

Governors Newsletter - Christmas 2018.

Welcome to the Christmas edition of St. Michael's Junior School Governors Newsletter. As always, it has been a busy term.



Joining the Governing Body.

The two vacancies on the Governing Body have now been filled. Fleur Dulude has been appointed as a Parent Governor and Revd David Cattle has become the Foundation Ex Officio. Here are their profiles:

Fleur Dulude. I have recently (Summer 2018) joined the governing body as a Parent Governor. I live in Great Baddow and have two children. My son attends St Michael's and despite his constant threats to leave, he happily remains there. My other child attends Galleywood Infant School. I am impressed with the dedication and support that the team at St. Michael's provide to all their pupils to enable them to excel. I am a Learning and Development Manager for Crisis and I hope to bring some of this expertise to the governing body to support the running of the school. In my spare time, I enjoy days out with the family. I cycle and walk to keep fit, mainly so I can inform my GP that I take regular exercise and am trying to lose weight (as directed) - it's just a shame that chocolate keeps getting in the way!

Revd David Cattle. I have been a Governor since becoming the vicar of Galleywood in October 2018. I have 11 years' experience of Parish ministry, following 10 years being an accountant, and have been on the Governing Body of three primary schools, in Manchester and Welwyn Garden City. I have a passion to see every child reach their potential, and believe that Church schools, with their Christian ethos, provide the academic, emotional, and spiritual learning that really benefits children. I am originally from the Isle of Man. I am married to Kirsty, and have a 3-year old daughter called Sophia. I love to run, cycle, read, eat out, watch films, and listen to loud rock music. Sometimes (on special occasions) I perform magic tricks on stage. I can often be found on Galleywood Common walking the family's Golden Retriever called Bracken.

Governor Involvement in School Life

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

- Joining the children for an assembly lead by Billericay Town Football Club.
- Meeting the P.E. coordinator to discuss the impact of the 2017 – 18 Action Plan and how the Sports Premium money was used. How is the school planning to use the Sports Premium money plans 2018 – 19. Discovering the variety of sports clubs offered by the school and the percentage of children who use them.
- Attending collective worship, led by the children, for Harvest and Remembrance. The Year 5 Remembrance service was very moving. It included solo musical performances and readings that the children had written based on what they imagined the life of a World War I soldier was like.
- Attending the parent consultation evenings.
- Attending the school carol service held at St. Michael's Church (18/12/18 at 10 am).
- Watching the choir sing at Revd David Cattle's inauguration ceremony lead by the Bishop of Chelmsford, The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell and the Induction by the Archdeacon of Chelmsford, The Venerable Elizabeth Snowden. It was wonderful to see how the Bishop included the children in the ceremony.
- Analysing the English progress data for those children who receive the Pupil Premium Grant.
- Watching the Year 3 / 4 production – The Magical Christmas Jigsaw.
- Joining the staff for a meeting related to dementia and how the school/Barnard Road could become dementia friendly.
- Rev. David Cattle lead an RE lesson for both year 6 classes about how science and religion relate to each other. Here is his report.
This is my specialist subject – I am actually writing a book about this at the moment!

The children had prepared questions to ask me, like: “Why doesn't Genesis 1 in the Bible talk about evolution?” “Are there many universes?” and “Is the idea of an infinite universe a scientific idea or a religious one?” I was really impressed with these questions! I explained to the children that I think that Genesis 1 is a bit like one of the parables of Jesus – it is a story to help us to understand what creation means, rather than an historical or scientific

description of how God created things. And many Christians believe that God created lots of things through natural processes that we can understand with our science, like evolution, rather than through miracles.

We spoke about how some scientists think that there are many universes, and a Christian like myself believes that God created them all. If there are many universes, this makes God seem even more glorious! We spoke about how scientists make lots of leaps of faith when they do science, so religion and science sometimes merge together (so the idea of an infinite universe is actually religious and scientific, because we can't actually test if it is true). We also mentioned how science cannot prove or disprove the existence of God. Science is great, but it is only one part of life, and it is not big enough to answer the biggest questions of life. The aim of the lesson was to teach that science and religion are different, but are compatible, which is why lots of scientists believe in God, and why lots of Christians like myself think that science is great. We need both science and religion to help us to understand life, the universe, and everything.

The children found the lesson fascinating, and I really enjoyed taking the lesson!

God bless, David.



Join us at St Michael's Church this Christmas! Services are:

Sunday 16th December

Nativity service at 10am

Carol Service at 4.30pm

Christmas Eve

Messy Christingle at 4pm

Midnight Communion 11.15pm

Christmas Day

Family Communion at 10am

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 regularly seek and attend training courses to provide us with the knowledge to make the best decisions we can. This term our training has included:

- 1) Keeping children safe in education.
- 2) Director of Education Conference.
- 3) Induction for new governors.
- 4) Special educational Needs & Disabilities SEND – Developing skills for governors.



Support for the Chelmsford Community.

Earlier this term, there was a speaker at St. Michael's Church who talked about her involvement with food banks. She explained how important these were and how they provided support, in times of need. The Governing Body decided that each time a committee met, governors could provide a donation to the Food Bank.

Finally. We hope you all have a very Happy Christmas. Best wishes for 2019.

