

St. Michael's CE Primary School



21st July 2022

Parent Update

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the last Parent Update of the year ... and to my last one ever!



Before anything else, I would like to say a massive thank you to the PTA for organising the amazing gift for me. I am really blown away by your generosity. I am going to use some of the money to buy a super detailed world map that I have wanted for a while and the rest will be put to good use on my many planned travels.

End of Term

Please remember that term finishes tomorrow at **2.30pm** which is one hour earlier than normal. There are many staff events after school, so please collect children promptly.

Gordon Hill Station Artwork



If you are ever using Gordon Hill train station, watch out for a beautiful piece of artwork made by some renowned and very local artists. Our very own Year Three and Mrs Mayho have been honoured to have their artwork displayed in the station. It certainly brightens up the station and will cheer weary commuters on their way.

End of Term

Did I mention that term finishes as **2.30pm** not 3.30pm tomorrow?

At the end of the day, children should be collected promptly. **Year Six** children will be held back for five minutes or so to allow the playground to clear before they come out to meet their well-wishers.

Goodbye from Me

As I move on after almost 26 years at St. Michael's, I feel really proud of the school and the staff that has been built. I can honestly say that every member of staff looks after your child as though they were their own. That means having aspirations for them, wanting them to be the best they can be, loving watching them grow, teaching the academic subjects, developing their personal qualities and just generally loving them. Three things I ask of all parents present and future:

- Please be kind to the staff. Very occasionally it might be that they care for your child slightly differently than you would ... but it doesn't mean that they don't care. The only way you can have everything done exactly as you would do it is to home school - and who wants that?
- Another thing I would ask is that you let your children struggle a bit. We all learn more in the uncomfortable moments than when all difficulty is removed. We have wonderful children at St. Michael's and they could be destined for great things. One thing is for sure, having every battle fought for you and every obstacle removed will not make you a strong or confident person.
- Read the emails and updates!

For 25+ years, my time here has been spent with wonderful children who have been made wonderful because of the love, stability and good example of their parents. It has been a pleasure to be able to take these amazing children and help grow them into fine young people who leave here with a spring in their step and their heads held high. I won't miss the 200+ emails a day. I won't miss the 60 - 70+ hour working weeks (and that's on a good week). I won't miss new education initiatives every time a new government wants to look like they're doing something and I certainly won't miss the ridiculous 'teacher-bashing' that goes on in the press. I will miss the children - their smiles, their cheeriness, their jokes and their zest for life and learning. I will miss the staff - their love, their commitment; the way they give of themselves unstintingly to the children and to each other and their constant support. People who have not been in other schools just do not have a clue how amazing our staff are.

Thank you to those parents who have supported and helped to build the ethos of the school and I do hope that you will continue to support Mrs Bacon, the new Headteacher. She is inheriting a lovely school and a brilliant staff.

It's been tremendous fun and I couldn't have chosen a better career or a better place to spend the last 25+ years. Thank you all.

Reminder: Summer Holidays

When you are planning your trips during the holidays, please remember that children are due back on **Monday 5th September**. Parents sometimes forget just how important the first few days are. This is when friendships are renewed, places in the classroom are chosen, books are given out and classroom routines explained and practiced. Children returning to school a few days late can feel anxious about friendships or routines; often other children set new friendship patterns without the one that isn't there (which is perfectly natural) and everybody gets used to new teacher expectations. Because of the negative effective this can have on children, no absences will be authorised for the very beginning of term.