

## **Governors Newsletter - Christmas 2017.**

Welcome to the Christmas edition of St. Michael's Junior School Governors Newsletter and happy 50<sup>th</sup> birthday to St. Michael's Junior School.



### **Leaving the school.**

Governors are volunteers who oversee the life of the school. They are appointed to represent the Church, the local authority, the staff, parish and parents. Nicola Trivett was a Parent Governor but due to work commitments, has decided to leave the Governing Body. We would like to thank her for the commitment she has given to the role, which has included attending meetings, monitoring aspects of the curriculum, being part of working parties and designing the Governor Newsletter. Mr. Foster will be leaving the school at the end of this term. The Governing Body would like to say thank-you to him for his commitment to the school. He has been a valued class teacher and when part of the senior leadership team, supported the Acting Headteacher during an Ofsted inspection. As a Staff Governor, his contributions to discussions were greatly appreciated. Once again, thank-you to both Robin and Nicola.

### **New Appointment.**

In the Spring Term letters will be circulated related to the appointment of a new Parent Governor. Following a skills audit, the Governing Body would like to appoint someone with a financial or business background. If this is a role that you would be interested in, please contact Jane Cregan-Bird (Chair of Governors) via a letter, given to the school office.

### **Committees.**

The Governing Body is divided into smaller committees, each with a specific focus. The following report is from the Curriculum and Pupil Matters Committee.

The Curriculum and Pupil Matters Committee meet four times each year. During the October meeting various policies were reviewed and agreed. These included:

- Transition.
- Homework.
- Assessment, Marking and Feedback.
- Positive Handling.
- Home School Agreement.

At this committee meeting, governors received a report from Mrs. Rumsey concerning the School Development Plan, with specific reference to the key priorities for the year and how these were being addressed.

The subject leaders for Science (Mr. Foster), English (Mrs. Stevens/Mrs. Orton) and Maths (Mrs. Dines), gave presentations to the committee related to achievements

and areas for development related to their subject. This provided opportunity for the governors to ask questions concerning e.g. “How the subject was going to be promoted and attainment increased?” This is part of governor monitoring which is undertaken to ensure that everything possible is being done to support each child’s learning at St. Michael’s Junior School.

As a Governing Body, we are grateful for the time and effort the staff put into these presentations and would like to thank them.

### **Governor Involvement in School Life**

We have been involved in various areas of school life, some of which are recorded below.

- Monitoring the provision for those children who have special educational needs.
- Visiting the school to discuss the future allocation of the Sports Premium which is a sum of money given to all primary schools to improve and develop the provision of sports and P.E.
- Setting SAT’s targets for the present Year 6 children.
- Attending the child learning reviews and listening to what some children said about their progress and future challenges.
- Discussing the 2017 SAT’s results and progress data for the children in all year groups. Discovering what plans there are for the continuing development of teaching in Maths, English, History and Geography.
- We went to the Service held in the school to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Michael’s. The Mayor and Mayoress of Chelmsford, representatives from the Parish Council, staff from Galleywood Infant School and parents attended. The children, as usual, played a key part in this memorable occasion.
- We attended the Harvest Festival at St Michael’s Church on 5<sup>th</sup> October. This was entirely organised and conducted by the children and enjoyed by all the parents and friends who were there. The theme was thanksgiving and providing for others and was demonstrated by a large collection of items for Chelmsford Food Bank.

### **Training to help us become better Governors.**

As School Governors we have an important part to play in raising school standards through effective leadership and management. We constantly attend training courses to provide us with the knowledge to make the best decisions we can. This term two of our Governors attended the Autumn Governors Update meeting which is hosted by Essex Education Services, concerning the role of a governor in budget monitoring and sustainability, developments in education at a local and national level. Our Chair, Mrs. Cregan-Bird, attended the Essex Chair of Governors Autumn Term



Conference. Information from this included supporting children with specific needs and developing school to school support.

**Finally.**

We hope you all have a very Happy Christmas. Best wishes for 2018.

