



Head Teacher's Autumn 2017 Newsletter

Lots to celebrate!

Best SATs results – above Norfolk and the Cluster!

We are really proud to announce that the validated 2017 SATs results have been released and the school has performed above the national average. We are also pleased to note that compared to cluster schools (our local schools), St Michael's has achieved 17% higher results in the important Reading/Writing/Maths Combined score than our cluster of schools. This is great news for our children and community! It is vital that you know that the Local Authority and the Diocese are extremely impressed with the results achieved, which are **significantly** above the Norfolk average and the cluster performance.

Ofsted News – What actions have we taken?

We had some great feedback from our Ofsted inspector – I hope you have had the time to read this. The inspector praised the school and could clearly see how we are meeting the needs of our children in all respects. The children expressed their love of the school and she found them to be well behaved and polite.

Mrs Curry, the inspector, recognised that the school is doing much to meet the increased demands of the new much harder National Curriculum. Parents used to the old level system will know that the expectation for schools now is getting a percentage of children to reach levels similar to the old Level 6, which is now called "Greater Depth". I am pleased to let parents know of what we do to support more-able children reaching these new challenging levels:

- We are continuing to work with our *Author in Residence*, Mrs Lisa Mann. She works with more-able writers in the upper school.
- Mrs Karen Grier is working with more-able Year 6 children twice a week on Greater Depth reading skills.
- All year groups are focusing on pushing on all children ensuring that their analysis of data from assessments is finely tuned and informative. Children are placed in ability groups so that work can be carefully tailored to their needs.
- Year leaders and senior leaders regularly check through children's books to make sure that work is at the right level and that children are being challenged.
- Half termly all children are discussed with me and the deputy head, Mrs Clafin. We make sure that we talk through the progress of every child in the whole school with the year leader.
- All children are encouraged to challenge themselves – ask your children about high risk tasks.



Mrs Curry, the Ofsted inspector, also said that the school is working really hard to promote good attendance. However, some parents are not making sure that their child attends at least 97% of the time. We have attached additional information to this newsletter to help you make the right decision about whether your child should attend school when they have been ill.

Holidays in term time cannot be authorised.

Medical appointments should be made outside of school time, unless it is a hospital appointment.

We have put in place more incentives and rewards for the children so please support us with ensuring that your child attends school at least 97% of the time.



More clubs

Not only do we have MSAs on duty at lunchtime, we also employ some of our Teaching Assistants over lunchtime to run activities over the lunch period. The children are really enjoying taking part in the following additional free clubs:

Science Club	Every lunchtime
Running Club	Every lunchtime
Playground games and activities	Every lunchtime
Library Club	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime
Film Club	Friday lunchtime
Film Making Club	Friday lunchtime

We will also be working with Premier in the New Year. We are able to offer our after school clubs **free of charge** for the Spring term. New clubs planned so far include Fencing, Archery, Parkour and Dance. Popular clubs from this term will be running again. Encourage your child to join one of these clubs to make the most of these opportunities.



Cluster behaviour project

Our cluster of schools has been working with Eaton Hall School headteacher, Mr Keith Bates, to ensure that we are addressing all behaviour needs in the cluster schools. Mr Bates carried out an audit visit of both Clover Hill and St Michael's and fed back to us (prior to reporting to the cluster schools) that our schools demonstrate exemplary practice and that other cluster schools need to visit us to see our strategies and methods. He noted that so many of the other schools had extremely high levels of disruptive behaviour but that Clover Hill and St Michael's systems enabled all children to behave well and learn. The same was picked up during our inspection. It is heartening to receive this level of praise from such an experienced Special School headteacher and helped to remind us that some children will always have additional needs but that we are very good at supporting them.



Library

I am extremely pleased with how well our school library is being used now that we have revamped it! We have spent over £15,000 on new books and additional funds on furniture and library systems. We successfully attracted a grant from the Foyle Foundation and a donation from the local Women's Institute to pay for this improvement. Please help us by making sure all books are returned promptly and understand that we will have to charge for damaged or lost books.



Break time snack



We provide all children with a free piece of fruit each break time. There is no need to give your child anything else. However, if you would like them to eat a different piece of fruit, please feel free to send this in. We do not allow sweets, chocolates and crisps at break time or outside at lunchtime. With so many children in the school, we need to take steps to keep them healthy and the school litter free. If your child doesn't want the fruit, they do not have to take a piece!

Making appointments with school staff

School staff are very happy to talk through any worries. However, as staff are busy teaching or in meetings at the end of the day, it is always best to ask for an appointment. Email the school office at stmoffice@allangelsfederation.org.uk stating who you would like an appointment with and this will be forwarded to the right person. Phone messages can be left on the Attendance Line too. Make sure you do this before 2.45pm.

Our pastoral team are a great first port of call. You will know that we have one person per year group, plus Mrs Griffiths, Mr O'Brien and Paddy Venner who all look after the well-being and pastoral needs of our children. So, if you think that a member of the pastoral team can help you, just let the office know.

Our Pastoral Team

Mrs Stevens – Year 3

Mr Stapleton – Year 4

Ms Howard – Year 5

Mrs Francis – Year 6

Mrs Griffiths – Attendance support

Mr O'Brien – Forest schools

Paddy Venner – Additional mentoring and coaching

Kind regards

Mrs H. McCarney
Headteacher