

# Summer Newsletter



Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of another school year, I really want to thank you all for your unremitting support. It has been a challenging year in so many ways but your support has made so much possible.

As you know, we worked very hard in both lockdowns to keep our children learning. The first caught all schools by surprise but we did our very best to upskill staff with technical know-how to provide home learning. By the second lockdown in January 2021, we had found our feet and could provide higher quality learning for all our children live, in line with children in the classroom. I recognise this was still a pressure for parents and cannot thank you enough for all that you did to support us. We will be sending home the End of Year Report for your child on Tuesday 6th July with details about how you can make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher for further information if you feel that you need to. I remain very glad that all our children have coped so well this past 16 months and particularly, that they have continued to enjoy their learning.

## Staffing Update– lots to share with you!

We had lovely news in March when Miss Brook gave birth to baby Alfie and Mrs Rush to baby Freddy; both families are well. We also have two more little bundles expected soon. Mrs Hellon will be leaving to go on Maternity leave on 18th June and Miss Edge at Christmas. Two of our teaching assistants, Mrs James and Mrs Matthews, have decided to retire in August; we will miss them both as they are absolute stars, but we know that they will have a lovely time enjoying new grandchildren and having well-deserved family time.



We originally appointed Miss Kenny to a temporary teaching post to cover Year 1, however Governors have considered the school budget moving forwards and decided that we can now appoint to the vacant teaching post left when Mrs Fasey retired in August 2020. I am very pleased that Miss Kenny has been appointed and so becomes a permanent member of staff. This appointment will enable us to once again provide a teacher in every class to cover teachers' PPA and leadership time; dependent of course on whether it is considered safe come September to mix staff between bubbles.

We then had to replace Miss Brook's Mat leave, as well as cover Miss Edge and Mrs Hellon. You will see on page 2 how we have organised our classes to minimise disruption. Miss Brook will replace Miss Edge early in December, Mrs Hellon will return at Easter. Following a rigorous interview process including observations of teaching, references and interview, we are pleased to have appointed two highly capable teachers, Miss Jordan Ratcliffe and Miss Ruth Bradley, to cover the maternity leave posts. Due to Mrs Hellon leaving us on 18th June, we needed to cover Year 6 until the end of term. The final month of Year 6 and high spirits requires a strong teacher, therefore we planned for Mr Risby to cover Year 6 with Mrs Fasey returning to cover Year 3. We have since found out that Mrs Hodgkinson will not be in school now until after the summer break.

Fortunately, the class teacher we have appointed for Year 4 from September, Miss Ratcliffe, is available now and is therefore able take up post in Year 3 from next week, thereby getting to know the class really well and ensuring an excellent start to Year 4. The two teaching assistant posts are currently being advertised.

Governors also carried out a restructure of our leadership team in the Spring term. Mrs Caulcutt has taken a three-year post with responsibility for developing our Early Years provision and leading the staff team in Nursery and Reception and is also the member of staff that you can speak to should you ever find that Mr Risby and I are both out of school at the same time (a rare occurrence). Mr Helm has steadily been taking on more aspects of our provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, a growing group in school. He has now been promoted to the post of SENDCo, a permanent role. Mrs Hellon has been promoted to further develop an aspect of our curriculum over the next two years, specifically Computing. She also has day-to-day responsibility for KS2.

As I said, lots to share! I have included my reasoning in the hopes that it reassures you about how carefully we consider every year group. It is fair to say that planning with such high levels of staff movement is no easy task! Thank you in advance for your continuing support and the trust that you place in us each and every day.

Kind regards

Melanie Barratt

Staffing for September 2021 to July 2022		
Class	Teacher/s	Teaching Assistants
Nursery	Mrs Caulcutt	Mrs Kelly Mrs Bradley
Reception	Miss Nolan	Mrs Syeda/Mrs Telford
Year 1	Miss Kenny	Miss Bagshaw
Year 2	Mrs Nicholls	Yet to be appointed
Year 3	Miss Edge/ Miss Brook	Mrs Rush
Year 4	Miss Ratcliffe	Yet to be appointed
Year 5	Miss Bradley/Mrs Hellon	Mrs Jahangir Mrs Oldfield
Year 6	Mr Helm	
PPA and Leadership Time	Mrs Hodgkinson and Mr Risby	

### Pupil and Parent Questionnaire Responses April 2021

#### % positive responses from 115 parents responses:

St Michael's provides a high standard of education	100%
Remote learning during the spring term was well managed	99.14%
Teaching staff are knowledgeable and professional	100%
I am confident that if my child has a problem, someone in school will listen and be able to help	95.6%
St Michael's is well led and managed	98.2%
My child likes school	100%
I am kept informed about events, activities and changes in school	95.7%
St Michael's has coped well with Covid	98.3%
During Covid, regular Teams assemblies and remote or in-school class learning helped my child keep in touch with school and improved (or maintained) their mental health	100%
St Michael's encourages good manners and behaviour	100%
My child knows what to do if they have a problem at school	94%
St Michael's encourages excellent attendance	100%
Children and Parents are treated with respect	99.14%
Christian values are evident at St Michael's	97.4%
My child knows how to stay safe online	85.3%
Children are taught to respect all beliefs and opinions	99.14%
My child is aware of environmental issues	94.8%
Teachers comment on my child's learning which helps them to improve	88.7%
My child has the right balance of challenge and support in their learning	97.8%
My child has good friends	94%

**In the last question, 'If someone asked me about St Michael's I would tell them...'** we were very touched by the number of highly positive responses, several of which are now posted on the school website along with what our children said in their questionnaires. Be assured however, that where concerns or points were raised, they have been taken seriously and addressed. We know that perfection, though we aim for it, is impossible to reach, and that constant improvement, including having a mind open to criticism, is vital.

**In response to the analysis above we have:** reviewed all responses and discussed comments at the Governing Board Curriculum and Pupil Welfare Committee, written to parents who expressed concerns inviting a discussion, reconsidered how we tackle eSafety to ensure that we are as thorough as possible, reviewed the Behaviour Policy to ensure that there is clarity about children with additional needs, worked with children who tell us they experience difficulties knowing how to make friends and continued to remind children that if they help with anything or have a worry they only have to speak to an adult, any adult.