



GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Our Amazing Headteacher is retiring!

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,



I am sure that by now you have heard that Mrs Jay, our trusted Headteacher for 18 years, will be leaving us at the end of this Summer Term.

We ask that you join us in saying a huge thank you to her for her outstanding period of leadership and for all the wonderful achievements she has overseen in her time as head of our school.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mrs Jay as a teacher, leader and now governor, and have experienced first-hand, her expertise in school leadership as well as her development of future leaders.

It has been a pleasure seeing someone so passionate and professional lead the school and it's clear that her dedication had a hugely positive impact on all the children, staff and the local community. She will be greatly missed.

Her dedication knows no bounds, as she has ensured that after she leaves, the school will be left in the capable hands of Mrs Butcher and the core leadership team – thank you! We wish her all the best for the next chapter.

Lawrence Desouza
(Chair of Governors)



Farewell to another long-standing face at SMAB!

This term, we also bid farewell to Mrs Jean Jakobson, who has been an invaluable part of the school governing body for an incredible 20 years! She has been a source of constant support for Mrs Jay and other governors as an ex-headteacher herself, and her specialist understanding of school contexts as well as her passion for education will be missed by us all.



On behalf of the whole school community, thank you for your dedication to SMAB and we wish you all the best for the future.

Lawrence De Souza (Chair of Governors)

Message from Mrs Jakobson—Vice Chair

I first met Maria Jay when she presented herself for interview at St. Michael at Bowes for the post of headteacher.

I recognised her potential immediately; she was forthright, straight-talking and confident. Throughout the trials and tribulations of running the school I have given her my full support. We all know how the school has thrived and has achieved many accolades over the years under Maria's leadership, but I should like to say that she is a born 'teacher of children' at heart. She always makes time for her pupils whenever she is needed.

Of course she could not do this alone and for many years she has had the support of her staff, particularly Mrs Butcher, her deputy. I know that SMAB is left in good hands. I have thoroughly enjoyed and valued my time at the school as a governor.



Edible Garden Update by Revd Jones-Parry - Foundation Governor

You've hopefully seen pictures in newsletters – or your child has visited – the community allotment project on Wolves Lane. Hatched as a partnership between St Cuthbert's church and the Arcadian Gardens doctors' surgery before Easter, the new allotment came at just the right time for all the work SMAB classes have put into creating edible gardens. It's been brilliant to see regular class groups coming up to dig and fill raised beds, to plant and water, and even to be interviewed for BBC Radio 4!



The hope is that the SMAB area of the allotment will be a great resource for the school (helping with food education as well as the fun of growing things), and be part of blessing and bringing together a range of local community groups.

