

# St Michael & All Angels CE Infant School

## JULY NEWSLETTER 2021

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Dear Parents,

Working with my children at the weekend, my eldest son in Year Two commented "Daddy, this has been a very short year". I have to agree, it's hard to believe that we are again at the end of another school year, and like many of you I'm wondering how do I now have a child about to start Year Three!

Although for some of us the summer has come around quickly, what a year it has been! Bubbles, lockdowns, home learning, class closures, staff isolating, tables facing forward. It would be easy to focus on all these things, but at the same time there are so many positive things which have happened as well and the level of support and optimism over the year has been outstanding (and for that I thank you).

I hope that you are all able to enjoy the summer holidays and have plans afoot (my tent and thermals are ready to go!) For our current Year Two pupils, I wish them every success moving forward to Year Three. For our current Year R and One pupils, I hope you return energised and excited for the next stage in your learning journey.

### Governors

The role of governors is a crucial mechanism for improvement for all our schools within the Federation. The role of governor is to work with the schools in our federation to monitor, evaluate and strategically plan the direction of provision for all our pupils. It can provide a fascinating insight into the running of our schools and provide a platform to represent our communities when decisions need to be made. We currently have a number of governors, whose terms are coming to an end and we will be looking to recruit replacements to our already strong team. We are interested in a range of expertise, but especially anyone with a background of finance or accountancy as this would be particularly useful. If you are interested in finding out more (or know of anyone who may be interested) please feel free to email the school and discuss the role of a governor more with myself or email Jennie Wright, our current chair using her governor email account [j.wright@lyndhurst.hants.sch.uk](mailto:j.wright@lyndhurst.hants.sch.uk). More information on governance and our current governing body can be found on our website. <https://www.oakscelearningfederation.co.uk/meet-our-governors/>

### Next Year

We are extremely excited about what we are planning to achieve next year. The teaching team have been busy planning trips, visitors, opportunities to invite families in to school and looking at how we can embed our vision and values into our curriculum. As it stands, we are planning to return to whole school working and returning a sense of the 'old normal'.

However, I'm very conscious that this is not the first time we have planned for this and our plans have had to change quickly. Over the Summer, I have no doubt that there will be a continuation of communication from the DfE and we shall wait and see what the future holds, but at the moment we are being optimistic for more freedom.

There have been positives from the last year and one of these has been our soft starts. We shall be continuing to open gates at 8.45 each morning and close the gates at 9.00 each morning (Copythorne 9.05).

At the end of the day however, we shall not be continuing with a soft end, but asking all parents to continue to consider social distancing measures. Teachers will open their doors at 3.15 to send children home.

### Face masks

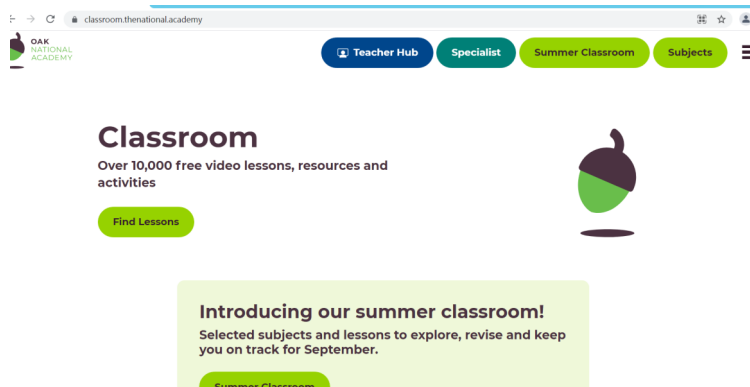
Unless we are told otherwise, we will not be insisting parents wear face masks when outside, but we will ask you to continue to consider distance when talking with staff. However, we will continue for the time being, to ask any non-staff members entering the school building to wear a mask. Your support in doing this is really appreciated and goes a long way to showing empathy to our wider community.



### Summer School!

Please don't panic at the thought of Summer school (or for some of you, please don't feel sad at the thought of no summer school!). We know that the last year has had an impact on pupil progress for many of our children and a number of parents have asked about learning over the summer. The teachers will not be posting on tapestry over the Summer – I have insisted they all have a well-deserved break, but I have been informed that the Oaks National Academy, will continue to post online learning over the summer break, for those who feel that your child would enjoy the routine or would benefit from a little extra input. (Equally, for those of you who are planning to spend six weeks at the beach – this sounds like a good plan as well!)

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/>



### INSET Days

Our planned inset days for next year are currently on our website under our parent section <https://www.oakscelearningfederation.co.uk/school-holidays/>

However, for those of you who have not heard, Hampshire have kindly reduced the number of teaching days to ensure all school workers benefit from the extra bank holiday, to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Therefore, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July will be the last day of the summer term for all schools in Hampshire. Those of you with a good memory will have noticed that we had planned an INSET day on 22nd July, so we will now have the INSET on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July, meaning that **your child's last day of term will be Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Please update your calendars accordingly and please be aware our term time cards are incorrect in this respect as this was a late alteration after they were printed.**



(given the current restrictions – my guess is that this is a palm tree from the English Riviera!)

Yours Sincerely,

M. Bowen.

Mr M Bowen

Executive Headteacher

**Important dates:**

**First day back**

Monday 6th September

**Autumn Term:**

Thursday 2nd September - Friday 17th December 2021

Half Term - Week commencing Monday 25th October

**Spring Term:**

Tuesday 4th January - 8th April 2022

Half term - Week Commencing Monday 21st February

**Summer Term:**

Monday 25th April - 21st July 2022

Half Term - Week Commencing Monday 30th May

**New foundation children starting full time**

Monday 27th September

## Message From Our Governors



As we come to the end of an extraordinary year the governors would like to express their thanks to all staff, parents, carers and families for working together in helping to maintain continuity and consistency in the lives of our young people.

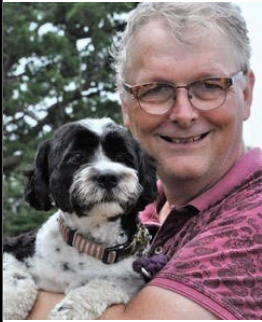
The effort and ingenuity of our staff in adapting traditional events, such as sports day, to comply with the Covid regulations is to be applauded. Their positive attitude has ensured that our children have had the best possible opportunities academically and socially under the restrictions.

The Federation values of love, respect and compassion have played their role in understanding and cooperating with each other.

May you all, staff, pupils and families have a well deserved restful break.



# Message From Reverend Potterton



This is the last School Newsletter of the year and what a year it has been! Living and working in close proximity to school means that I often see the children arriving, I hear them when they are outside playing and see them leaving at the end of the school day. The rhythm of the school day plays such an important part in the lives of our children and periods of isolation and home schooling before returning to the rhythm of the school day has been a challenge for them and for you, their parents, and those who support them out of school. It seems to me that they whether in school or out of school, everyone has worked hard and succeeded in continuing that rhythm of learning.

It has been sad that for the larger part of the last school year, I have not been able to physically visit the school on Tuesday mornings to lead Collective Worship, or to listen to reading on a Friday afternoon and I have missed that. I am sad not to have had the opportunity to get to know the children in Reception or know those in Year 1 or 2 better. I have however had the greatest fun introducing the children and staff to Denzel, who has helped me with over 30 Collective Worship videos made for Collective Worship each week reflecting on the School's Core Values of 'Love', 'Respect' and 'Compassion'. You can find these videos on our 'New Forest Parishes' YouTube Channel or on our website [www.newforestparishes.com](http://www.newforestparishes.com).

Our church building at St Michael's has been closed for much of the past year and even when open, the children have not been permitted to use it. This meant that the school's seasonal celebrations at Easter and Christmas, along with monthly Collective Worship and services to welcome new children to Robins Class have not happened. Yet whilst we are all sad about this, we look forward to things being different next year.

So, thank you to all staff at our school for continuing the rhythm of learning in the most difficult of times, often with Covid concerns and having to support their own families who have faced significant challenges through the year.

At St Michael's, we are aware that during school holidays, some families will find it difficult to put meals on the table for their children. I hope everyone is aware of the '**Lyndhurst Foodbank**' (Call **07484 489275**) which, supported by the Lyndhurst Welfare Charity and public donations, can provide food boxes to families who are struggling. Please, please give them a call if you would benefit from their support. At the same time, St Michael's has a '**Community Pantry**' in the porch to the church. Here you will find food items to help make the occasional meal. The 'Pantry' is re-stocked many times during the week, and we encourage you to pop up to the church and help yourself to those items you need. The fresh vegetables are donated from the Lyndhurst Allotment and other items donated by the church and others in the village.

Unfortunately, the church building is not looking its best as I write! The dry rot has been treated but until we have raised the funds to replace whole floor (restoring the original Victorian tiled/woodblock flooring) we are not able to reinstall the kitchen and toilets. We do have a fundraising Committee and if you know of Trust Funds or Charities who may support this project (£100k +) please get in touch with me.

Our services especially for Primary Children will continue through August. 'Mickey's House' at St Mike's (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 9.30am) and our 'Funday Sunday' Service at All Saints', Minstead (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 9.30am). Whoever said Church should not be fun, it wasn't God!

We currently have two vacancies which we would like to fill as soon as possible.

Operations Officer, providing admin support for our three churches (10hrs per week). A further 10 hours may be available for anyone who has additional experience in managing our website, maintaining and building connections across the community, event and visitor management.

Children and Families Minister. A full-time post with accommodation in Lyndhurst growing and maintaining a programme supporting children and families in Lyndhurst. If you are a friend maker, family supporter, faith sharer and fun lover with experience in working with children and families in a church setting, please get in touch.

Details of both posts are found in the Recruitment Section of our website [www.newforestparishes.com](http://www.newforestparishes.com)

Any questions, please contact me on 07468 527820

As a Community of Faith, at St Michael's we offer this prayer for you at this time. It is based upon the three Core Values of our School, **LOVE, RESPECT & COMPASSION**.

God of Love, we thank you for the love we receive from you and all who support us.

Your love comforts and encourages us. We see your love for us perfectly in Jesus.

We want to share your love with others with selfless generosity. Lord, help us.

God of Respect, we thank you that our lives matter to you and that you do not turn from us when we turn to you.

We see your acceptance of us perfectly in Jesus.

We want to show in our attitude and by our actions that all lives matter, not matter how different their lives are from ours.

Lord, help us.

God of Compassion, you never abandon us, even in the darkest of times. Thank you for all who are compassionate towards us. We see your compassion perfectly in Jesus.

We want to show your compassion in the help we give to others who are struggling in body, mind or spirit.

Lord, help us.

Amen







# Robins Class

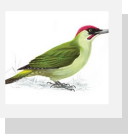
The Robins have had a very exciting week.

They had a wonderful sports day.

On party day they made fruit kebabs and really enjoyed their visit from the party entertainer and playing party games such as pass the parcel and musical statues.

The Robins really loved their party bags from the PTA and would like to say a massive THANK YOU!





## Year 1 Woodpeckers

Hello Woodpeckers!

We are almost at the end of our time together in the Woodpeckers class for this year. This term we have been learning about Shabbat in RE, where the children have been extending their knowledge of the religious festival. A main theme of this term has centred around 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch', where we have been profiling Mr Grinling himself and creating some questionable sandwich concoctions.



In these final few weeks, the Woodpeckers got the chance to experience what school will be like next year, with some time in their new classroom with Mr Noble. Since then, the children pushed themselves physically on sports day, taking part in gym activities in the hall, traditional sports day activities on the field and then finally created their own obstacle courses on the playground.

Thank you all so much for your support this year, what the Woodpecker's have achieved wouldn't have been possible without you.

The Year 1 team





## Year 2 Owls

The Owls have been spoilt this half term with lots of fun learning and activities including...

### **Sports Day**



### **Party Afternoon**



### **Bird Display**



We are looking forward to performing our Leavers poems and songs this week... Oh, and we're reasonably excited about our class water fight too!

## Diary Dates



Friday 23rd July	<b>LAST DAY OF TERM</b>
Thursday 2nd September	<b>Inset Day, School Closed</b>
Friday 3rd September	<b>Inset Day, School Closed</b>
Monday 6th September	<b>FIRST DAY OF TERM</b>
Monday 13th September	Our new Reception Class children start school part time
Monday 27th September	Our Reception Class children start school full time

### **Inset Days 2021/2022**

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Friday 3rd September 2021

Friday 22nd October 2021

Monday 15th November 2021

Thursday 21st July 2022

