

The Report

Dec 2009



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

Welcome to the second issue of The Report, the newsletter produced by St Michael's governors.

Evening all

We know how disappointed many working parents and carers are when they can't attend daytime activities in school. So in response, the school is holding extra evening sessions for two of its most recent events.

If you would like to hear more about the work undertaken to combat bullying and develop our behaviour and expectations policy, please come along to the main school hall on [insert date] at [insert time].

Also, you have another chance to find out more about the new Learning Platform which will revolutionise interaction between school and home, specify curriculum areas being taught term by term and help you monitor the progress of your children. This session will also be in main school hall.

Sporting all stars

St Michael's is the winner of the Burntwood and Lichfield district school sports partnership. Miss Morris will be taking around 20 Year 5 and 6 pupils to represent our district at the county finals at Fenton Manor in Stoke.

To be held on 19 January, the finals could see our team become Sportshall Athletics Champions. Look out for more news on this in the green family letter next term..

Feeling festive

From the fabulous Christmas production by children based at the Annexe, to the delightful nativities in main school and the tremendously successful Fayre, it has been non stop festive fun at St Michael's this month.

You're rightly proud of all the childrens' contributions to these celebrations. But governors know all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes and thank all the parents who help provide props and costumes both for their own children and others too.

Teachers put their all into school events and greatly appreciate any extra support. If you want to help in future, please let us know.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Working together

After our well attended post-OFSTED parent's evening, several of you took up the opportunity to meet with Miss McKay and other members of staff and governors to raise specific issues. We hope you feel these are being addressed.

You also completed more than 100 new surveys, for which we thank you. This will be revisited next term.

Another outcome from the evening was the groundswell of support from parents who wish to work with us. Andrew Williams, parent and assistant head at a school in Great Barr has brought his recent experience of developing a community cohesion policy to our team.

As we did with the post-OFSTED action plan, we will share our new community cohesion policy and progress plan with you as soon as it's ready. Many, many thanks to you, Andrew.

Introducing the Governors

In our role as critical friend, governors are a conduit for challenging school performance., for which we are all accountable. Many of us visit school outside normal hours and some of us don't have children in school so you may not know our faces. So in this issue and the next, we would like to introduce you to the governing body. From 8 January, we are holding drop-in sessions for parents who would like to discuss any area of our work or broader school issues in an informal way. On the first Friday of every month, starting 9am, do come to the office and ask to see a governor. We will do all we can to help.

David Piggott, Chair of Governors

David Beedon
Foundation Governor

I became a school governor 15 years Ago n Sandwell serving a community primary school. Ten years ago I took on a new role at St Michael's - quite a contrast! Governance of schools in the last decade and a half has become increasingly challenging but I find it a rewarding aspect of the wonderful link between church and school



Janine Pearce
Parent Governor

I have children in Years 1 and 3. I worked for 23 years as an engineer in the aerospace and automotive industries. As a consequence of my Governor role , I'm now training as an Early Years teacher at Newman College. It's satisfying to use my skills to assist in the immensely important job of school governance



Jenny Bryant
Parent Governor

A parent with two children at St Michael's. I meet lots of parents and listening to their experiences Informs my contribution. I was previously a secondary science teacher and department head. I'm pleased to be liaising with Miss Attwood as the link governor for ICT, especially as we develop the learning platform



David Piggott
Chair of Governors

A retired Consulting Engineer, I spent a lifetime working in the power industry at home and overseas. I gained valuable experience in managing very large projects. This equips me to deal with all aspects of school governance. A Governor since 2002, I'm keen to assist children to get the most from their Primary Years



Nik Ellis
Parent Governor

As St Michael's alumni, with a child in Year 2, I bring my expertise in public relations to the governing body. I have particularly fond memories of learning at the Annexe so assume the role of link governor to the Annexe with great pride. I also chair the Curriculum Committee



Rachel Poulton
Parent Governor

With two children in school, I became a Governor in 2006. An accountant by profession. I volunteered for the governor role because education has been an important part of my life and I wanted to help the school. I enjoy contributing to the strategic decisions the school makes and working as part of the team



Claire Patterson
Parent Governor

I'm a full time mother, with a son at the school. For many years I worked in a council's legal department and was involved in providing advice to schools. I am enjoying my new role and learning about governance, so as to be an effective member of the governing body straightaway



Jackie Twomlow
Staff Governor

I have worked at St Michael's as a Teaching Assistant for 12 years and have three older children who all attended the school. I'm now in my second spell as Staff Governor and enjoy being more 'fully' involved in the life of the school. I can support children's learning not only in the classroom, but also in a wider context



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 Spring Term, please contact Nik Ellis at nicholakateellis@yahoo.co.uk