

Dear Parents/Carers,

A message from our School Governors

As we progress through the final term of this academic year we wanted to give you an update on some of the things that have been happening in school.

A lifetime love of maths at St Michael's

At a recent governor meeting we enjoyed an excellent presentation from Ben Everitt (Deputy Headteacher). He outlined the school's approach to maths in KS1 and KS2. The school use the Maths Mastery approach and select the best resources available to deliver maths teaching in the most effective way. This starts with a belief that all children can be mathematicians. 'Small steps learning' gives children a solid understanding of maths so that pupils of all ages can acquire a deep, long-term, secure and adaptable understanding of the subject.

Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)

Those of you who do school pick up will have noticed the addition of a new shed on the playground. This is to house the ever-expanding collection of play equipment for the Outdoor Play and Learning scheme.

Did you know that during the 7 years that your child is at primary school they will spend 1.4 years at play?

Play is an important part of primary school life and the OPAL Scheme is designed to ensure that teachers are working with pupils to provide outstanding play every day. Check out [the school blog](#) to see this play in action and don't forget to attend the OPAL Stay & Play session on Tuesday 4th July at 2pm.

Parent Survey results

Thank you to those of you who completed our parent survey at parent's evening. We had an excellent response with 102 parents taking the time to answer the questions.

The results show a very positive picture with highlights including:

- 97% of you saying that you would recommend St Michael's to another parent
- 97% of you agreed or strongly agreed that your child feels safe at school
- 91% agreed or strongly agreed that your child is happy at school (only 1% disagreed and 8% neither agreed or disagreed)
- 93% of you agreed or strongly agreed that your child does well at St Michael's (only 1% disagreed and 6% neither agreed or disagreed)

Our continued focus on safeguarding

We recently had a safeguarding audit carried out in school to ensure that we are meeting the standards expected of us and keeping all our children safe in school.

Keeping Children Safe in Education, the statutory guidance for schools states that all staff working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. This is adhered to across the school and all staff continue to use our CPOMS (Child Protection Online Management System) software to record all safeguarding, well-being and pastoral issues.

It was great to receive the following feedback from the Local Authority Education Safeguarding Effectiveness Team after a recent visit:

“The St Michael’s team has really focussed on this area as a priority in the last 12 months to ensure that the culture and practice is highly effective, and they should be commended for the impact this has had. Children are safe and well cared for and all members of the community say they feel valued and listened to. The child centred focus that the school has for teaching and learning extends to the culture of safeguarding and this is reflected in the happy and confident pupils’ behaviour and attitudes in the school. The staff and children should be proud of their school as it was a pleasure to visit and hear and see this in action.”

Our wonderful volunteers

We consider ourselves extremely fortunate to be part of such a fantastic local community. The wide range of learning experienced by our children is made possible by the huge number of people who help to make it happen. Recently we have had support from Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Carbon Neutral Aldbourne, Whitton Team News, Aldbourne Band, Aldbourne Nursing Home, The Aldbourne Children’s Book Group, Aldbourne Wildlife, parents sharing their professions and so much more.

Financial matters

The school continues to do wonderful things on a very tight budget. But it is clear that there are many competing demands. This means tough decisions are being made to ensure the budget is used as effectively as possible.

We are extremely grateful to our parents and the wider school community for continuing to support us when help is needed for school trips and activities in school. We are also extremely grateful to our PTA for stepping in to help fund much-needed resources like our soon-to-be-built Outdoor Learning Centre.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer,

St Michael’s School Governors