



# St Michael's C of E Primary School

*Learn • Care • Enjoy*

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

## **Governor Newsletter January 2021**

Dear Parents and carers

Who could have predicted events during the last year at St Michael's Primary School? A global pandemic, three national lockdowns, two of which meant that school closed for most children and changes to everyday life that we never imagined would happen. But throughout it all, the team at St Michael's has kept the curriculum going, supported learning at all levels and provided a safe and reassuring place for children, staff and parents. The governing body is responsible for monitoring all aspects of school performance and even though we haven't been able to interact in our usual ways, we have held our committee meetings online and we continue to keep abreast of everything that is happening in school. We are incredibly proud of all the staff and children, who have worked within guidelines and kept each other safe. Children have continued to learn new and exciting things and made good contributions to the life of the school. Even though assemblies now look very different, their efforts have been celebrated and rewarded, as always.

During lockdown, the workload for Mrs Robson and the staff team has been immense; planning rotas for teaching children in school, preparing and delivering classroom and remote learning for each class group, feeding back to pupils as well as supporting well-being and attendance. Our thanks go to everyone for their commitment and extremely hard efforts during the past months and those to come.

### **Staffing**

Governors are responsible for the review of staffing and new appointments and are involved with Performance Management with the head teacher. Meetings with subject leaders have been postponed for now, but will continue when usual procedures recommence. The school has welcomed student apprentices, new teachers and teaching assistants, all adding to the effectiveness of our workforce.

### **Premises**

Governors are committed to enabling school improvements with funding coming from a range of sources; the school budget allocation, fundraising and grants. The last year has seen the installation of a new boiler and replacement of the pipework in the main building, the construction of fencing around distinct outdoor areas and the ongoing development and maintenance of the school site. Two new interactive whiteboards have been installed and the building of the new conservatory and additional doorway for Reception will soon be underway.

## **The School Community**

Governors value the importance of our strong PTA. The team has worked hard all year, as always, to raise funds for the school, despite not being able to plan events on site, they have come up with innovative ideas for events and activities. We thank them for their continued efforts.

The school website is regularly updated and our news is available on Facebook. The pandemic has impacted on extended hours provision at St Michael's and alongside the senior leadership team, governors continue to monitor and review this situation.

## **Special Education Needs**

The Governor with responsibility for Special Education Needs meets regularly with the school's Special Education Needs Coordinator to review the varied support the school offers. This year's review has been completed via email.

Managing SEN is a huge undertaking and the last few months have been additionally challenging for the school's SEN coordinator and staff. Governors can report that support has continued to be delivered in school and remotely. Behaviour Support and Speech Therapy services have continued, intervention activities are being accessed and enjoyed by children and differentiated teaching has been provided throughout.

There are several new screening and monitoring programmes that the school has adopted, to ensure SEN resources and support are well-targeted and tracked.

The roll out of the SRE curriculum will happen in term 5 this year.

Staff have received training which supports management of children's feelings and emotions. It is designed to get children noticing their feelings and talking about them. Teachers have begun to put it into practice and can make it work for groups or whole classes. It seems that it is now more important than ever, to ensure children's well-being is supported, as well as their academic progress.

The governing body would like to thank the SENCO and all the staff for their commitment to supporting SEN and their hard work ensuring continued progress with those children.

## **The Governing Body**

Our governing body is a strong, well-established 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, training has moved online, as have all our meetings, but we have continued to support Mrs Robson and the team.

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 discussions ensure governors ask pertinent questions and are focused on how the school is addressing targets that have been set. They are then able 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.

We would like to thank children, staff, parents and carers for understanding the challenges faced this year and playing their part in the successes at St Michael's Primary School.

<b>Governor</b>	<b>Role</b>
Peter Hitchman (Chair)	LA Governor
Jacqui Bath (Vice Chair)	Community Governor
Adrian Vye	Associate Governor
Eric Smith	Foundation Governor
Yvonne Andow	Foundation Governor
Sarah Collett	Parent Governor
Beth Campbell	Parent Governor
Julia Moss	Parent Governor
Matt Nolan	Parent Governor
Laurence Clee	Staff Governor
Les Graty	Associate Governor
Jane Dennis	Foundation Governor
Jonathan Haddrell	Community Governor
Helen Fogg	Clerk to the Governing Body