

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

In my previous letter I shared the news that Mrs Arkwright will be leaving her post as Headteacher at Easter 2026. Since then, the Governing Body has been preparing carefully for the important task of recruiting her successor.

Yesterday evening we held an **Extraordinary Full Governing Body meeting**, which marked the formal start of the recruitment process. At this meeting we agreed:

- The **key skills and qualities** we are seeking in our new Headteacher, reflecting the ethos and vision of St Michael's.
- The **role of Wiltshire Local Authority and the Diocese of Salisbury**, who will both support and advise us throughout the process to ensure it is rigorous and fair.
- The **approval of the recruitment process and timeline**, including the key milestones we will follow.

We wanted to share an overview of these milestones with you all:

- **Advert published:** mid-December 2025
- **Interested candidates invited to walk around school:** Beginning of January 2026
- **Closing date for applications:** mid-January 2026
- **Shortlisting:** end of January 2026
- **Interviews:** mid-February 2026
- **Appointment confirmed:** shortly afterwards
- **New Headteacher start date:** Easter 2026 (beginning of the summer term)

This is a significant moment for our school community. We are determined to find a leader who will build on Mrs Arkwright's wonderful legacy, continue to champion our Christian values of Honesty, Respect and Love, and inspire both staff and pupils to flourish with a lifetime love for learning.

We will keep you updated as the process unfolds and, once an appointment is made, we will write again to hopefully introduce our new Headteacher to you and the children.

Our next communication will likely be in the New Year, once the recruitment process is further underway. In the meantime, all of the governors would like to take this opportunity to wish every family a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to sharing more updates with you in 2026, and of course if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

With best wishes,



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