



St Michael's CE Junior School

Headteacher Welcome

I hope that you all had a good holiday with time to rest and relax and enjoy some family time together.

I would like to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of St Michael's CE (Controlled) Junior School. It is a privilege to have been appointed by the school Governors and entrusted with the role of leading this amazing school through the next part of its journey. I have been in education for over 25 years, mainly in Hampshire, with a few years working in Dartford. I was a Headteacher of a Junior School for 8 years, moving it from an undersubscribed school, with 45 spaces, to one that was full and highly thought of. More recently I worked for the Local Authority on school improvement as a Primary Phase Inspector. I am looking forward to working with the whole community to ensure that every child has an outstanding education at the school and most importantly, loves being here.

I have had a really lovely start to my time at the school. The staff team have welcomed me and helped me to get to know how everything works, and the children have been polite and friendly and have made me smile throughout the day!

Thank you to those who have greeted me on the gate. I will be there most mornings, please feel free to catch me about anything; it will help me to get to know the school community and for you to get to know me. Please do introduce yourself to me if you have time.

I have been talking to the children in collective worship about the school's vision and values. We have been looking at what it means to be part of a community and respecting differences. Next week we will look at the values of courage, respect and resilience. The children have responded well to this and have been a pleasure to work with.

I believe that it is important that everyone in a school is ambitious and I know that the children at St Michael's will always respond positively to a challenge. I hope that you will join me in challenging your

children to take up every opportunity in learning that they are offered.

Children's Achievements

- Charlotte W in Fleming entered the Christmas card competition ran by our local MP, Leo Docherty, and was delighted to receive a letter from him advising that she was runner-up in the competition. Her design was featured on the reverse of Leo's official Christmas card! Well done Charlotte and many congratulations!

If your child takes part in activities outside school which merit a mention in our newsletter, e.g. sporting or musical achievements, please let the School Office know, and we shall ensure it is included in the next newsletter.

adminoffice@st-michaels-jun.hants.sch.uk

COVID

Whilst COVID is still very much in the news and we are still following risk assessments and have outbreak management plans in place, we have made some changes that we hope will be good for the children.

The control measures have not changed and will be important as we make other changes:-

- No child or adult must come to school if they have any illness or Covid-19 symptoms
- Regular hand-washing
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it)
- Keeping spaces ventilated
- Regular cleaning, especially of frequently touched surfaces

Inspired by Him, we serve the community of St Michael's by creating an inclusive learning culture where all differences are respected, where courage is shown to face and overcome adversity, and resilience is embedded in our journey to success so we can be the very best we can be.

Respect – Courage – Resilience



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The following changes have been shared with the children in collective worship today:

Lunches

The children have been told that, from Monday, they are going to eat their lunch in the school hall (school dinners and packed lunches). Year 6 children will support their Year 3 buddies with this, going in at 12noon, Year 4 and 5 will go in at 12.30pm. When not in the hall the children will be out on the playground (unless it is wet play).

From Monday there will be a third choice for school dinners. Children can choose from the two normal options or have a jacket potato. The menu for potatoes will be on the website if you want to look in advance.

Nut free zone! Please can you ensure that your child does not bring anything with nuts in it into school as there are children with severe nut allergies in the school.

Please could you also ensure that if your child has a packed lunch, they have their healthy snack in a separate pot/bag, not in their lunch box as these will be stored separately. This is a good time to plan a healthy snack for break times as studies show that eating sugary foods affects concentration. Fruit or vegetable sticks are much better than manufactured products which contain high levels of sugar.

Library

The great news is that from Monday 10th January, the library will be open to all children. There is a timetable with all classes being allocated time in the library over the week. From Monday 31st January, the library will be open for parents and children to visit between 8.30am and 8.45am and 3.20pm and 4.30pm. Please do visit with your child, if you can, to choose some good books and enjoy the lovely space.

Year 4 Ufton Court Parent Information Meeting

The Ufton Court Parent Information meeting has been rescheduled to Monday 10th January. The timings and link are still the same - please see below:

Monday, 10 January · 4:00 – 4:30pm

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/xff-admr-gky>

Children Late into School

If your child has school dinners, and you know they are going to be late into school, please could you call the School Office to order your child's lunch. It is very difficult for our lovely cook to source a meal if she only knows about it later in the morning.

Coats

Please remember that the weather is changeable at this time of year so the children should all be prepared for the rain, and possibly snow – coats are **essential** please in school, as we go out in all weathers!

Uniform

Please remember to write your child's name in their school uniform (including fleeces, jumpers and coats). We have a number of fleeces/coats/jumpers that get handed in without being named - it is extremely difficult to try to reunite them with their owner! Thank you.

Books for Christmas

We would like to say a big thank you to the PTA for providing every child in school with a book for Christmas.

We are hoping to reinstate the PTA within the near future – watch this space for further details!

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Diary Dates

24 th -26 th Jan	Y4 Residential to Ufton Court
26 th Jan	Y4 Trip to Haslemere Museum
14 th Feb	Year 5 Trip Ufton Court
21 st Feb-25 th Feb	Half Term

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