

ST. MICHAEL'S C.E. (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

*"I have come that everyone may have life and have it to the full (John10:10)*



Newsletter 9 - Autumn Term 2013

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November

**Recent Developments on our Balloon Race - Michaelmas Fair 28<sup>th</sup> September**

We had fourteen returned postcards from distances varying from 13 miles away (Wigan) to the winning distance of Much Hoole in Preston registering a distance of 36.5 miles! The holder of this balloon number (one of our parents, Cathy Gallagher) receives a cash prize of £50 - (not a fix!). Thank you to all parents who bought balloons for this event.

**Governor Update**

The Governing Body met last night and welcomed Mrs. Ruth Boyd and Mr. Christopher Gallagher to their first full governing body meeting. During this meeting, Mr. Martin Bennett was elected as Chair of Governors. The governing body are part of the Leadership and Management of the school. As a result of new government expectations, the governing body are required to have a clear picture of school data and finance. They are also responsible for the headteacher's performance management and oversee my performance management of staff. I am grateful for such a skilled and committed set of volunteers who are fully supportive of the development of St. Michael's School.

**Teaching Assistant Deployment**

At last night's meeting, the governors recommended that I explained my strategic use of staff in school.

Teaching Assistants are very important in supporting children to achieve. In the past, T.A.s have been a teacher's aid, but now they are expected to have an impact on children's learning. In September, I appointed a T.A. in Nursery and one in Reception to support indoor and outdoor learning. In Year 1, a full time Teaching Assistant was appointed to support transition from continuous provision and play based learning, to more subject based learning. In Y2/Y3 I have deployed Teaching Assistants in the mornings to ensure children are supported in numeracy, literacy and reading. In Y4, Y5 and Y6 Miss Mathers supports intervention programmes for children who need that little bit extra to achieve. In YR-Y2, Mrs. Ryder supports intervention programmes and individual children who need a little extra too. Every Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 1 class has a Teaching Assistant for one afternoon a week to ensure there is provision for creative activities such as cooking, or science activities which require two adults for organisation and safety. Each term there is evaluation of the Teaching Assistants' deployment in order for us to maximise to the full, the highest potential impact on children's progress and learning.

**EVENTS**

Next week is Anti-Bullying Week. We have Firehorse Productions presenting a Drama for the children on 19<sup>th</sup> November between 2.00 and 3.00 p.m.

We also have road and rail safety being highlighted next week as part of Road Safety week.

Francis House, the children's hospice charity, will be presenting an assembly on 26<sup>th</sup> November when small toys will be for sale

£1 or £2.

**(Please see reverse of this letter for School Calendar - 2014/2015)**

**Alison Drayton, Headteacher**

