



Aiden 86

Bede 66

Chad 135

Columba 108

### *Chair of Governors - Mrs Feltham*

I wanted to take a moment to share my thoughts on the recent SEND drop-in afternoon held in school. It was truly heartening to see so many families in attendance, and I had the privilege of participating both as a parent and as the Chair of Governors.

The afternoon featured contributions from several outside agencies, including [ADHD West Yorkshire](#), [Unique Ways](#), the [National Autistic Society](#), and representatives from Calderdale local authority. Each speaker showcased their passion for supporting children with special educational needs and shared invaluable information about the services they provide. Their insights are crucial as we all strive to better understand and support our children's individual needs.

At St Michael's, we take great pride in recognising each child as a unique individual. Our commitment to creating strong links with outside agencies allows us to offer a wealth of experience and advice to our families. Having navigated the SEND journey with my own family, I can personally attest to the significance of having a robust support network. I am continually learning new strategies, and attending these events helps us all grow together in this important area. For those of you who were unable to attend, I encourage you to explore the resources available through the links provided. Additionally, please feel free to reach out to our pastoral team at school if you require further information or support.

I hope in the future by continuing to hold these events, we can continue to build a nurturing environment for all our children at St Michael's and ensure that every family feels empowered, supported and informed.

### *Vice Chair of Governors - Mrs Craven*

#### **Monitoring:**

I am excited to share that I had a strategic day at school a few weeks ago, participating in a learning walk focused on writing across our school; an area that the school has identified as requiring improvement.

This experience offered a fantastic opportunity to engage with our teaching staff and witness first-hand the work being done throughout school to enhance the children's skills in writing.

During my time in school, I had the chance to review planning, data and go and visit every classroom to see what strategies have been put in place. I am fortunate as I have a background in Education, specifically English and therefore it was great to see what things the school are doing to improve. It was fantastic to talk to the children about their learning and I was truly impressed by the excellent teaching and learning taking place in every classroom. Some of the children were so enthusiastic to share their work with me! Additionally, I engaged in meaningful discussions with senior leaders regarding their strategies to improve pupil outcomes in English.

#### **Afternoon Tea:**

Last Friday, I was so lucky to run the weekly Afternoon Tea celebration with a selection of children who have been chosen for producing excellent work that week. Munching on cakes and juice (served from beautiful china may I add!), the children who came were so enthusiastic to share their work with me, talking confidently and positively about their learning.

Afternoon Tea is a real treat and something that my son who is now 15, can still remember with real fondness.

What a lovely thing for the school to do!

### *Pre-School Link Governor - Mrs Raistrick*

During my most recent visit to observe Pre-School I found the environment was set up to help the children have a range of learning opportunities and experiences. Children were asked which zone they would like to play in; construction, drawing and colouring, water play and so on. This opt-in approach means children are enthusiastic about their choice and staff supported the children in their play and their learning. The tools children needed were accessible; encouraging independence. I observed children being supported to cut things out, to write their names and to play together with respect for each other. Many children proudly showed me their work. 'Well done' was warmly received. This is a lively environment, exactly what you would expect in a room of children in this age group. The staff in there never stop: the positive and caring 'feel' in the room is a real credit to them.

### *Reception Link Governor - Mrs Shand*

Reception has been enjoying their drawing club lessons and are very excited their daffodils have finally grown! The children have been making the most of the lovely weather and recently enjoyed a treasure hunt in the nature garden. They have been making their own hot cross buns for Easter too. It is always a pleasure to visit Reception and see their wonderful learning!

### *Year 1 Link Governor - Mrs Hallows*

Year 1 continue to be enthusiastic learners. The classroom is set up to allow for learning through play. Numbers sit on the floor like stepping stones in one area. The children enjoy taking turns at being teacher and setting each other simple problems to solve with them. It was fun but they were also becoming proficient in dealing with numbers. In addition to being linked to a year group, governors also take responsibility for looking at subjects in the curriculum. One of mine is computing. It is amazing how much pupils learn over their time in school, starting with mechanical toys which can be set to perform simple tasks, then moving on to the chrome books and eventually to coding and programming. I watched Year 1 having a lesson on computing which involved creating and changing artwork. Some of their efforts looked as good as works by modern abstract artists which sell for huge sums!

### *Year 3 Link Governor - Mrs Lamin*

I've been really impressed with how our pupils in Year 3 are thriving. Miss Mitchell is doing an amazing job sparking joy and curiosity with fun topics like ancient Greece. Throughout the year, Miss Mitchell makes sure to choose a wide range of subjects to keep everyone interested and excited. It's clear to see the students' enthusiasm, especially during ukulele and computing lessons.

I enjoy watching our pupils celebrate out of school achievements during Friday's celebration worship. I'm proud of how Year 3 handle mistakes and learning opportunities - Miss Mitchell, for example, shares her own mistakes to show that it's okay to make mistakes and try again. This approach helps Year 3 build confidence and take on new challenges with courage.

### *Year 4 Link Governor - Rev Enwerem*

I visited Year 4 one afternoon in early February when they had just come in from outside where they'd be doing their 'daily mile.' I was very impressed at the enthusiasm with which the children 'jumped' into continuing their history lesson, focussing on Ancient Egypt. Whenever Ms Burt asked a question, the majority of the class had their hand up, eager to answer, and they all had a really good go at deciphering the Hieroglyphics of Ancient Egypt and then coming up with their own hieroglyphics system to communicate a simple message to see if other children could understand it. Students shared what they had discovered about the Ancient Egyptians through additional home learning. During Show and Tell time at the end of the day, children also had the opportunity to share with their classmates about further interests and activities undertaken outside of school time.

The children encouraged each other and showed a really positive attitude of 'having a go', trying your best and not being discouraged if you get it wrong but seeing that as an opportunity to learn. It was great to spend time with Year 4, seeing them living out our school values: Respect. Resilience. Responsibility. Confidence. Co-operation. Compassion.

## *Year 5 Link Governor - Mr Armitage*

Year 5 are currently learning about global trade, and I visited a lesson today where the class was covering "What does the UK export?" They discussed the differences between import and exports, the reasons behind each, and the benefits of the countries involved. It was nice to see the lesson referencing the current global situation, pointing out how trade partners and the relationships between countries can change, as is currently getting coverage in the news.

During the lesson, references were made to other subjects, including history (how does international trade work if the countries are not on friendly terms after World War II) and maths (how to correctly represent export data on a bar chart).

The class were clearly enthralled, with lots of questions being asked to get a better understanding of the reasons behind exports. The class were all exceptionally behaved too, all the grown-ups should be proud of how attentive and polite the children were.

I was also somewhat surprised when any children who took part in Young Voices were asked to go with another teacher to give feedback on the event, and around half the class left! I wasn't involved with Young Voices, and hadn't realised just how many of Year 5 had taken part but I will be sure to ask the children about this next time.

## *Year 6 Link Governor - Mrs Lambert*

It was great to visit Year 6 again recently and see their writing in action in their English lesson! The children told me all about their class text this half term, A Series of Unfortunate Events, and how this has inspired their own pieces of writing. They showed me their individual writing target cards and talked about how they are working to achieve them. They have been working hard on their writing and presentation and it was great to see their progress since my last visit and some beautiful joined handwriting! It was also lovely to talk to the children about their understanding of British Values and they proudly talked about their own school values which link to these, for example respect and responsibility, and how these are lived out in our school.

