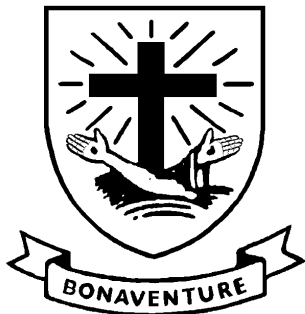


GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

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*"Striving to be the best
we can guided by the
light of Christ"*

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter!

We hope you have all been enjoying the wonderful Christmas activities that have been ongoing at the School over the past few weeks. The Foundation and KS1 nativity plays were a huge success, with the effort and dedication of the children and their teachers obvious from the wonderful performances. The KS2 Carols were well attended, and a huge thanks must be extended to the PTFA for running the Christmas Fair so smoothly. A particular thank you to Father Christmas for dropping in during such a busy time of year – clearly he knows our children very well indeed!

Introduction from our new Chair

It was a huge honour and pleasure to have been elected as the new Chair of the Governors of St Bonaventure's School. As well as having been a Governor for some time, I have a long association with the School – with 4 boys having attended the School, 2 of whom are still at St Bon's, I know it well! I look forward to taking on the role from Eddie Romero, to whom we all owe a big debt of thanks. Eddie has served as Chair for 5 years, during which the School has been transformed into a modern, purpose built School with outstanding facilities that benefit the children enormously.

There are a couple of other new faces who have joined the Governor ranks this term. We have appointed Krzysztof Inorowicz as an associate member of our governing body. Krzysztof, who is Polish, has a wealth of experience in cross-borders legal matters and finance and will sit on our Finance Premises and Health & Safety Committee, where he will provide invaluable support.

Alexandra Casley has joined us as the new Clerk to the Governors. Alex has 14 years' experience in charity law and governance, and is familiar with St Bon's as she has 2 daughters at the School. Alex is your first point of contact for all queries to the Governors so please feel free to contact her on the email address on page 4.

As well as arrivals, there are a few departures to note. Caroline Evans has stood down as Clerk after 5 years in the role – we are very grateful for her unending support over that time and wish her all the best in her new role in assisting Fr Tom.

Sarah Paul and Kevin Molloy have stood down from the Governing Body, and Gavin Sanders has stepped down as an associate member – again, we would like to thank them for their hard work and support over the past few years.

Elections for parent governors will be coming up in Spring 2017 – we will provide more details at the relevant time, but if you are interested in taking on the role then please speak to any of the current Governors, who would be delighted to tell you more about what it entails.

Jacob Preisner, Chair of Governors

Re-development of St Bonaventure's

As you will have seen in recent weeks the builders have returned to St Bon's despite us telling you we had finished! We always had in mind we would create the St Francis Garden but could only do so once we knew the position of the overall budget. With that position clear and with the generous support of our PTFA, we pressed ahead with our ideas.

Work is now complete on our reflective garden, which will only enhance the outside space our children benefit from. Over the years we will see this grow into something quite spectacular. The addition of the 'Brunel Bridge' not only enhances the children's play experiences it makes a bold statement at our entrance.

Bringing creativity into the planning of our outside space, through a partnership with Secret Garden, will only enhance our outside space. We hope this relationship can continue into the future and more of our ideas come to fruition. It is our ambition to use our outside space the fullest extent in developing a challenging but ultimately rewarding curriculum.

If you would like to help in fund raising you can do so by joining St Bonaventure's Future Lottery (formerly the 200 Club). For more details about this please follow this link <http://www.st-bonaventures.bristol.sch.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/4920-future-lottery-at-st-bon-s-is-launched.html>

If parents have thoughts and ideas about what else could be done, please contact me via the Clerk on the email address on page 4 below.

Jonathan Rogers, Vice-chair of Governors

*"Christmas is joy,
religious joy, an
inner joy of light
and peace"
Pope Francis*

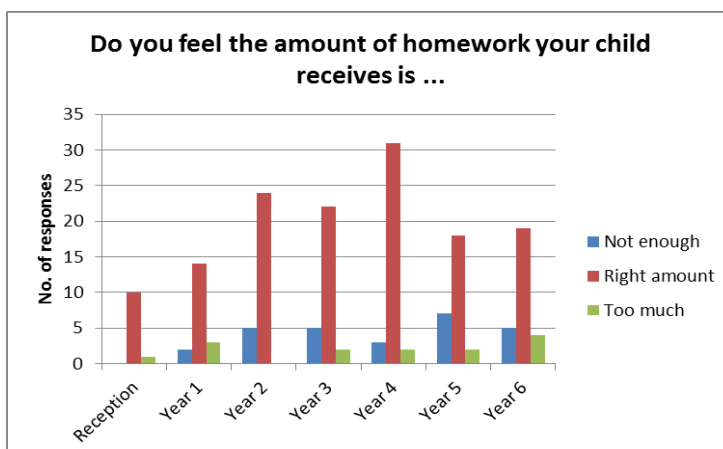
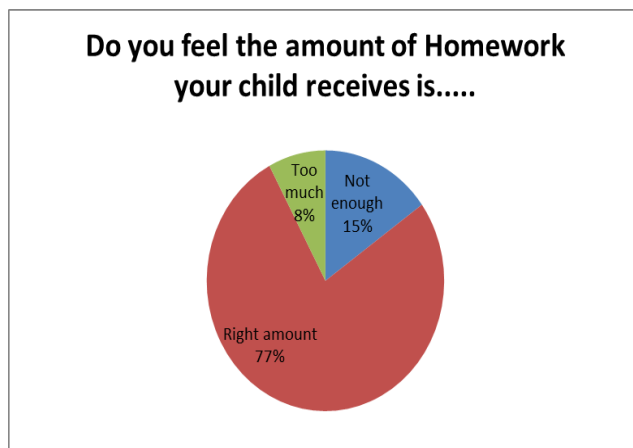
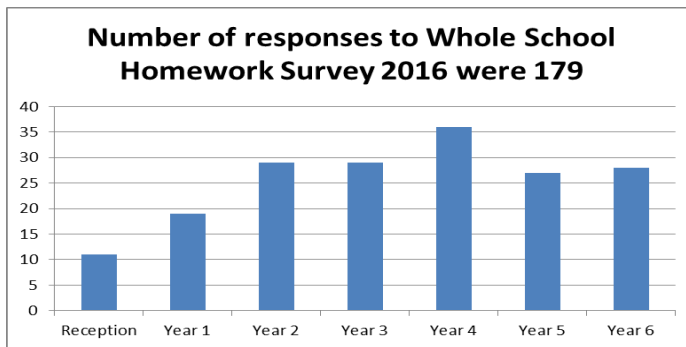


The St Francis Garden mosaic under construction

Homework Survey

St Bonaventure's Governing Body decided to carry out a survey on homework during Parents' Evenings in October 2016. The aim was to understand from parents/ carers: a. how long children spent doing their homework and b. how parents felt about the time their children spent. The results and comments are shown on the following pages. Many thanks to all those parents and carers who took time to complete the survey and for your comments.

There were 179 responses to the survey. 77% of parents/ carers felt that children were set the right amount of homework, 8% felt there was too much homework and 15% felt there was not enough.



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”

Isaiah 9:6

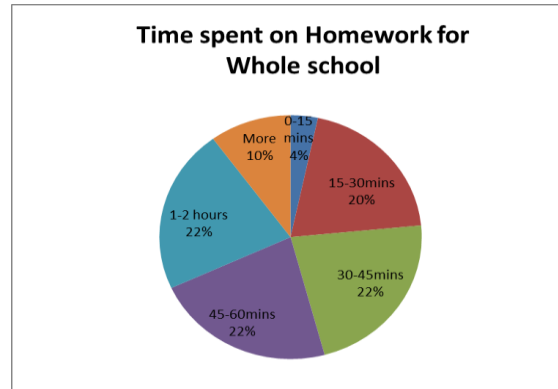
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Some of the comments received from Parents/ Carers:-

- Necessary given expectations and constraints (SATs) but too much in an ideal world.
- Right amount but no good if given for next day or Friday for Monday - need more time.
- The homework he receives for maths and reading doesn't seem to stretch him at all. He races through them easily.
- Please can we have more extension activities as our daughter likes to be challenged.
- Daughter struggles so we spend longer.
- We support the idea that year 2 reading and spelling is spread over a week - to do something every evening is a stretch.
- Good amount always reading to do!
- Good for reinforcing work carried out in class.

Improvement Actions

1. Teachers will give sufficient notice for homework to allow adequate time for it to be completed.
2. If parents/carers feel that their child is working for longer than the recommended time for their year group please discuss this with your teacher. (Check the recommended time with your teacher or in the homework policy which can be found on the school website.)
3. Teachers to provide on class pages links to websites that reinforce skills learnt in class.

And finally ...

- Just enough room to say thank you to all our wonderful staff, fantastic pupils and brilliant parents and carers for all your support and hard work this term. You are all amazing and we are incredibly proud to be part of this School. Have a wonderful Christmas!
- As always, do feel free to let us have your ideas for areas you'd like us to cover in the future by contacting our Clerk.