

22nd July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

A message from our School Governors

As we approach the end of another busy school year at St Michael's we wanted to take the time to reflect on the year and let you know about future plans for the school.

Emerging from lockdown

As governors, we have really enjoyed seeing the school adapt to a post-lockdown world. It's been great to re-start our regular monitoring visits and we have really enjoy catching up on what's going on through the regularly updated school [blog](#). We hope that you enjoy it as much as we do and that you find it useful to find out more about what is happening in school.

New governor structure

As governors we are responsible for ensuring the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategy. We also hold leaders to account and oversee school finances. At this year's Governor Strategy Day in March a new governor structure was formed to allow us to do this more effectively. To find out more about us visit the [governor section of the school website](#).

Staff and volunteers

Following on from the encouragingly positive parent survey, we are really pleased to announce that the staff survey showed equally positive results. We particularly liked the following comments which capture some of the reasons why St Michael's is considered to be a great place to work.

"Children are at the centre of everything we do! I feel proud to be part of an organisation which cares so much about their needs and makes bold decisions which respond to their changing needs. I would want to be a child at our school - it's a happy place!"

"The quality of education is amazing here, the teachers have an excellent subject knowledge and this is evident in any classroom you walk into throughout the school. Children are encouraged to question and discuss and are challenged when answering questions to not just give an answer but explain why."

We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Parmiter who is retiring at the end of this term. Mrs Parmiter has been with St Michael's for 24 years (10 years as a Teaching Assistant and as a governor and volunteer before that). We wish her all the best in the future and we are delighted that she has decided to continue in her role as governor.

We are really pleased that Mrs Arkwright's Consultant Headteacher role with Wiltshire Local Authority School Effectiveness Team is continuing next year and that Mr Everitt will continue in his role as Headteacher on these two days.

We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated staff team at St Michael's who ensure each and every child is supported to be the very best they can be. This year they have been amazing. They have

worked tirelessly in extremely difficult circumstances to make sure St Michael's remains a happy school full of exciting opportunities to play and learn.

Alongside our staff team we would also like to thank all those who volunteer in school. From those who help out on school trips to those who read with pupils every week, we are aware that volunteering comes in many forms and the school wouldn't be what it is without you.

Courses for teachers

As some of you might be aware, St Michael's now runs a number of courses for teachers. These courses allow us to share our best practices and learning with other schools. They also bring in vital funds which are used to enhance the learning experience for all pupils. The feedback from these courses is always excellent and it is great to hear comments like the following:

"It's just amazing to see how your school enhances young minds to expand and explore."

You can find out more about our courses on [the school website](#).

Premises news

For those of you returning to school after the summer holidays you will immediately see a big change to the school premises. We will be installing a new fence and gate with controlled access outside the front of the school. Not only will this improve the appearance of our school entrance, it will also enhance our security and ensure that we are adhering to the highest safeguarding standards.

We are also planning to add, in the near future, some much-needed indoor learning space in the form of a new wooden Outdoor Learning Centre outside the Old School Room. As pupil numbers have grown over the past few years, we have become very aware of the need for flexible spaces that can be used for a variety of things including teaching, quiet areas and meetings. The cabin has been designed to deliver all this and more and we are excited for its arrival on site. Thanks to the PTA for raising the funds to allow us to create this facility.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to those of you who are leaving us at the end of term. We wish all the Year 6s the very best in the future and we hope that they have enjoyed their time at St Michael's and that it has prepared them for their next steps.

We hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely

St Michael's School Governors