

# Governor Newsletter

## SIR JOHN BARROW SCHOOL

April 2018

### Music Mark Achievement

This term we received a visit from the Cumbria Music Hub who completed a MIDAS (Music Improvement, Development and Support) review. This review enabled the school to identify our musical strengths whilst also giving the school some clear areas for development.

As a result of taking part in the MIDAS review, we are now members of the Music Mark. The benefits of having a Music Mark membership include;



- Recognition that music is valued within our school. This recognition from your national subject association for music can contribute to the Ofsted requirement of a broad and balanced curriculum
- Partnership working with the music service/ music education hub
- Access to exclusive resources created by Music Mark for schools. This will include both practical resources and highlights from the latest research.

Congratulations to Miss Stuart whose hard work has enabled this award.

### New Parent Governor

We are pleased to announce and welcome aboard Hannah Clarke to the Governing Body. Hannah is a parent to two children at SJB. She is employed by Cumbria County Council as a Community Services Officer and works with the libraries and archives services across South Lakeland.



## Wider Curriculum at SJB

We know that our pupils are well supported in reading, writing and maths. The Ofsted inspection confirmed that a higher percentage than the national average leave school at the expected standard for these subjects. However, while the inspection found a broad and exciting curriculum planned at SJB for the other subjects, it highlighted ways in which we could improve how this is delivered. We have been turning our attention to this over the last term.

The SJB blog shows the wide range of activities which pupils have access to at SJB - we have been looking at how the school plans its teaching to make sure activities are built in to annual provision so that pupils receive a balanced range of opportunities across the whole school.

We have planned visits to school this term to monitor the science provision across the school, and will be asking pupils about how they enjoy their science lessons.

We have been looking carefully at Sport Provision at SJB to ensure that there are plenty of opportunities for children to compete locally, but also to make sure that those who are less inclined to competition still have plenty in the PE curriculum to inspire them.

Our routine monitoring of all subjects carries on as normal, looking at continuity and consistency in all subjects. We will be checking that all subjects are given sufficient time in school, and that subject leaders have access to the resources they need to really drive their part of the curriculum.

In all of this, we are constantly balancing the financial implications of our decisions since Education Funding nationally is under extreme pressure, SJB being no exception. We are committed to ensuring the absolute best value for money in giving our pupils as rich and exciting an experience of school as we possibly can.

## NGA Conference : Manchester

The Governing Body made a special trip to Manchester last term to attend the Regional National Governance Association Conference.

The conference focussed on current topics facing schools. This was an excellent opportunity to get together in a less formal manner and meet other Governors from our neighbouring counties.



## New Term

We hope everyone has had a great Easter Break and are all ready for the summer term! As always, it will no doubt be a busy one!

