

St Michael's CE Junior School



GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first of our new Governors' Newsletters. We would like to hear from you if you have any thoughts on what should be covered in the Governors' Newsletter and hope you find it useful. If you have any comments on what you would like to be covered in the Governor's Newsletter, please let us know via the school office.

With several Governors all joining the FGB in 2015/16 we are nearly at full capacity. Governors have been appointed to take on specific roles within the Governing Body, so that they can get more involved in monitoring and supporting key areas of the School.

Further to the letter sent out a few weeks ago, some applications have been received from parents in respect of the parent governor vacancy. The selection of the parent governor will be via an anonymous ballot. Further information on the ballot will be circulated shortly.

*Mrs Katrina Gibson
& Miss Rachel Aves
Co-Chairs of the Governing Body*



GOVERNORS' UPDATE

Governors meet frequently for Full Governing Body (FGB) Meeting and Committee Meetings (Teaching and Learning, School Resources, Pay and Performance Committees).

This term the Resources Committee has been looking at the school budget for the coming year and reviewing the amounts owed to the school for things such as school meals and trips.

The Teaching and Learning Committee is looking at the post Ofsted Action Plan and how we spend the PE Premium money that we received from the Government to improve our Physical Education offering at the school.

For more information on the Governing Body visit:

www.stmichaelscejunior.co.uk/governors.

GOVERNING BODY STRUCTURE

As part of work taking place in respect of the Governing Body Governance Review, the FGB is considering making changes to the structure of its committees and roles in order to be more efficient.

In addition to these changes, there has been a change in leadership. Rev. Tom Moore has stepped down as Chair of Governors and Mrs Katrina Gibson (Parent Governor) and Miss Rachel Aves (Co-opted Governor) have been appointed as interim co-chairs. Mr Derrick Copes (Foundation Governor) has also stepped down as Vice Chair and this role has been taken up by Mrs Caroline Capper (Co-opted Governor).

There is much work going on behind the scenes at the current time including preparation for recruitment of a new Head Teacher, implementation of the post Ofsted Action Plan and ensuring a smooth handover to the new Leadership Team in the Autumn. We are confident these changes will strengthen our ability to work quickly and effectively in taking the school forward.

OFSTED REPORT – WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...

We have appointed a qualified independent consultant to undertake a Review of Governance, as specified by Ofsted. This process will look at what we do and how we do it; and whether we have the right people, skills and processes in place in order to lead the school and hold the senior leadership team to account over the foreseeable future. It will culminate with an action plan to improve our efficiency and effectiveness, drawing on external support where appropriate.

HEADTEACHER RECRUITMENT

As a governing body we are actively seeking a new Headteacher to lead our school on the next stage of its journey. However, we want to take time to find the right person for our school and your children and so have worked with the Local Authority to secure the services of two local headteachers who will work with our senior leadership team to look after St Michael's Junior whilst we are recruiting. Mrs Liz Matthias from St Michael's Infant school and Mrs Debbie Cook from Pinewood Infant School will share the post from September. Both of these headteachers are very experienced and are excited at the prospect of working with our staff team.

The Governing Body is involving the children, staff and parents in the recruitment process, by gathering thoughts from the School Council, a staff survey and the Parent Forum. If you have any thoughts or comments, you should send them to your parent forum representative prior to their next meeting on Thursday 15th June.

JARGON BUSTER

A number of parents have mentioned to us that they find some of the school "jargon" confusing, so we have looked at some of the most frequently used terms and provided some explanations below:

Co-opted Governor	Co-opted governors are appointed on to the governing body by the other members because they come from a specialist group, such as the business community or because they possess a particular skill which can contribute to the effective governance and success of the school
DfE	Department for Education
Foundation Governor	Foundation governors who are appointed by the school's founding body, which in most cases is the Church. This category of governor is only found in aided and controlled schools
LEA	Local Education Authority – referring to Hampshire County Council (HCC)
LLP	Leadership & Learning Partner – School Education Advisor from HCC
P4C	Philosophy for Children
Parent Governor	Parent governors have a child in school at the time of their election, and are elected by the parents with children at the school
Pupil Premium	A grant that each school receives to directly support disadvantaged pupils of all abilities.
NC	National Curriculum
SEN	Special Education Needs