



St Michael's C of E Primary School

Learn · Care · Enjoy

Enjoy the Present, Educate for the Future, Inspire with Love

Governor Newsletter December 2019

Dear Parents and carers

We are approaching the end of the term, and we would like to reflect on the many experiences, events and successes at St Michael's Primary School. The governing body is responsible for monitoring all aspects of school performance and we are delighted to report that attendance during the last academic year is above the national average. Despite this attendance record, the Governing Body would like to highlight the importance of attendance in particular with respect to the rise in requests for holidays in term time and the number of broken weeks, where children are missing days at the beginning or end of the week.

Children continue to work and play hard, learning new and exciting things and making good contributions to the life of the school. During the last academic year, they have experienced varied activities; trips, special days including Faith, Grandparents and Enrichment Days, and many exciting class topics, all creating valuable learning opportunities and memories to treasure.

The Governors are pleased to see that the hard work of the School has been recognised in the outcome of the Church Inspection, where the school was judged as Excellent, the highest grade possible., recognising the work of the school and the church to create a dynamic learning community which lives out its vision enabling all to flourish.

Staffing

Governors review staffing structures, oversee staff appointments and are involved with Performance Management with the head teacher. The last academic year has seen some changes to our staffing. St Michael's saw two staff babies, congratulations to Mrs Duncan and Mrs Peachey. The school has welcomed students, new teachers and teaching assistants, all adding to the effectiveness of our well established, successful staff team.

Staff continue to work tirelessly, led by Mrs Robson and the Senior Leadership Team, to provide challenging learning opportunities, support where necessary and a safe and secure learning environment. Governors would like to extend their thanks to all staff for their hard work and commitment.

Premises

Governors are committed to enabling school improvements with funding coming from a range of sources; the school budget allocation, fundraising and grants. We can report that several projects have recently been undertaken, including the new entrance which adds another level of security to the school, the PE store has been turned into a teaching area, a new garage door, and a dedicated work station area in the staff room. We have also updated the whole school lighting system, which will decrease our electricity costs over the coming years and will also benefit the environment.

The School Community

Governors recognise the importance of our strong PTA. The committee and their team have worked hard to run events that will raise funds to support the school. Governors thank them wholeheartedly.

We endorse the provision of extended hours activities in school and this year has seen school clubs continue to grow. Breakfast club is well attended, sports clubs are thriving, both after school and at lunchtimes and children frequently attend events out of school hours. Our website is regularly updated and friends of the school can access Facebook and Twitter for our news.

Special Education Needs

The Governor with responsibility for Special Education Needs meets regularly with the schools Special Education Needs Coordinator to review the varied support the school offers.

During the academic year 2018/2019, provision was made for children needing help in mathematics, reading, spelling and speech and language development.

It became clear that all children need to develop resilience in their learning, their play and their relationships. To this end, a new scheme of work for personal, social and health education, called 'Jigsaw' was introduced and is reported to be working well in all classes. Linked closely to this programme of study is emotional literacy support, which offers counselling activities and practical strategies for children who can feel overwhelmed at times. Yoga has been available to promote calm and relaxation and behaviour and play therapy have continued.

Year 6 pupils again created their transfer passports, which moved with them to their new secondary schools and provided information about their learning.

This academic year, there are two new teaching areas for SEN, where children can receive group or 1-1 support without distraction.

The governing body would like to thank the SENCO and all the staff for their hard work and commitment to supporting children with special educational needs and their part in the excellent progress those children make.

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. We have three sub-committees in line with the school's OFSTED targets, to focus our discussion and questioning:

1. Resilience and Community
2. English
3. Maths

Committee meeting discussion 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.

As well as attending meetings, governors are always invited to school events and many of us enjoy taking part and offering practical support.

We would like to thank children, parents and carers for another successful year at St Michael's Primary School.
We wish you all a very pleasant Christmas break.

Governor	Role
Mr Peter Hitchman (Chair)	LA Governor
Mrs Jacqui Bath (Vice Chair)	Co-Opted Governor
Mr Adrian Vye	Associate 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	Co-Opted Governor
Mrs Helen Fogg	Clerk to the Governing Body