time to help make our school a better place.

Foundation Governors are appointed by the Bishop to support the Catholic nature of the school and must be practising Catholics known to the Parish Priest. If anyone is interested in finding out more about the role, please come and speak to me.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Lobo