

St Michael and St Martin Catholic Primary School

Belgrave Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW4 7AG

Headteacher : Mrs N Duggan

Deputy Headteacher : Mrs S Bell

Chair of Governors : Mr Paul Lemaire



Learning our faith, Living our faith, Loving our faith



16th December 2022

Dear Parent / Carers

So... we come to the end of another year! I am delighted to say that it is a healthier and happier end than the last couple of years!

We are grateful that even with a bumpy start to 2022, school life has pretty much returned to normal. I don't think we will ever forget the sadness and loneliness of the last few years caused by COVID but despite the challenges our efforts were not diminished, on the contrary, many new initiatives emerged as a response to the difficulties and for this, we must be grateful.

We know that there is increasing hardship in the world, the country and our local community, thank you for your contributions throughout the year to our school foodbank which is shared with those most in need. Christ promised in the gospels that actions like these yield profit in the Kingdom of Heaven. In the words of Christ himself: *'Freely you have received: freely give'* (Matt 10:8).

Since full resumption of school, attendance has been surprisingly good, thank you to all of you who send your children to school every day, on time and ready to learn. Also to those who do not take children out of school during term time, unfortunately even in the current climate and following the prolonged loss of learning time and interaction with peers, some people have managed to take term time holidays.

In May, we had our Section 48 RE inspection; we received an OUTSTANDING grading in all areas. We are very proud of this outcome; our children are wonderful ambassadors and a real credit to you. Huge thanks to our staff who have worked so hard and with dedication, to achieve such high standards in Religious Education. To read the full report click here: [Section 48 Inspection Report](#).

In July, we were able to open our doors to parents and carers once again, our wonderful Year 6 production of *'Peter Pan'* showcased the amazing talents we have in the school, it is so pleasing to see the children completing their journey here in such a wonderful way – they truly reflected all that we hoped they would be. Furthermore, during the SATs tests the children were amazing. Our embedded approach to academic resilience continues to have a great effect on the children's learning. Positive progress for pupils facing adversity comes in many forms – building their resilience has helped to ensure that children continue to thrive. Believing in potential and giving children the tools to succeed is intrinsic in all we do.

The Year 6 outcomes were testament to their hard work and resolution, particularly following the pandemic. The 2022 results were on a par with the last published results in 2019. We were delighted to see the school placed at number 46 in the top State Primary Schools (*Sunday Times 11th December 2022*), a remarkable achievement. Our relentless pursuit to provide a first class remote learning offer and your



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hard work and efforts to oversee it, have culminated in no adverse effects educationally for the children - bravo!

The Autumn Term has been very busy; the children have had some valuable learning experiences and opportunities through Black History Week, Anti-Bullying Week, E-Safety Week and Celebration of Languages, as well as numerous trips and workshops. We are thankful to those who have paid the termly £10 contribution (or £30 for the year), we have many more exciting themed weeks and activities planned for the coming school terms.

We recognise that sport and healthy living are the key to a successful life and with this in mind, Mr Bell resumed all after school clubs and continues to run an early morning sports club five times a week; rain, wind, hail or snow, the club still runs 'no such thing as bad weather...just bad clothing!'. The children have had the opportunity to partake in an award winning Switch club and continue to avail of extra football coaching from a semi-professional footballer at lunchtimes and during PE lessons.

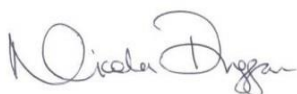
Christmas nativities continue to be one of the highlights of the year; an opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas as opposed to the overriding commercialism of this holy time of year. I adore each and every one despite personally having seen what seems like thousands over the years. The children's singing is a wonder to behold and evokes a sense of awe and wonder like no other. The Junior Carol Concert was also a beautiful occasion; the children's reverence is humbling and the singing was simply wonderful.

It has always been our mission to provide the very best education and experiences for our children, living out our school [STRIVE Values](#). The leadership team, governors and I continue to work hard to ensure that St Michael & St Martin School remains ahead of the curve. Our wish is that every child receives the opportunities available to them that will enable them to 'be the best that they can be' and where they are bursting with enthusiasm and a thirst for learning. At the core of everything is the strong desire that the children venture out into the world as good citizens who can make a difference, and contribute to the wider society for the common good.

Finally, I thank you as parents, most sincerely for continuing to support the school, especially through these very uncertain times. We shall continue to walk forward in the light of Christ, carrying out his mission with such dedicated spirit because we know that through collaboration, we can achieve great things. We have a wonderful vibrant and flourishing school community, which we are all responsible for achieving and maintaining. We very much look forward to the school continuing to go from strength to strength in 2023 and beyond.

At Christmas, we reflect on the magnitude of Christ's birth. Let us remind ourselves more so than ever this is the one time of the year when it is commonplace to find the spirit of human kindness alive and well. Let us embrace this by ensuring that we enjoy ourselves safely but also take time to look out for those nearest to us as well as those less fortunate than ourselves. I hope in the preparations you are able to take time to remember the true meaning of Christmas and are able to join some of your loved ones over the festive period to rejoice and give praise on the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

Warm wishes



Mrs N Duggan
Headteacher