Thursday 16th July – Messages from the school office

I don't really want to say this is the last 'newsletter' for this academic year – it wasn't the Summer Term 2020 that we had planned was it, by any stretch of the imagination? But here we are, on the penultimate day of Summer Term 2020, saying a fond goodbye to our Year 6 pupils tomorrow. What a great bunch of Y6 parents we have, to knuckle down to fundraise (those scones were delicious!) and organise, at such short notice, a socially distanced 'party' for them this evening. We are also able to hold a socially distanced Leavers Assembly tomorrow afternoon for them too. What a relief. We wish all of them a very happy and successful time at their secondary schools – don't forget to let us know how you get on!

We also wish a happy and successful time to our other leavers, in different year groups, who are moving on in September, while welcoming our new children in Foundation and other year groups in September.

We have appointed my successor! I hope everyone will welcome and be kind to **Mrs Dena Gardner**. She is thrilled to be starting at St Michael's in September. Dena will be in the driving seat as soon as she can but I am going to be around, initially for the first two weeks in September and then in and out over the forthcoming weeks to November time, to steer her!

Autumn Term 2020 will still be different to normal as I haven't been able to do some of my normal pre-year preparation such as after school club registers, Wide Awake Club booking, swimming lesson letter, coach bookings etc. We will be doing everything we can to reintroduce our normal schedule of events as soon as we can. Please bear with us at the start of term as we will have to grapple with the government guidance before we can schedule everything in.

Mr Morley will be sending an end of term email out tomorrow so look out for that.

Bucks Music are working hard, following all the government guidelines, to reintroduce music lessons for KS 2 pupils into schools next term. If your child already has music lessons or would like to begin, please visit their website to apply for music lessons ASAP. Thank you .https://www.bucksmusic.org/

Thank you to The Village Hall Committee

Mr Morley sent a thank you to The Village Hall Committee:

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Village Hall Committee for the use of the car park over the last month. Having the car park meant we were able to convert our own car park into a playground, helping to keep our children safe.

Summer Reading Challenge

Buckinghamshire Council Children's Services are supporting the Summer Reading Challenge for KS1 and KS2 pupils. See the link below.

https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/.

Food Bank at School

After some 18 weeks, the school food bank collection point is finishing and the last food parcel deliveries will take place tomorrow. We are very grateful to the village community for supporting our foodbank and a **huge thank you to governor Susie Brister and family** for distributing the food parcels every Friday to our families in need. The Parish Council will be informing Stewkley residents that if they are in need they can call the MK Foodbank – 01908 565852 – be issued with a reference number and go and collect food parcels themselves from one of the pick-up points in Milton Keynes (e.g Spotlight Centre in The Lakes Estate). All Stewkley households should have the contact number of their local volunteer but, if not, they can contact Rob, Parish Clerk on 07771 635696 or stewkleyparishclerk@gmail.com if they are unable to collect their own food parcels.

'What we did in lockdown'- Friends Association gift to all staff and governors

What a fabulous gift The Friends Association have produced – with many of our families support - for every member of staff and governor of our school. The booklet 'What we did in lockdown' is such a thoughtful (and time consuming) gift to produce. On behalf of all the staff and governors can I pass on our thanks for receiving such a lovely keep sake, full of photos and memories of our families doing so much #together. I will certainly be treasuring my copy that's for sure!

Readathon Challenge 2020

Please pay any remaining sponsor money into The Friends PayPal account or drop off at the office window by the end of tomorrow. Many thanks for your support.

Message from Chair of Governors- Ali McKenna

Dear parents and carers,
Incredibly, we find ourselves at the end of another academic year. For obvious reasons, one which will never be forgotten.

As a school, we should feel exceptionally proud. Mr Morley and the entire staff at St Michael's have been nothing short of phenomenal. Very few schools have managed to open for all year groups and the benefit to our children is indisputable.

We are also lucky to have tremendously supportive parents and carers and we express our immense gratitude to you all.

In line with government plans, it is our intention that all children will return to school in September. To our year 6 children, we wish you every success for your move to secondary school and hope that your time at St Michael's has prepared you well for the future.

Until then, on behalf of the governing body, I wish you all a happy and safe summer. We look forward to welcoming our children back for what will hopefully be a more typical school year.

With very best wishes,