



# St. Michael's Woolmer Green C of E School: Governor Newsletter December 2017



Dear Parents and Carers,  
We are pleased to report to you on the work of the Governing Body this term.

## **Finance and Resources (FRC) Committee**

Reception playground – you will remember that we were let down by a contractor during the summer holidays. New quotes have been sourced and the resurfacing of the Reception playground and repainting of the fence remains a high priority.

**We have been examining the whole school site to see where we could create more workable space.** We are very tight on indoor space and would benefit greatly from the addition of rooms that could be used for a variety of purposes. However, as you know, school finances remain under considerable pressure. We are in the process of creating a 5-year business plan for the school and are giving consideration to:

- Additional classroom/group work spaces and whole school spaces
- Playground improvements
- Reconfiguration of school front entrance, Reception area and school office
- The website

In terms of areas requiring more immediate attention, we have put in some funding bids to the Diocese and we will wait to see if we are successful with any of these. If we are, we will be required to finance 10% of the total cost.

## **Can you help us?**

**We need more space but our budget only stretches so far! Do you run a local business that could help us with materials, manpower etc? If so, please do get in touch and we can give you more specific details as to the projects under consideration. Thank you.**

## **Learning and Pupil Progress (LPP) Committee** Reading and Writing

Mrs Woods, English subject lead, reported to us on specific initiatives in Reading and Writing. These

are aligned to targets 1 and 2 of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) 2017/18. We discussed:

- Implementation of a school wide handwriting scheme.
- Weekly reading comprehension lessons and dedicated SPaG lessons for all of KS2.
- Forthcoming visit of a writing consultant to do workshops with the children and training with staff.
- Improvements to school reading/guided reading books.
- Planned author visits.

## R.E.

Governors also received a report on the RE curriculum from subject lead, Mrs Leake. This is linked to target 5 of the SIP:

- New Hertfordshire RE syllabus introduced 4/17. Requires children to be religiously and theologically literate.
- The Diocese of St Albans have also introduced a new syllabus so, as a VA school, we have to decide which to implement.
- School are trialling different approaches and have sought guidance from the Diocesan advisor.

## Sport and Music

We were very pleased to receive a Sports Mark Silver Award at the end of last year and we note our ever-increasing level of participation in school sport competitions for our KS2 children. This term these have included: TAG Rugby, Turbo Cricket, Speed Stacking, Football, Table Tennis and Badminton. Thank you to Miss Prentice for her commitment to sport at St Michael's.

Governors note that our music offering continues to go from strength to strength with Mrs Hewitt establishing a St Michael's orchestra at the beginning of this term. The school choir sung with the Knebworth Community Chorus at their 'Carols for Christmas' concert on December 9<sup>th</sup> with some of our pupils also performing instrumental solos and duets. On December 13<sup>th</sup>, the choir participated in the Monks Walk School Community Christmas Concert. Thank you to Mrs Hewitt, Mrs Wadey and all our school musicians for all their hard work.



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## Open Mornings

Thank you to Mrs Martin for organising two open mornings this term. In total Mrs Martin has shown 22 prospective new families around the school. There is one further open morning planned on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

## **Comparing School Performance**

As you may remember, we were pleased with our Y6 SATs results last year with 76% of our pupils meeting the 'expected standard' (Hertfordshire 65%/National 61%) and 20% 'achieving at a higher standard' (Hertfordshire 12%/National 9%). Gov.uk has recently published 2017 primary results and provides details of overall performance at the end of KS2 in 2017. Please see the link below.

[www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/](http://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/)

We are really pleased that St Michael's progress scores in Reading and Maths were both '**Well above Average**' with the Reading score being especially strong. Our Writing progress score was 'Average' – we are committed to further progress in writing and this is target 1 of the SIP 2017/18.

## **Feedback - Thank You**

Thank you to so many families who provided feedback following the [new format parent evening/reporting](#). This was also discussed in the December parent council meeting. We value your input and we know that the staff were delighted at the positive nature of the feedback received.

## **Parent Contributions - Thank You**

Governors are aware that parents have given very generously to the school this term – both in terms of their time and money - be it at the quiz night, in contributions to and spending at the Winter Wonderland and other organised Christmas events such as the Christmas cards and the purchase of a book(s) for the Readathon.

**Your contributions do make a real difference.**

After the quiz night we were able to purchase a table tennis table for the school thus enabling Miss Prentice to run a Y6 table tennis club.

All the books that will be generously donated to school following the Readathon will greatly

enhance our Guided Reading offering and will complement the £2000 that school and The Friends have spent on individual reading books this term. **Thank you for supporting our school.**

## **New Governor**

We are pleased to welcome Mr Toby Baxendale to our Governing Body. Toby is a PCC Governor and sits on the FRC committee. Our Governing Body is now at full complement – we are really pleased about this as it is something many schools struggle to achieve. We were all together in school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December for our Governors Day and it was a real pleasure to chat with the children as they told us about their work. Governors also greatly enjoyed the Nativity performances and the Carol Services – thank you to the staff and children who made it possible and for you, our parents, for supporting the children at these events.

## **How do I contact Governors?**

You may contact Governors by direct email at the following address:  
[chair@woolmergreen.herts.sch.uk](mailto:chair@woolmergreen.herts.sch.uk).

We would also like to remind you that Ofsted Parent View (<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>) is an online survey which can be completed at any time; you don't have to wait until the school is being inspected.

## **Governor Dates for Spring Term**

| Date                 | Meeting/Event                            |
|----------------------|--|
| Wednesday 10 January | FRC meeting, 7.45am                      |
| Wednesday 17 January | FRC 5-year business plan meeting, 7.45am |
| Thursday 25 January  | LPP meeting, 7.45am                      |
| Monday 29 January    | FGB meeting, 5.45pm                      |
| Monday 26 March      | LPP meeting, 7.45am                      |

We will write to you again at the end of the Spring term. In the meantime, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a well deserved rest!

Rachel Stringer and Sue Gray  
18<sup>th</sup> December 2017