



St Michael's CE Primary School

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Cultivating Respect, Persevering, and Learning with Courage

Wednesday 20th December 2023

Dear Families,

It was lovely to see so many of you at the church this morning and for sharing in this service with us. Thanks must go to the Friends of St Michael's who delivered and handed out mince pies to the children after the service.

Thank you also to Mr. Binnings for the beautiful Christmas Tree that has been standing proudly in our front entrance and to Mrs. Sharrock for the donation of Christmas decorations. The children have loved decorating school and it will certainly look different in January!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Fayre on Friday and a huge thank you also to the members of the SSA, new and old, for a phenomenal effort organising.

We look forward to sharing with you the total raised. Other SSA events this year have raised:

Spooky disco: £795

Christmas cards: £110

Tuck shop: £195

Hours of work goes into these events behind the scenes, and we are very grateful to everyone who gave up their time to raise funds for our school.

This all goes to show what a fabulously generous and caring community we live in. Thank you.

Staffing Update

You may have noticed that we have grown our staff team recently.

Welcome to Claire Renee-Lis who will be working as a teaching assistant in Key Stage 2 and supporting at after school club. To Claire Bown to is supporting at Breakfast Club and to Daniela Dzepina who will be joining us as a Supply TA to provide additional cover if and when someone is off.

Update from Governors

Please find below a message from our Governing Board:

Dear Staff, Parents, and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another term here at St. Michael's!

The Governors have had a busy but productive few months, which saw us make progress in our objectives of:

- *increasing our presence in school,*
- *monitoring the strategic goals of St. Michael's, and*
- *striving to ensure that the governors are well-placed to support the wider curriculum of the school.*

Particular focus over the last term has been given to safeguarding and IT at the school, led by Governors Kathryn Mendus and Alex Rennie-Lis respectively – thank you to both of them. The school website was similarly reviewed and updated, which we trust will aid in its use as an important and useful resource for all parents and carers.

Our latest meeting was held at the school in early December, and it was lovely to see the excitement and joy of Christmas reflected throughout the classrooms. At that meeting, we were especially delighted to see the recent "School Improvement Plan" feedback, which comes as a result of a visit carried out by an external senior school inspector. Of particular note were the incredible comments around St. Michael's:

- *strong leadership,*
- *excellent SEND provision,*



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- *ambitious curriculum, and*
- *highly skilled staff.*

We couldn't be more impressed with the feedback and want to extend our thanks and congratulations to the staff at St. Michael's for their hard work and commitment throughout 2023.

Finally, we are excited to share that Tui Solomon has been elected as Vice-Chair of our Governing Board – thank you Tui!

We look forward to continuing our work into 2024, and wish you all a very merry and restful festive break. I will now pass you over to our Chair, Robin Conway, for his message.

Robin's Message from the Chair

When I look at the calendar of the last term it strikes me, once again, what incredibly busy places school are. Our teachers are paid to plan and deliver lessons and mark work and support staff and TAs to facilitate this and support learning. But I don't know anyone working in a school who doesn't volunteer countless hours beyond their basic job to do a lot more than this. Clubs, trips, activities, rehearsals, sporting fixtures all require additional work, administration and communication on top of what is already a demanding job. From the headteacher down, staff will be found talking to students and parents before and after school, working with students during breaks and lunchtimes even when not on rota and working in their evenings and at weekends to create incredible lessons, resources and opportunities. And they do this not because they must but because they want school to be an incredibly, enriching experience for students and because they are committed to making this so. And, of course, in doing this, schools are also supported by a dedicated army of volunteers: parents, members of the community, even governors. Many of you will have taken the time to thank the staff of the school for all they do – the basics and the extras and I would like to add my voice to those. Thank you to everyone who has supported St Michael's this year. Everyone who has given a little extra time or effort to make the school the amazing and inspirational place it is. Everyone who has supported the team or the students in any way, taken time to acknowledge a good job or to assist in the wonderful calendar of events that occur beyond the core lessons. Thank you all for making St Michael's the positive and exciting place it is. Have a lovely Christmas and all the best to everyone in our community for 2024.

With kind regards,

Sarah Hudson

(on behalf of the Governing Board of St. Michael's, Steventon)

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely Christmas. As I said in church earlier, it is very easy to get swept up in the "show" of Christmas, but please do take a moment to reflect on the last year. Take note and be thankful for the family and the friends who lift you up, cheer you on and are by your side day in day out.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 8:45am.

Kind Regards

Hayley Leyshon
Headteacher