



## Governors' Newsletter 18

Spring Term, March 2022

### Dear Parents and Carers,

As governors of All Angels' we would like to thank you for all the support you give to our two schools. Over the past two terms challenges linked to COVID have continued in a way that has impacted on schools more than ever. Our Federation has continued to follow government guidance rigorously to ensure that your children have been safe to learn in an environment that is stimulating, exciting and at the same time caring and supportive.

A great deal of in-depth analysis has taken place by Mrs McCarney and her team so that individual needs are recognised and met. As governors we fully support the creative and innovative approaches that open up new opportunities for children's learning as well as the attention to the children's wellbeing that has been so important after such a prolonged period of challenge.

As parents and carers you have faced up to the difficulties that have presented themselves due to rising infection rates and we would like to let you know how much we appreciate your collaboration with us throughout this period.

We are hopeful of good days ahead with the coming of Spring. We are pleased that the children will be able to spend more time outside as they engage in our exciting programme for outdoor learning. We look forward to continuing our work as governors as we support All Angels' to be an exciting place for your children to learn.

**Rosemary Games**  
**Chair of Governors**

### St Michael's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



St Michael's opened its doors to the children of Bowthorpe in 1982 and the school will be celebrating 40 years of service to the community with some exciting events at the end of this Spring term.

To mark the event the whole school stood on the field for this photograph taken from a drone. Thanks to Jon Watson for taking the picture.

## Waste Week



As part of Waste Week, the Clover Hill Eco-Council met with volunteers from the community, Mr Watson and Governor, David Blake, to do a litter pick. They really look like eco warriors with their litter pickers and hi-vis jackets!

Children at St Michael's take part in regular community litter picking with Green Influencers, a local group, and David Blake dons his yellow jacket for those sessions too.

School Governors are often involved with the children on various tasks or events and in this case, it helped to keep the school environment and local area clean and safe too.

## Finance Matters

As we approach the end of the financial year on April 6th, the Governors are preparing a budget for the next 3 years to make sure that all the plans we have for the future are sustainable. It is one of the core functions of the Governing Body to make sure that All Angels' Federation is run efficiently, and all contracts are reviewed frequently for quality and value for money.

Recently the Federation has re-negotiated contracts for the following:

- School Meals
- Internet Provision
- Grounds Maintenance



The Finance Committee meet regularly to monitor the budget against actual spending, to discuss expenditure on large building projects and repairs, to look at staffing requirements and management structure, to examine health and safety procedures and to make sure that any money allocated for a specific purpose is spent wisely and on the correct resources. The Federation's income is obtained from several sources.

- A large proportion is from the Government, through the Local Authority. The amount is based on pupil numbers plus a sum for deprivation and additional amount depending on the level of special educational and health needs.
- Funds raised through services provided to parents, meals, after school clubs, breakfast club, extra nursery sessions etc. All income from these services is spent on staff and provisions. They are run on a not-for-profit basis.
- Occasionally there is the opportunity to apply for grants from charitable and other organisations which are to fund specific projects. They must be applied for directly and the process can be time consuming with copious paperwork to complete. All Angels' staff are very adept and practised at applying for extra funds this way and the children have benefitted from many grants from outside organisations. Typically, this income is spent on training or equipment to improve learning or the teaching environment, e.g., grants for books, playground equipment, speech and language training etc.
- Money raised by parents at fetes and other events are called voluntary funds and are kept separate for each school. These funds must be used for the benefit of the children and are usually used to subsidise trips and educational events or buy special equipment to use in school.

It isn't always easy to balance the books, but with careful management the Federation can continue to provide value for money and quality education for all its pupils.

## Governor Monitoring

One of the responsibilities of governors is to monitor what is happening in both All Angels' Federation schools and this is achieved partly through spending some time in the Spring term to visit classes and teachers to observe lessons and ask about the curriculum. This is always a very positive experience and one that governors enjoy as it helps us to get to know more about the interesting and exciting work that is happening throughout the two schools. It also helps us to engage more meaningfully in the discussions that take place about progress and school development.

During the first two weeks of March, Governors visited St Michael's to monitor the provision and curriculum in Music and Science. This Spring, the Governors thought they would look at something other than the core subjects at the school to see what else was being taught and to see the reactions of the children to the content of these subjects.

Our visits coincided with British Science Week and there were several special events and assemblies to celebrate and promote Science for Governors to see and enjoy. The subject this year was 'Growth'.

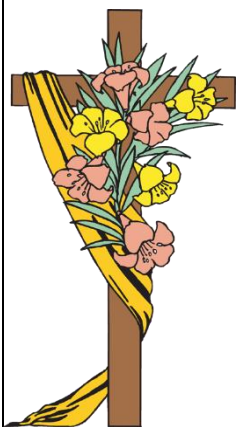
Subjects covered in the lessons observed were very diverse covering nutrition, the skeleton, making a healthy snack, superfoods, lifecycles and much more.

There were zoom meetings with working scientists which included a demonstration of an experiment using enzymes.

Governors remarked, when providing feedback to teaching staff, that music lessons are enthusiastically enjoyed by the children and their participation is of very high standard. Singing is something everyone can take part in, but it is not only performance that is taught in lessons, but also music appreciation and theory.



## Happy Easter



The last two years have been particularly worrying for everyone. All Angels' Governors have been deeply concerned primarily about the children in our care and the staff that work in our schools, but we also care about their families, the church and other organisations in Bowthorpe. We are now looking towards the future and how we can ensure that the children have the best opportunities to use every moment of their time at school to their advantage.

We are proud to be associated with everyone in Bowthorpe who have worked together to make this area of Norwich a very special community.

We wish you a very restful Easter Break as you celebrate the renewal and new growth that heralds Spring and enjoy, hopefully, enjoy some warmer weather.

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

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### All Angels' Governors

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

Helen McCarney (**Headteacher**)

Janet Acaster  
Jess Davies Grant (Staff Governor)  
Catherine Rickman (Staff Governor)  
Debbie Bunting (Parent Governor)  
Linda Johnson

Brian Earley  
David Blake  
Gavin Shiers  
Clare Watson (Parent Governor)  
David Walker

**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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