



**St Philip Westbrook**  
**C of E Aided Primary School**

**St Philip's Centre**  
**District Centre**  
**Westbrook**  
**Warrington**  
**WA5 8UE**

**Mrs J Wightman**  
**Headteacher**

**Tel: 01925 445391**

12<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last time I wrote to you was regarding the Great Sankey High School Admissions Consultation and I just want to say again how fantastic it is that the outcome has been the right one. Well done to all who wrote a letter of objection and what a great example to our children in perseverance!

Moving on, I now have an opportunity to update you on what the Governing Body has been doing recently, and some other school news, as it has been a very busy time.

SIAMS Inspection and SEN Audit

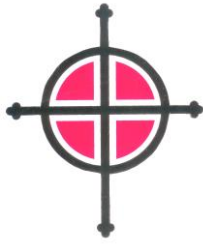
Our school has just had an interim visit from a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspector and I would like to thank the head teacher and staff for all their hard work and dedication to achieve a fantastic result. Just a few days later, an external inspection of the SEN (Special Educational Needs) provision at school was undertaken and the school was highly commended once more. The Inspectors particularly noted that the school environment was calm, clean and tidy and conducive to learning. Our thanks again extend to the staff and head teacher, and what great news to know that the newly refurbished interior of the school makes for an ideal learning environment.

Diversity and equality of opportunity

As you may already know the school has a duty to promote diversity and equality and so a fellow Governor and I attended a recent 'Respect' assembly to see how this was being addressed at the school. The assembly talked about all the different family types and promoted mutual respect for others, regardless of differences. The children behaved very well during discussions, took part keenly and agreed that the main part of being a family is respect and love for one another.

PE Sports Funding

Every year school is allotted funds for sports and the Governing Body must ensure that these funds are being used to best effect by the school, which now uses external sports coaches and a dance teacher for all the year groups, paid for by these funds. Just last week three governors, myself included, carried out further lesson observations and gave our feed back to the Head Teacher. The children were clearly enjoying their sports learning and developing confidence in the tasks they were being set. We observed Year 1 gymnastics, and the children were enjoying the task of learning different rolls and ably told us what they were called e.g. teddy bear rolls. We then observed a Reception PE lesson in the hall



**St Philip Westbrook**  
**C of E Aided Primary School**

**St Philip's Centre**  
**District Centre**  
**Westbrook**  
**Warrington**  
**WA5 8UE**

**Mrs J Wightman**  
**Headteacher**

**Tel: 01925 445391**

and children were learning new skills using apparatus. We saw some great jumping from benches and lots of huge smiles! It was clear that the sports coach had the children engaged, busy and learning new skills. When the children showed apprehension, they were well supported by the staff and by overcoming any reluctance they visibly gained confidence, and with it, enjoyment too. Further details on Sports Funding can be found here: <http://stphilipwestbrook.co.uk/curriculum/pe-sports-premium/>

#### Pupil Premium

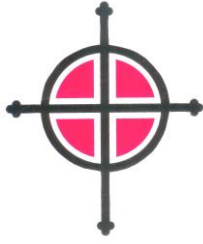
Pupil Premium is a separate funding stream at school to be used solely for the educational benefit of children eligible and registered for free school meals at any time during the last 6 years, or looked after children and pupils with a parent in the Armed Forces. The current and historical Pupil Premium strategy is available on the school website should you wish to have further details: <http://stphilipwestbrook.co.uk/parent-information/pupil-premium/>

A group of three governors and I carried out a full review of the Pupil Premium funds spending at school and its impact. This involved anonymous examples and detailed analysis of outcomes with the Pupil Premium leader to look at the strategies being used and the impact of them on the children's progress. As a group we concluded that it is clear and evident that the school is using this funding stream wisely to help the children educationally, and is also looking at the wellbeing of the whole child, with a focus on confidence and self-esteem. The strategy also includes improved communication links with parents and carers and better engagement. We have agreed to review this again during the summer term.

#### Writing Assessments

The Governing Body Curriculum Committee has recently carried out anonymous book assessments for each year group, looking at work of different levels of achievement and four lesson observations have also been undertaken. This was to look at strategies the school is using to improve attainment in writing.

The sessions have been very valuable and we are now aware of the issues that hinder learning and efforts being made to overcome them. With the introduction of more stringent grammar expectations from the National Curriculum, teaching staff are working very hard to assist the pupils with their learning and there is now a culture of independence being fostered with the children, using their own dictionaries, word mats and spelling guides to achieve their targets, to name but a few. The Governing Body Curriculum Committee received training as to what the grammar expectations now are and we have asked that the school produces guidance for parents on this moving forward, as some of the terminology is perhaps unfamiliar to many, and we hope this will be useful.



**St Philip Westbrook**  
**C of E Aided Primary School**

**St Philip's Centre**  
**District Centre**  
**Westbrook**  
**Warrington**  
**WA5 8UE**

**Mrs J Wightman**  
**Headteacher**

**Tel: 01925 445391**

Overall, we are very satisfied that the resources are sufficient to help our children in their learning goals.

New Governor

We have a new member to our Governing Body – Mrs Linda Hollywood. I have worked with Linda before in a commercial setting so I know that she will be a valuable and conscientious member of the board. I offer my thanks to Linda to committing her time to this busy role.

Playground

The playground scheme is now agreed and the work is being undertaken in two stages. The school have consulted with the children to find out exactly what the pupils want and we hope this investment will be enjoyed by all of the children. Thank you to everybody who has fundraised to achieve the goal of financing this, it has taken some time to get to this point as the costs of playground works are substantial. I will update again with further details when I can.

A few parents have asked that school remind parents about parking. There is absolutely no agreement with school that the disabled bays outside the cinema can be used at drop off and pick up. It has been reported to us that disabled drivers have been unable to park there as parents from the school had taken the places. Can you please, and with immediate effect, kindly refrain from using these spaces unless you are registered disabled or have a disabled passenger, thank you.

On a final and more positive note, as a frequent visitor to school I want to share with you again how well behaved the children at school are, each and every time I visit. Every external visitor I meet at school and share meetings with always make comment on the behaviour standards at school, the manners of the children and the calmness of the surroundings. A testament to the children and staff.

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter.

Kate Strickland-Wright  
Chair of Governors