



Governors' Newsletter 19

Summer Term, July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of all the governors I would like to say a very sincere thank you for all your support over the last school year. We know that children thrive when we all work as a community, and we are very grateful for the strong community spirit that is characteristic of our schools. We started the year with great hope for the year ahead, knowing that there was a lot of catching up to do but knowing that together we would be successful.

In the midst of ongoing challenges, we have taken advantage of everything we have learned as a result of life being so completely different to anything any one of us has experienced before. We have been able to move forward positively because our headteacher, leadership team and all the staff have been excited about new possibilities. They have all worked hard to ensure that children's needs have been at the heart of everything that has happened in the course of the year. There was a very high level of need linked to children having missed so much time with their friends and not having been consistently in school with others over a period of nearly two years. In this, and all other aspects of school life, programmes were put in place to ensure that there was a detailed understanding of what the children needed. They have had many really worthwhile and enriching experiences and have shown themselves to be resilient and excited about learning.

We hope you all have a very good summer. Some of your children will move on to secondary school and we wish them well. We look forward to welcoming new pupils as well as old in September when we can continue to work together to build a community that we are proud of.

Rosemary Games

Chair of Governors

Fun at the Summer Fairs.

Both Clover Hill and St Michael's held a summer fair in the week of July 4th. They were well attended, and all enjoyed the games and stalls, especially the food on offer.

St Michael's also had two after school 'Movie Nights' with pizza and popcorn with all the children changed into their 'onesies' to make the experience more like 'home'.

Events like this help to top up our funds to subsidise the little extra educational activities that make memories the children will hold on to all their lives. Next term there are plans to take every child to the pantomime in Norwich and there will be more fund-raising events during the autumn term to enjoy.



Farewell and Best Wishes

Every ending is followed by a new beginning and at the end of the summer term there are always some goodbyes to say as staff and children move on to a new stage in their lives.



- **Year 6** have had their induction days at high school and are ready to take on the challenge of a new school. Be proud of your achievements and approach your learning with confidence.
- **Year 2** at Clover Hill are moving up to St Michael's to start their new learning adventure. You are growing so quickly, you are now ready to show your independence.
- **Mrs Lewis**, assistant head teacher at St Michael's is moving on to a new position as Head of School at Hemphall. An excellent leader who has shown her worth with the promotions she has gained whilst working at the federation. We thank her for all her excellent work with the children over the many years she has been at St Michael's.
- We also offer our heartfelt thanks to **Francesco Atzori** who is retiring due to ill health. He was site manager for the federation before and during the pandemic. He spent so much effort making the sure both schools were safe places for children to attend during the difficult two years of intermittent lockdown. He made sure that every tree in the 'Wood of Hope' had a good start. With shovel in hand he helped dig nearly all the holes for the trees. Teresa Byrne stepped into the role vacated by Francesco and many thanks to her for taking over at short notice.

What do Governors do?

Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. They enable their school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to children.

There are 3 main functions of the governing body:

- **Setting the strategic direction** - Governing bodies are the key strategic decision makers in every school. Along with the Head Teacher, it is the job of a governing body to set the school's aims and objectives around how the school will develop and improve.
- **Creating robust accountability** - The governing body is there to support and challenge the school's senior leadership team. They play a crucial role in holding the Head Teacher to account for securing the best possible outcomes for pupils.
- **Ensuring financial probity** - Governing bodies have a strategic role in the financial management of schools. Their key responsibilities include, setting financial priorities through the school development plan, 3-year financial plan and the annual budget

Governors bring a wide range of skills and expertise from their professional lives to the governing board and schools benefit greatly from working with skilled volunteers.

All Angels' governors come from all walks of life. Some represent the parents, some represent the staff, some represent the local church and community of Bowthorpe. Some have experience in schools, some do not. All of us have an interest in providing quality education for the children in our schools. You do not have to be a parent with children at the school, just have some connection with the area or have any skills that will provide advice and expertise to help keep the school improving and moving forwards.

There is a current vacancy for a Governor at All Angels' Federation. If you are passionate about education and would like to help to support our two schools in a positive manner, please email/write to one of the schools using the details below and a serving governor will meet you for an informal chat to see if governorship is for you.

Finance Matters II

In the Governor's Newsletter 18 Spring Term, there was a piece about the main streams of income which the schools rely on to provide quality education for the children of Bowthorpe.

It is the Governor's responsibility to make sure that this income, the majority of which is public money, is spent to the advantage of the children at the schools and that the federation endeavours to provide value for money.

In 2021-22 our budget was spent on:



2021-22	% of Total Income	Notes
Teachers	45.11	Qualified teaching staff including senior management.
Education Support Staff	22.56	Teaching assistants and Pastoral Team. This is above the average for most primary schools, and it is to support Teachers in the classroom and children with their learning.
Other Support Staff	8.92	Cleaners, Caretakers and Office Staff.
Total Staff	76.59	Not surprisingly, the federation's major item of expenditure is on staff. This percentage is a little more than the average for a primary school. Class numbers are lower than average, and the federation has a high pupil to adult ratio.
Training	0.43	
Insurance	1.15	
Buildings and Grounds	1.36	Repairs and maintenance.
Cleaning Materials	0.23	This spending is a lot higher than it was 3 years ago due to Covid. Cleaners are still ensuring that surfaces and toilets are kept hygienically clean.
Utilities	1.90	Gas, electricity, water and rates.
Learning Resources	1.88	Classroom equipment and materials.
IT Resources	1.69	Hardware, software and subscriptions.
Admin Supplies	0.55	Paper, telephones, photocopying etc.
Catering	3.95	Chartwells took over this contract during this financial year.
Prof. Educational Serv.	2.14	Educational Psychology, Sports Partnership, Speech Therapist etc.
Other Prof. Serv.	0.97	Finance Support, HR and Payroll Services, Library Services, Music Services etc.
Misc.	0.78	
Reserves/Contingency	6.37	To cover any unexpected large items of expenditure e.g. accidental damage to buildings.

Every year, in the Autumn term, these figures are compared with other schools of similar size in Norfolk in a benchmarking exercise. Governors can check that every part of the budget is being spent in line with other schools unless there is a need for our school to be different, spending extra to implement the improvement plan set up at the beginning of the school year.

At every finance meeting Governors check that spending is in line with the budget and that the school is providing value for money, with special attention to:

- Pupil Premium – money provided by the Government for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Special Needs – money provided for children who need extra help and support in school.
- Catch Up funding – money provided by the Government to help support children most affected by the pandemic.
- PE funding – a grant provided to make sure that PE provision in school is of high quality.

The challenges in 2022-23 budget are the same as for any organisation. Energy costs will increase by more than 50% and food costs are rising. The new budget has been set with this in mind but keeping to that budget is going to be difficult if there is any unexpected large expenditure.

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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Respect - Trust - Perseverance - Hope - Success