



Governors' Newsletter 16

Autumn Term, December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of term, I would like to thank you all for your wonderful support since our two schools welcomed all children back in September. It was such a joy to see the children in school again. They settled very quickly and expressed their pleasure at being back seeing their friends and school staff.

This term has been different in many ways as everyone adjusted after the prolonged period of absence from school for all except key workers. There have been stringent measures in place to ensure that the children were safe. We celebrate the fact that we have been able to stay open throughout.

There have been interesting and exciting learning opportunities for the children. In the midst of them all their wellbeing has been of primary importance. We would like to thank you very sincerely for your collaboration as the children grew in confidence and continued on their learning journeys.

Christmas is a time for celebration and that has characterised the preparations in our two schools over the past few weeks. It is a lovely way to end the term as we hope for many good things in the days ahead.

We wish you many blessings as you share this time together.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Games

Chair of Governors

Into Opera



There has been much concern in the press this year about the lack of exposure to the performing arts for adults and children alike. All Angels' Federation applied to take part in a project 'Into Opera' and it is with much pleasure that we learned we were successful. This is a high quality initiative that opens up the richness of music and the arts to children.

Since half term St Michael's children have been recording the songs for a Song Cycle. They have done this together, in their bubbles, using online video conferencing. Many children have been keen to be involved, sharing their thoughts, feelings and experiences which have been turned into lyrics for their songs. These have been put to music by a professional musician and composer. The premiere for the Song Cycle will be on December 17th. The partnership with the Into Opera team has brought much pleasure and joy to the children during the Autumn term. We would like to thank them for all the work they have done to create this wonderful opportunity for our schools. The work with Into Opera will continue in the new year for both schools.

OVA Admissions Consultation

Governors were very concerned to hear that Ormiston Victory Academy (OVA) were to consult with stakeholders with a view to changing their admissions policy to the detriment of the children at St Michael's Junior school.

It was proposed that St. Michael's be removed from their list of feeder schools so that children who lived further away from OVA, out of Norwich, had priority for places in the school over the children in Bowthorpe.

OVA had misunderstood the options available for children moving to secondary school in the area and the Governors of All Angels' were very eager to make sure that they were more fully informed about the likelihood of Bowthorpe children gaining a place in any of the City schools.

After much research our Governing Body put together a comprehensive reply to the consultation making sure that the Governing Body at OVA and the Ormiston Trust were fully informed of the facts linked to how few options for high school Bowthorpe children actually have.

There was a concerted effort to make our position clear, not just from All Angels' but also from the Diocese of Norwich Education Board, Rev Mark Elvin from the Bowthorpe Church along with many parents and others responding to the consultation with their own concerns and views.

It was with great pleasure that we received the news from OVA, when the consultation was complete, that St. Michael's will remain on their list of feeder schools so that children in Bowthorpe will have equal opportunity to gain places at OVA with other primary schools in the vicinity of the high school.

Race Charter

The children who belong to the All Angels' family are from diverse cultures and backgrounds. To continue our commitment to high quality care of all our children the Federation has signed up to work towards a Race Charter. Governors and staff will undergo specialist training as part of this initiative so that we are in the forefront of what is happening nationally.



Out of Lockdown 2 and Into Tier 2

A second lockdown wasn't really what everyone was looking forward to, but the statistics around Covid-19 were showing that cases of the disease were rising, and something needed to be done. Thank you to everyone for complying with instructions from the school about mask wearing and social distancing in the playground and in the vicinity of the schools.

This second round of lockdown had a completely different feel because children were still attending school. Although not quite back to the way it was before the summer, another break in their schooling would have been disastrous after they had returned to learning and were used to seeing their classmates again.

Behind the scenes there has been a massive amount of preparation and work to make both schools 'Covid' safe with extra cleaning and safeguards in place throughout.

Luckily, so far, the schools have remained open for the majority of children and with your help we can keep it that way by maintaining the hygiene protocols put in place by the schools. If your child has to isolate/ quarantine for any reason the school will provide work for them to do at home. If this is the case and you do not have a laptop or equipment to access online learning, please speak to the school. They may be able to provide one for you to use while your child is at home. Thank you for your vigilance.

Health and Safety - Covid Risk Assessment



This Covid-19 risk assessment is continually being updated with new information and actions as the schools become more aware of what needs to be put in place to keep our schools and the community they are in as healthy as possible. Governors review this document every time they meet to make sure that it is up to date with the current practices.

Our Five Key Values:

Respect - Trust - Perseverance - Hope - Success

Communication with Parents

Both St Michael's and Clover Hill are working hard to keep in touch with parents during the pandemic. At St Michael's Class Dojo will be used to communicate schoolwork if your child is at home for any reason. At Clover Hill, keep in touch using Tapestry.

It is important that everyone keeps up to date with the latest news by following the schools on Facebook and reading the weekly Newsletters. Links to the Newsletters can be found on the home page of the schools' websites. There are also dedicated staff members at each school for you to talk to if you have any concerns about your children's learning or their wellbeing. Please phone the school and the office staff will put you in touch with someone who can help.



<https://www.facebook.com/STMJuniorschool>

<https://www.facebook.com/CHinfantandnursery>



ClassDojo



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



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

Government Support for Learning

There is no doubt that some children have missed out by not being in school and that this has affected their progress in many areas of learning.

The Government have realised that schools and teachers will have to work hard to recover the time lost in school over the summer term. They have made money available to appoint tutors and extra staff to make sure that the children who have suffered get extra help to achieve the best they can. This money will be paid to schools over the Spring and Summer terms to put some measures in place to help them make up the progress they have lost.

There has also been some funding to help with purchasing 17 I-pads for children who may have to work from home if they are isolating and do not have the equipment to access the internet. These will be put into use if classes have to be closed because the children have been at risk of exposure to the virus.

There is a huge amount of information linked to how schools must operate to keep children and staff safe during the pandemic. Governors have closely monitored the measures put into place by the school to control the Covid-19 virus using a risk assessment document which is full of the issues that schools must think about. This outlines the specific actions All Angels' have in place to address them.

A Safe & Happy Christmas -

We are almost at the end of 2020 and the Governors of All Angels' Federation would like to wish staff, families and children across the schools within All Angels' Federation a safe and Happy Christmas with every blessing for the New Year, 2021.



And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby keeping watch over their flocks at night.

An angel of the lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. The Angel said to them "Do not be afraid I bring you good news that will cause great joy to all the people."

(Luke 2, 8-10)

All Angels' Governors

Rosemary Games (**Chair of Governors**)

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

Janet Acaster

Kath Brabbin (Staff Governor STMJ)

Debbie Bunting (Parent 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)

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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