



St Michael's C of E Primary School

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Governor Newsletter July 2018

Dear Parents and carers

As we come to the end of this academic year, the governing body of St Michael's Primary School is able to look back on a very eventful, fulfilling year. We, as governors, are responsible for monitoring all aspects of school performance and we are delighted to report that good attendance has continued and is recorded at 96.8%. The school has undertaken many exciting projects, as always, and children, staff and friends have worked together to learn new skills, care for each other and enjoy their time in school. Children have experienced varied activities, including day and residential trips, many exciting class topics, sporting events and art projects. This year has seen the installation of our stone sculpture, blessed by Father Malcolm, the Rainbow Bears Forest School established and a very successful year of co-headship.

Staffing

Governors review staffing structures, oversee staff appointments and are involved with Performance Management with the Head Teacher. We have close links with the staff at school. This year, Mrs Peachey returned from maternity leave and she and Mrs Halls have been sharing the year 4 teaching. The school has supported apprentice teaching assistants and students, while maintaining a strong, enthusiastic staff team. At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Rule, who will be retiring. She has been a highly valued friend and colleague at St Michael's for many years and will be greatly missed. Mrs Halls will leave us to begin a full time teaching post in September. Apprentices Kelly Lockwood and Katie Hale have completed their training and will be moving on. Governors would like to thank them all for their hard work and wish them well in the future.

As you will be aware, Mr Vye is retiring and will be looking forward to a restful future, enjoying life with his growing family, after thirteen years at St Michael's. He has given the school and the governing body valued guidance and direction over the years and we have been very fortunate to have him as our Head Teacher. Governors would like to join with the whole school community in thanking him for his hard work and commitment and wish him much happiness in the future. There will be staffing changes as we begin the new academic year. Mrs Robson is now our permanent Head Teacher and Miss Paine is our Deputy Head Teacher. This will ensure consistency for the school; governors are delighted with these appointments and wish them well in the new term. We welcome Amy Marriott, year 2 teacher, as well as new apprentices and two new teaching assistants. The team at St Michael's work tirelessly, to provide challenging learning opportunities, to give support where necessary and to ensure a safe and secure learning environment in school. Governors would like to extend their thanks to all staff for their hard work and commitment over the year.

Premises

Governors are committed to enabling school improvements, with funding coming from a range of sources; the school budget allocation, fundraising and grants. The pre-school setting, Rainbow Bears, has been converted very successfully and their numbers are growing. The KS1 play area is being developed, with a new climbing structure and play surface already installed. Links with WCC are still strong. The field is beautifully maintained and the facilities on site are used for school events as well as by the cricket club. Dolce, the new school catering company has completed a successful year, with few problems reported. Numbers of children having school meals have been maintained and the online booking system has proved to be simple and convenient for parents and carers.

The School Community

Governors would like to thank our PTA, a very small number of parents this year, who have worked so hard to raise funds for the benefit of the children. It is not always an easy task to recruit help and run successful events, but the team have achieved this. School clubs continue to grow. Breakfast club is very well attended, sports clubs are thriving, both after school and at lunchtimes, and children frequently attend events out of school hours. It is hoped that the school premises will be used by a sports company to run holiday clubs during the Summer break. Our website is regularly updated and friends of the school can access Facebook and Twitter for our news.

The Governing Body

Our governing body is a strong team, who are proud to lead the school community. We ensure all members keep abreast of new initiatives, both nationally and within school, by attending local authority training and discussing different aspects of governance. This year, following our inspection, the structure of the governing body has seen some changes. We have established three sub-committees in line with the school's OFSTED targets, to focus our discussion and questioning

1. Maths reasoning and problem solving
2. Reading and phonics
3. Pupil Premium/vulnerable children

Committee meeting discussions ensure governors are focused on how the school is addressing targets that have been set and are flexible to recognise when they are met and when new ones are established. A fourth committee consists of Chair of Governors, Vice Chair, Head Teacher and three sub-committee chairs, where information is shared and matters arising are discussed. The Clerk to the governors attends all meetings to ensure consistency of notes. Having set up this structure before Christmas, we have run it for a number of months and feel it is working well. As well as attending meetings, governors are always invited to school events and many of us enjoy taking part and offering practical support.

Mary Burgess, who has been our clerk for many years, has recently retired from the position. She has been a loyal friend to the school and an exceptional clerk for many years. She will be missed and we would like to thank her for her hard work and for keeping us on the straight and narrow! We now welcome Michelle Galliot, our new clerk.

We thank children, parents and carers for another successful year at St Michael's Primary School. We wish you all a very pleasant Summer break and look forward to an exciting new academic year.

Governor	Role
Mr Peter Hitchman (Chair)	LA Governor
Mrs Jacqui Bath (Vice Chair)	Community Governor
Rev Jean Capstick	Foundation Governor
Mr Eric Smith	Foundation Governor
Mrs Yvonne Andow	Foundation Governor
Mrs Sarah Collett	Parent Governor
Mrs Beth Campbell	Parent Governor
Mrs Julia Moss	Parent Governor
Mr Matt Nolan	Parent Governor
Mr Laurence Clee	Staff Governor
Mrs Les Graty	Associate Governor
Mr Jonathan Haddrell	Community Governor
Michelle Galliot	Clerk to the Governing Body