



July 17, 2017

Dear Michaelchurch Families & Friends,

Hard to believe we are now at the end of our academic year. It has been wonderful to see so many new families join us in 2016-17, and we welcome all of you to our vibrant school community! Our school has been growing steadily over the past few years, and we are now in a place where we've nearly reached our capacity of 56 children. This is great news for our long-term sustainability, and yet we will continue to remain small enough to keep our 'family feeling' that brings so many families to Michaelchurch.

I wanted to highlight some of the changes for next September on behalf of the governors:

**1 - Acorn class changes:** Governors voted in April to make our preschool a governor-run model, and Michaelchurch Preschool will be joining the school in September. It will be based in Acorn class, with continued access to the outdoor spaces that have made it unique. Jenna Smith will be the teacher of this classroom with TA support from Nikki Duggan and new TA Diane Fawcett., while Kirsty Stewart and Karen-Morris Dawson will be working with the preschool children to help create a wonderful, play-based learning environment for all the children. We will be giving more updates throughout next year.

**2 - Changes within the Governing Body this September:** Our extremely talented Chair of Curriculum, Ruth Young, will be stepping down from her role due to the demands of her new job running an education project in Monmouth. Rhiannon Taylor will be taking over as the Chair of Curriculum Committee in September, and we're fortunate that she brings a wealth of experience to our team as a former teacher and headteacher. We want to give a HUGE thank you to Ruth for the past three years of dedication to the academic development of our school, which was crucial for not only our Ofsted inspection last year but making our school truly great! We're glad Ruth will still be staying on as a governor and will remain V. Chair of Govs. for the time being.

Karen Morris-Dawson will be stepping into the Chair of Site & Safety Committee role in September, and will ensure that our school is safe, compliant, and looking smart. She will also be working with Ruth on Vice Chair of Governors responsibilities, as a part of on-going training while sharing her workload.

As mentioned in the last update, Sarah Collier our Clerk of Governors has stepped down this past term and has facilitated a smooth transition to our new clerk Helen Gough. Welcome to Helen! And thank you to Sarah for all your hard work the past few years in keeping us so well organised as a team.

**3 - India Letters:** Our Indian pen-friends at PYDS have not received our latest letters, due to lack of courier going over (and due to the fact that we can't trust the Indian post). They also have letters on that end that haven't reached us. As a result, we have mutually decided to setup an official school email account on each end, through all which all letters will be sent across. The benefit is that children who are leaving us in Yr6 will be able to continue to write to their pen-friends, though will need to send them to our nominated teacher contact at Michaelchurch. We will have adults monitoring the communications and facilitating more timely responses. For anyone who has a query or suggestion, please get in touch directly with me and for the time being send your letters to:

**[admin@michaelchurch-esley.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@michaelchurch-esley.hereford.sch.uk)**

On behalf of all the parents, I would like to thank our amazing staff for all their hard work throughout the year looking after our children both academically and emotionally. They have a super challenging job, yet make it all seem so easy. We are very sad to say goodbye to Miss Brockwell this year, and wish her all the best with her new endeavours. She definitely will be missed by all...especially the children! New teacher Rebecca Cook will be joining us in September in Saplings class, and we hope all of you get a chance to meet her soon. And lastly, a huge thank you to Mrs Crocker for her tireless work as our headteacher throughout the 2016-17 school year. Our school wouldn't be the same without the Crockers - including Gary as Deputy Head - at the helm!

We hope all of you thoroughly enjoy the summer holidays, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead in 2017-18.

Best wishes,

*Diahann*

Diahann Hughes Hawkins - Chair of Governors