

The Report

July 2009

Linking St Michael's parents, carers, governors and staff



Welcome to the inaugural issue of The Report, the newsletter produced by St Michael's governing body.

Sites set

Everyone involved with school will know how disappointed we were to postpone our move to one site. We are still treating this as a priority and plan to remarket the Annexe shortly.

Meanwhile, we are actively progressing several vital projects to improve the working and learning environment for us all, which carry crucial health and safety benefits.

First, at main school, work will begin during Autumn Term on the planned development of the car park. Surveys necessary to commence this project have already begun. Also, Reception classrooms are being refurbished, the Infant playground resurfaced and the hall floor reconditioned. The costs attached to these projects are separate to those funds already set aside for the extension work that will take place once the Annexe is sold.

Speaking of which, a series of cosmetic improvements have already commenced at the Annexe. Visitors to the site in Autumn Term will benefit from much improved signage which has been created following a 'brainstorm' session with some enthusiastic year 5 pupils. We also hope to introduce attractive planting to the playground, along with additional seating.

As the situation with the move to one site evolves, we will keep you updated but please be assured that everything is being done to make this happen as quickly as possible.

To see you, nice

At this time of year, school becomes a hive of activity with so many events bringing parents, grandparents, carers and new joiners through the gates. This all kicked off with our Independence Day themed Summer Fayre.

Initial estimates show that £2,600 was raised from the Fayre which will go towards providing valuable resources for children throughout school. It was great to see so many pupils, parents, governors and staff participating on a day that thankfully brought no rain. Special thanks must go to the PTA who work tirelessly to make these events so successful.

This was swiftly followed by the open evening last week which gave all the children the chance to showcase their hard work and parents to get acquainted with new class teachers. The governors were glad to be on hand with refreshments and meet so many parents.



View from the Chair I was delighted to contribute to this first edition of The Report after a very busy year in school. Together with Miss McKay and the staff, governors have been working hard towards the targets set out in our school improvement plan. It is then all the more pleasing to see considerable academic and sporting achievements this year, with emphasis on the enjoyment of learning.

In addition to some inspirational school trips, I have witnessed a very high standard of performances across the age groups, from the Christmas Nativity to the Years 3 / 4 Easter performance and I eagerly anticipate the calendar's annual highlight, the Year 6 leavers night.

Next year will certainly bring challenges as we build momentum and take forward the next stage of our improvement strategy. We are very focused on making everyone linked to St Michael's even more reasons to be proud of their association. May I wish you all a wonderful holiday and look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible during 2009-2010.

David Piggott, Chairman of Governors

All change

We know you will join us in wishing Mrs Wilkowski, Mr Hardwick and Mrs Williams well as they move on from St Michaels. Their significant contributions are widely appreciated. Also, school congratulates Mrs Culverwell on achieving graduate teacher status after a longstanding commitment to work and study. She too leaves for a new post.

To ensure that school was fully staffed for the start of Autumn Term, the Personnel Committee swung into action and recruited Miss Morris and Miss Mirfield very quickly.

Miss Morris is local to the area and brings a sport specialism, whereas Miss Mirfield joins us from primary teaching in London. They share exceptional teaching credentials and we look forward to working with them as we strive towards our goals.

While we'll greatly miss Miss Nickolls next term, we are delighted that her skills and expertise have been recognised in her secondment to a school in Rugeley. Good luck, but come back soon!

Schools white paper

A new government white paper was issued from the Department of Children, Schools and Families last month. Although this is not yet policy, we thought you would be interested in some of the aspects it covers.

Called 'Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century schools system', the white paper sets out a new Parent's Guarantee which will ensure every child goes to a school with high aspirations and that schools work with parents and carers as full partners in their child's learning and development.

To encourage parent choice, the Guarantee will provide parents with an information pack on their preferred schools. This will include a new School Report Card that shows how well the school is doing, including views from parents of children at the school and will explain how the school expects children to behave.

The white paper also recommends enhancing the Home School Agreement to make sure every parent is clear what their responsibilities are, especially over their child's behaviour. Schools will be able to enforce the new Home School Agreement if children are disruptive and parents are not fulfilling their responsibilities.

Read it in full at http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/21st_Century_Schools_P&C.pdf

We hope you enjoyed this newsletter and found it informative. We're keen to bring you news and raise the issues that matter most to you.

If you have any feedback or requests for the next issue in Autumn Term, please contact Parent Governor Nik Ellis at nicholakateellis@yahoo.co.uk