



USF –Newsletter –December 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the first term of the academic year draws to a close I'd like to update you on some of the news across the federation.

#### Toilet Twinning

**'2.4 billion people don't have somewhere safe, clean and hygienic to go to the loo. That's more than a third of the people on the planet.'** I'm pleased to say that the children have raised an amazing £1,560. This was enough money to twin all of the toilets within our four schools with much needed toilets all around the world. If you would like more information about toilet twinning please see [www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org)

#### Assessment and the new curriculum

In September 2014 the government introduced a new curriculum in Years 1, 3, 4, 5. From this September the new curriculum has now also been introduced in Years 2 and 6. The curriculum has higher expectations, for example, work that was previously taught in Year 6 is now being taught in Year 5 and this is the case in all year groups across the school. The government have introduced a new national testing system this year for children in Years 2 and 6 and we are still waiting to hear the final details of this.

Last year the government decided to do away with levels and left schools to introduce their own system. We have now introduced a new assessment system and reintroduced numerical targets in addition to ensuring that children know the next steps they need to take to achieve these. Next term we will issue you with an information letter, a user name and password. This will allow parents and carers to access their own child's attendance, targets and progress information online.

#### Buildings

At St Michael's the three Orchard Room classrooms have now been fully refurbished. These classrooms now have a new roof, new floors and at half term were decorated both inside and out.

At Marldon the classroom extension was completed at half term providing a larger and far more suitable learning space.

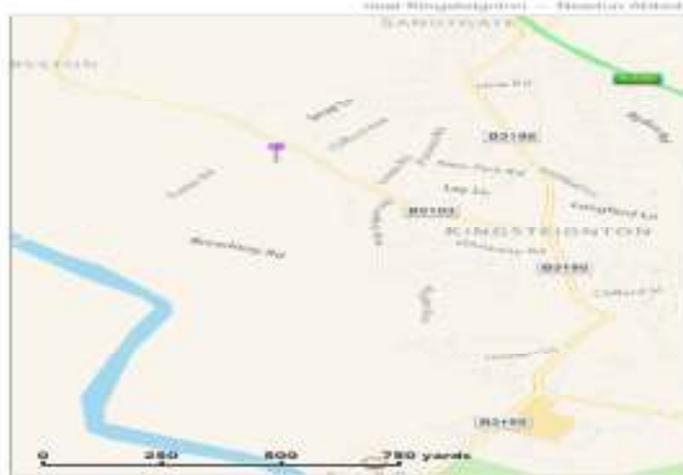
Across our partnership we have invested heavily in ICT this year with many more ipads and interactive LCD screens being purchased to support all children's learning.

We now have a dedicated Inclusion Manager who is working across the partnership to support disadvantaged as well as Gifted and Talented children. His role also includes co-ordinating sporting activities and inter house competitions.

#### Kingsteignton School

As you are aware we are helping to set up the new school in Kingsteignton. Kingsteignton School will open on the site of St Michael's School in September 2016 until July 2017. The school will open in two new classrooms, one for 30 Reception children and one for a mixed class of 30 year one and two children. In September 2017, the children at Kingsteignton School will move to the new building leaving the two classrooms at St Michael's. These classrooms will provide much needed working space as well as being the new home for the after school club (SMASC). The extra space will allow SMASC to expand and take in more children before and after school.

The new school site for Kingsteignton School is on land next to Exeter Road, opposite Teign School (see map below) near where the new housing is being built. When full, the new school will be able to cater for 480 children including a 60-place nursery.



### New Partnership

St Michael's is designated as a National Support School and as a consequence of this works with and supports other schools. We have recently started working with Ipplepen School and hope that over the coming months the partnership will grow and strengthen.

### Nursery Plus outreach

Following an application process, St Michael's and St Catherine's have been selected and will be funded to provide Nursery Plus provision for Newton Abbot and South Devon areas. In January we will be recruiting two specialist teachers and two specialist teaching assistants. These staff will provide specialist support to our nursery children, one day per week, with the remaining four days being used to work with pre-schools and nurseries within the designated areas.

### Finally

On behalf of all our Governors, staff and children please can I take this opportunity to thank you for your support and wish you a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Kind regards.

Martin Harding  
Executive Head