

St Michael & All Angels CE Infant School

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2020



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Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't quite believe we are already nearing the end of the first half term! I have been so impressed at how quickly the children have settled back into school and adjusted to the 'new normal' of school routines. As you will know, our teachers and LSAs have worked incredibly hard to ensure that our learning environments and approaches to teaching were ready to support all children in returning to school, after such a long period of uncertainty. It has been brilliant to see how our resilient learners have settled, engaged and moved forward. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us! The start of Reception is one of my favourite times of years and we have all been really impressed at how the children have settled into their new classes.

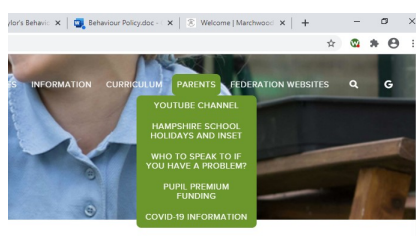
Governance

Our Federation is led by a committed body of governors, with a vast skillset, who not only represent a cross section of our community but also work strategically to evaluate the success of all the schools within the Federation and lead the direction for improvement (they also count as my boss!) Over the past number of years, Marie Kirk has been The Chair of Governors and given up many hours of her own time in order to ensure that our schools are performing at their best. I would like to thank Marie for her work over the years and let her know how her time and efforts have been invaluable to the development of the Federation. We have now appointed a new Chair of Governors, Jennie Wright, who previously was nominated on the governing body as a parent governor. Jennie has been a governor for many years and I look forward to working alongside her.

Covid

I would like to thank every parent and family we work with for their patience, as we continue to navigate through such challenging times. As with every organisation around the country we are continually reviewing, adapting and amending what we are doing, to ensure that not only all our school community are safe, but also that we are providing the best provision for our children. My thanks to everyone who has followed government guidance, sought a covid test when needed and informed the school of the outcome. It is all our responsibility to act and do the right thing and this has helped to ensure our schools are safe and can remain open and fully staffed.

We will continue to send out updates regarding covid as things change and alter. There is a bank of information on our website including how to register for home kits and guides to help you know when and when not to send your child into school.



As always, if your child is ill, please let them rest and get better. However, should your child be isolating because of close contact with a positive case or a family member showing symptoms, please use your child's Tapestry account to access work, tasks and challenges to ensure that your child is able to keep up with their learning. If you are not receiving any communication through Tapestry, or have issues accessing content sent by your child's class teacher, please phone or email the school as quickly as possible so that we can help resolve this.

For more information on our distance learning approach, you can read our policy on the website, under the curriculum drop down menu.

Online home learning

We have had great feedback from parents who have accessed some of our online platforms for learning, including programmes such as Reading Eggs and Mathletics. These can provide a great way to support your child at home, as well as at school, to catch up on lost learning time. This year, all schools have been allocated funds to spend on enhancing provision, to support children in making the best progress possible. As part of this spend, we have opted to purchase a subscription for every child, within the federation, to use both in school and at home. Your child will soon have a password and user name coming home for your use.



New starters 2021

If you know someone who is looking for a school place for September 2021 please encourage them to make contact with the school office. Unfortunately, all schools in Hampshire have been asked to not show new families around, however each school's Head of Learning will be hosting a number of group zoom meetings, to talk about their school and we are currently exploring some other exciting opportunities to show off the work we do. We will soon be offering virtual tours of all our schools and look forward to showing off our fabulous schools to as many people as possible – watch this space....

Harvest

Thank you all for you Harvest offerings! They have been gratefully received and will make a real difference for families in our community.

Good bye and welcome

Graham Ratcliffe, our site manager who works across all our schools is retiring at the end of this month. We have been greatly appreciative of all he has done. Graham always performs above and beyond what is asked of him and we wish him the best of luck for the future. We welcome Leon White as his replacement. Leon comes with a wealth of experience (having been in a similar post at the Mayflower Theatre) and we look forward to working with him.

Relationship Education

Over the Summer, Mrs Thomas (Copythorne Infant School) has been busy finalising our Relationship policy and PSHE policy. These are currently posted on our website, under the Curriculum – Curriculum Documents sections. These policies have not yet been formally agreed by the Governing Body and are currently on the website for consultation. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated. Please email thoughts to your school's admin team.

Breakfast and After School Club

Breakfast club has begun! We are running breakfast club each morning and so far this has been a great success. Mrs Witney, who has a long standing history with the school, has been a great (re)addition to the Saint Michael's Team. We are

encouraging as many families as possible to sign up and enjoy a fun start to each day! Contact the school office to find out more.

New Forest Child Care will have also been in contact with many of you and after a bumpy start, now have the numbers to make this provision more viable. This provision can be used on a regular basis or adhoc, all you need to do is register your details directly with new forest child care. <https://www.newforestchildcare.co.uk/>

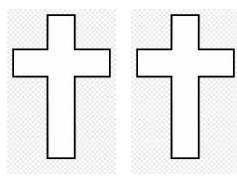
Currently, I am minimising my movements between schools and spending longer periods at each school due to current covid guidelines (as well as wearing a fetching visor when walking around the school). Please feel free to speak to me on the gate if you have any concerns or questions, or contact your child's school office and they will be able to put you in contact with me if needed. In the meantime, I continue to look forward to seeing what each and every child achieves over the coming year!

Kind Regards

M. Bowen.

Mat Bowen

Executive Headteacher



A Prayer for our schools

We give you our school.

We give you all the teachers and staff who work here,

We give you all the children who study here.

We pray our school would be place of great discovery, adventure and creativity.

May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love,

A place where everyone is respected and all are deeply valued.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Important Dates:

Half Term Holiday 26th October-1st November

INSET day (no school) Friday 13th November

Last day of term Friday 18th December

Santa starts his rounds 24th December.

Message from Reverend Potterton



The fact is that we all welcome anything that puts a smile on our faces at the moment, don't we! Levels of confusion and anxiety, coupled with rising feelings of frustration and fear are running high throughout our community at this time and our children are not immune, picking up on everything that is said and broadcast about 'the germ'. I have been humbled by the very real and obvious dedication of everyone in our school who are working so hard to maintain a 'calm and happy' learning environment where every child continues to flourish in a safe and positive environment. A huge thank you to all staff and volunteers at our school.

It was such a joy to welcome the new Robins into St Mike's earlier this week as we welcomed them to both their new school and church. As time goes by, St Mike's will become not only familiar to them, but they will enjoy visiting us for class and school events. But even this is not easy, with the latest guidance not permitting visits to community spaces including churches. So, I am especially pleased that we welcomed the Robins and introduced them to 'Mince'. You will have to ask them who Mince is!

Working to a coordinated Collective Worship Plan across the Federation, I continue to visit all classes through the week for their Collective Worship. As is the custom, I always take something related to the theme for the day in my bright and sparkly bag. Already I've taken the biggest and smallest bibles in the church (used as early as 1847), a box of tissues and a cabbage. We have great fun as we discover stories in the Bible which explain the importance of **Love, Respect and Compassion**, the Federation's Core Values. Sadly, no singing at present, but we all look forward to the day when in school and in Church we can all worship God in Song and I get to play the piano again!

Sadly, Remembrance Sunday will not be the same this year, with only six people permitted to gather at War Memorials to remember the fallen. However, we will NOT FORGET this year as we hang a 'FALL OF POPPIES' from the Church Tower (over 4,000 poppies have been handmade not only in the Parish, but across the world – a truly massive effort. I am sure that the Fall of Poppies will feature in our School Act of Remembrance somehow. WE are encouraging everyone to **PAINT** a poppy, **PLACE** it in their window and **PAUSE** at 11am on Remembrance Sunday to remember. The Children will be painting and displaying their own poppies to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Sadly, we have an outbreak of **dry rot** in the church, which along with the need to replace the whole nave floor, present us with significant challenges. Thank you to everyone who has completed and returned our **Community Questionnaire**. The results reveal a strong desire that our fabulous church building should be used for wider

community activities without forgetting that we are first and foremost a place of worship in our community which keeps faith alive and hope strong.

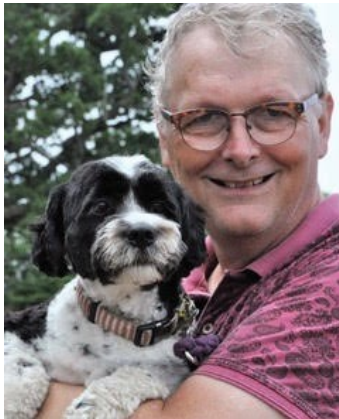
We are interviewing for a Children and Families Minister later this month because we are totally committed to support families in our community. We hope that we can make an announcement very soon.

Finally, it has been a real disappointment to many that we have not been able to hold a more traditional Harvest Festival this year. I will be visiting the school to Celebrate Harvest with each class. The school will notify you about what food items the children can bring in support of the LYNDHURST FOOD BANK. We can all help support this **IMPORTANT** community initiative by providing essential fresh and tinned food, toiletries and household items every time we shop. For information, call **07485 489275**. Items can be left in the Church Porch. **THANK YOU** for everyone involved in supporting the vulnerable in our community, whatever their age.

Our Parish Churches in Lyndhurst, Emery Down and Minstead are committed to keep faith alive and hope strong across our communities in these most testing times. If we can help you, please get in touch via our website www.newforestparishes.co or Benefice Office. 02380 283175.

Encouraging Love, Respect and Compassion in the school and across our community,

Revd David



New Forest
Parishes 



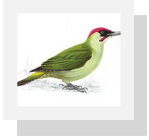
Year R Robins

Robins Class

The Robins have settled into their new class. They have been making lots of new friends and exploring their new surroundings. They have been learning lots on new things and we are very proud of everything they have achieved so far.

We hope you all have a lovely half term and a good rest. Well done everybody!





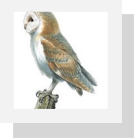
Year 1 Woodpeckers

On Monday (19th October), the Woodpeckers welcomed a new pupil into our little family. Hailing from Brazil, our new Woodpecker speaks Portuguese and is slowly developing her English language in our class, as well as all of us picking up the odd phrase in Portuguese!

Also on Monday, the Woodpeckers took part in a class hockey tournament where they could show off the wonderful hockey skills they have developed in their first term back. The class were split into four different teams, each team playing 3 matches. It was wonderful to see whenever the children were not playing their hockey match, they were sat watching and encouraging their peers from the side-lines, cheering for every goal and applauding at the end of each match. At the end of the tournament it was the blue team who came out victorious!

Over the past two weeks, we have been focussing in class on our journeys to school and have been comparing the different ways children across the world make their way to school.





Year 2 Owls

We went to Testwood Lakes to learn about mini beasts and their habitats! We searched for them in the long grass, in ponds and made our favourites out of clay!



We even made rules for our own outdoor classroom and practised being safe with tools. We had a fantastic time!



St Michael & All Angels CE Infant School

Early Bird Breakfast Club

Every morning from 8am to 8.45am

Play, colour and have breakfast in a safe and fun environment

£ 4 per session



Spaces Still Available

For more information please contact the school office

02380282244

adminoffice@lyndhurst.hants.sch.uk





Lyndhurst Pre-School

High Street

Lyndhurst

SO43 7BB

Telephone: 02380282986

Email: enquiries@lyndhurst-pre.org.uk

Lunchtime Assistant needed for Lyndhurst Pre-School To start January 4th 2021

Responsibilities: to set out the Pre-School children's lunch and assist with the supervision of the children throughout lunchtime.

This also includes gate duties.

The successful applicant must be in good physical health eg able to sit on small (children size) chairs.

The Lunchtime Assistant must act as a responsible caring adult with the health, safety and welfare of the children always in mind. Must show conduct which commands respect and must see that the children behave at all times sensibly and quietly. Subject to DBS check.

Hrs of work : 11.30am -1pm weekdays/term time only

Min wage

For more information please ring 023-80282986 and speak to Janet or Juliet.
Email (Address above)

Diary Dates



Friday 23rd October	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Monday 2nd November	BACK TO SCHOOL
Thursday 5th November	Class Photo Photographers are in school to take individual pupil school photos
Tuesday 10th November	Yr 2 Rescheduled Woodland Learning Project at Testwood Lakes
Friday 13th November	INSET DAY - school closed
W/C 23rd November	Year R Parent Consultations — more information to follow
Friday December 4th	Flu Immunisations, whole school
Tuesday 8th December	Christmas Lunch, more information to follow
Friday 18th December	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL



Christmas Holiday Dates

Break up Friday 18th December

Back to School Monday 4th January