



# Governors' Newsletter 15

Summer Term, July 2020

## Dear Parents and Carers,

As we finish another school year, I want to thank you for the extraordinary education challenges you have faced up to in the past few months. When we started in September none of us could have foreseen how our school year would change. We have had to think differently about how children can learn and continue to stay safe as our schools remained open for fewer children. This was a journey that nobody had ever experienced before. As families you have become involved in home schooling which you have done despite all the competing demands on your time. Your children have been involved in all sorts of exciting activities which they clearly enjoyed based on the feedback to school through Facebook and in other ways. However, this time has not been without its challenges.

We appreciate that the circumstances in every family vary and it would be impossible to even begin to outline what you were all dealing with. However, as governors, we have been kept fully informed of what it has been like for our school communities and have been supportive of all the initiatives that have been taken throughout this time. We know that people have been anxious and concerned for their families. We appreciate the way you have collaborated with our two schools to ensure that your children's needs were met. We hope that you will feel the personal benefit of all the children returning to school in September, as well as the enormous advantage for the children to be together again. Mrs McCarney and the staff are already planning for their return and will make sure that they will be supported in a positive, caring and safe way.

As we close for the Summer, we send our best wishes to you all and renewed thanks for all your support and collaboration during this difficult time.

Rosemary Games  
Chair of Governors

## All Angels' on Facebook

How delightful it has been to see what pupils have been doing at home and in school in the posts on Facebook. Especially the Gold Book videos on Fridays. You do not need to have a Facebook user login to view the pages, they are public, and all can see them by using the following links – just click on the pictures below.



 St Michael's V.A. Junior School Norwich  
@STMjuniorschool Middle School

[Comment 1x](#)



 Clover Hill Infant and Nursery School  
@CHInfantandNursery Education

[Send Message](#)

## Governors Meetings via Zoom

Some words used during the lockdown will remain with us, and one of those may be 'Zoom'. Zoom will be a strong contender for new words in common use in the English Dictionary after the frequent use the app has had this Spring/ Summer. Not just for Governors meetings but for assemblies and class 'get togethers'.

During the Summer Term, All Angels' Governors have been meeting using the video conferencing app and keeping in close contact with the school via the more conventional communication channels, such as telephones and emails.

Governors have had to learn new skills with technology so we can continue to monitor and support the schools' response to the pandemic which has not just changed daily, but sometimes hourly.

There have been detailed risks assessments prepared, which were, and still are, constantly amended as the advice from various sources changed and developed. Each time the changes were discussed with Governors and approved by them.

All Angels' Governors are all volunteers who give up their time to support the school and community and come from a vast range of backgrounds to represent the views of all the stakeholders associated with the two schools in our Federation.

We have never been prouder of students, parents and staff in the way they have dealt with the unprecedented conditions they have met since March 2020. We have relied on your goodwill and tenacity to live under difficult and challenging times and still we witness the smiles on the children's faces when they present and share the work they have proudly produced. This may have been very different to what they would have studied at school but is still worthwhile and has enriched their lives with experiences they may not have had otherwise.

## Year 6 Leavers

One thing the lockdown hasn't changed is the passage of time. Just like every year at this time, we have to say goodbye to our Year 6 leavers who are starting at their respective High Schools in September.

Unfortunately, they haven't been able to enjoy all of the celebrations and events that would usually accompany this momentous occasion, but at one point it looked as if they would not be able to attend school to even spend some time with friends that many will have known since they started in the infant schools. Since June 8<sup>th</sup> they have been able to spend some time in school, if they wish, to meet up with friends even if social distancing has meant that they have not been able to get closer than 2 metres.

Governors wish you all the best in your new schools, it may be daunting but it is an exciting start to a new chapter in your learning journey.

## New Pupils – September 2020

Clover Hill have been preparing to welcome new pupils, and returning Nursery pupils, into Reception in September. Some will have already returned to school, but for some it will be their first experience of school or a return to school after a very long absence.

There will also be new experiences as school may not be as they remember as the schools are still having to put into place routines to keep your children and others safe from Covid-19.

There is a lovely welcome video on the front page of the school website and a virtual interactive tour to show your children around the school:

<http://www.cloverhillschool.co.uk/>

Be assured that staff are preparing to welcome your child into our school community and their safety in school is our prime objective.

We ask that you co-operate with the school to create a safe environment in which your child can learn by taking any precautions they ask of you.

The school will let you know before the start of term what to expect when your child starts in September.

The staff are looking forward to welcoming new children to Clover Hill and will do their utmost to make sure they settle into the school quickly, safely and happily.



### **Our Five Key Values:**

**Respect - Trust - Perseverance - Hope - Success**

## Year 2 Transfer to STMJ

Governors have been keenly aware that children transferring to St Michael's from infant schools in September would not be able to have the careful transition that is usually provided by the Federation. It is so important that these children, who are still very young, are prepared for the changes that the leap to Junior school will bring.

It was a relief when Mrs McCarney was able to arrange some transition visits for Year 2 so that they could meet their new teachers. Teaching staff are fully aware that these children have missed a whole term of formal in school education and are preparing in detail how to help them adjust to learning in their new environment.

## Summer Holidays and Returning to School in September

With all the lovely weather we had in April and May it may seem that we have had our Summer. With some restrictions lifted, it may be possible to enjoy over the Summer some of the activities that we had to give up in March. Football, swimming, visiting family we haven't seen due to enforced isolation, may be enjoyed during the Summer break if we exercise some care.

Whatever you do it will be good for everyone to have a break before getting back to school. Teachers and other staff have been working very hard to make sure that the home learning information was appropriate and that no one was suffering from unforeseen problems during the lockdown and isolation. Staff will need time to recuperate and to prepare for the new academic year which will not be exactly as it used to be.

Health and safety measures will be in place to make sure that school is as safe as it can be. With larger class bubbles and desks arranged to minimise the chance of infection from the virus it will look a little different than it did last September.

Mrs McCarney and the Senior Management Team are reading the Government guidance and looking to make sure all is in place for a safe return to school for everyone. They will contact parents/ carers with the information they need before the start of term.

## Thank You – To Everyone

All Angels' Federation has an impact on so many lives in the Bowthorpe area. We are still not in the clear regarding Coronavirus but everyone has worked very hard in a remarkable fashion to provide the services required for the children of Key Workers, for distributing food to families in need, providing appropriate materials for home learning, making the schools safe so some children could return from June 8<sup>th</sup> onwards, making sure all children have access to technology, keeping up to date with information from all sources, keeping communication channels open to all and much, much more.

The effort put in by staff, parents, children and the whole community has been awesome. Thank you all for your herculean effort. You can all be proud of the community you are part of.

### All Angels' Governors

Rosemary Games (**Chair of Governors**)

Laurie Bolt (**Vice Chair of Governors**)

Janet Acaster

Kath Brabbin (Staff Governor STMJ)

Debbie Bunting (Associate Governor)

Linda Johnson

Lou Simmons (Parent Governor STMJ)

David Walker

Helen McCarney (**Headteacher**)

David Blake

Mandy Brown (Staff Governor CHIS)

Brian Earley

Gavin Shiers

Clare Watson (Parent Governor CHIS)

Lois Wiltshire

**Feedback** - Governors can be contacted by writing or emailing either of the schools in All Angels' Federation, please mark your communication for the attention of the Chair of Governors.

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