

ST MICHAEL'S C of E VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

As the school year draws to a close, it is time to reflect and celebrate the achievements of our fantastic school. We have such a wonderful family here at St Michael's, led by an outstanding head teacher, brilliant staff, a very supportive PTA and of course your great children. We can celebrate our excellent results leading to our achieving such a positive Ofsted report and the excitement of our expansion plans, together with the children's achievements in sport, drama and music; 'The Mystery of Magpie Manor' will, I am sure, remain in the minds of so many of us for a very long time.

The governors have enjoyed a very busy year in our role of supporting the school, to provide excellence in every aspect of your child's education. We all serve on committees, attend regular training courses, scrutinise budgets, results and policies, together with regular visits to the school to support the staff and children in specific target areas such as safeguarding, pupil premium and curriculum links.

The governors are committed to your children's safeguarding and wellbeing. As safeguarding governor I meet regularly with our Designated Senior Lead (DSL), Mrs Crooks, to scrutinise all areas including child protection, attendance and recruitment. Ofsted and our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner have both judged our school safeguarding to be effective, the inspector saying that 'you place the highest priority on keeping pupils safe and providing strong pastoral care for them. Your meticulous records are organised consistently and effectively'.

Our expansion plans are proving very exciting with the work at lower school having begun last week. All being well, the children in that area will very soon see many benefits, including a wonderful area in which to have their meals, as well as enjoying additional space for small group work and activities. The top school expansion plans are moving a little slower but we can hope and pray that the council will give us the agreement in the very near future to move forward with those plans as well.

We were delighted to hear the exciting news a few weeks ago that our outstanding reception teacher, Mrs Claridge, had been named as a runner-up in the district awards for 'Primary Teacher of the Year'. This is an outstanding achievement and a just reward for her fantastic work. Our Ofsted inspector said that 'strong effective leadership in early years has ensured that children have an exceptionally good start to their learning'.

We must sadly say goodbye this week to our very long-standing and extremely hard working Teaching Assistant, Mr King. He has such a varied role in addition to his TA work, from retrieving lost footballs from the roof of the school to being the cheerful welcoming face very morning. He is going to be very much missed by everyone, especially the children. We also say goodbye to Mrs Hatch who has so successfully and efficiently completed her contract in Cats class as maternity cover for Miss McCann. We are delighted to welcome back Miss McCann after the safe arrival of her dear son Jack.

Our Ofsted report was all we could possibly have wanted. The inspector was positive and congratulatory throughout her report, saying that the school, while remaining 'good' had made huge strides forward. She described Mrs Rafferty as having 'established a calm and purposeful environment where pupils' well-being and readiness to learn are central to your work. Consequently,

pupils understand the ethos and values you promote'. She said that she 'was impressed by the environment for learning that staff create in both our buildings. A sense of order and the celebration of pupils' achievements and work are immediately apparent'. Of the governors she said 'the governing body provides challenge and support in equal measure. Governors share your deeply held ambition for the personal and academic success of each pupil. They provide strategic direction and continue to develop and sustain school growth'. My final quote must be referring to your special children about whom she said 'pupils are proud of their school, respectful and contribute well to the harmonious ethos which is evident'.

The governors send year 6 our best wishes for the future. As you move from the security of our walls, may you take the Christian ethos and school values with you throughout your lives.

On behalf of the governing body, may I wish you all a very peaceful, restful and happy holiday.

With kind regards.

Pauline Wiley
(Chair of governors)