ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 11
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 24th November 2023

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Dear Parents/Carers

We are blessed to have such a generous community. Last week we raised a significant amount of money for Children In Need. This week saw a huge amount of chocolate being donated for the Friends' Chocolate Tombola which will feature at our Christmas Fete on 8th December and I have had lots of people pledge to make up a shoebox for our Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. Thank you very much to all of you for your kindness.
We have plenty of empty shoe boxes in school if anyone would like one and there is a box in our reception area if anyone would like to bring an item to donate towards a shoebox. There are also blank Christmas cards if any of the children would like to write a Christmas message to those who will receive our shoeboxes. There is an opportunity for everyone to make a difference.
The weather is set to turn chillier over the weekend so please ensure your child/children come to school with a warm coat. We do have a number of pre-loved coats available in school, particularly boys' coats. If you would like to have a look/try on, please contact the office and we can arrange for them to be sent home/come and try on in school.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Sat 25th Nov – Y5/6 Girls County Football Finals – Chalfont St Peter
Mon 27th Nov – deadline for expressing interest in hosting the Posada.
Tues 28th Nov – Y5/6 Basketball game
Wed 29th Nov – Y2 Multi-Skills at St Michael's in Aylesbury
Wed 29th Nov – Y3/4 Girls football at Kingsbrook
Fri 1st Dec – 9am Christingle Service – Year 4 only
Thur 7th Dec – Deadline for Christmas Shoebox Appeal
Thur 7th Dec – 9am Year 1 Nativity
Fri 8th Dec – Christmas Bazaar from 3pm
Mon 11th Dec – Christmas Arrangement Workshop – see poster for details
Wed 13th Dec – Christmas lunch, Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Discos
Thur 14th Dec – 9am Year 2 Nativity
Fri 15th Dec – 9am Foundation Nativity
Tue 19th Dec – 9.30am Church service

MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH

This coming Sunday is the last in the church's year before we recommence Advent on December 3rd. This last Sunday coming is called Christ the King and is the culmination of the last twelve months in which we have considered the whole of the Christian gospel.

Is "Christ a King?" was therefore the subject of this week's Pop Up Church. We had three boxes, one marked with Christ's Kingship, one marked Jesus was a good Man and the third with nothing at all. The pupils were invited to throw in their lot (using a big ball) with one of the boxes and we had interesting discussions about which box they'd chosen. Always, of course, under the guise of what it is that Christians believe.

Kingship is a really interesting concept and one which features throughout the Christian gospel. The Christmas story itself puts kingship under the spotlight when Jesus' birth is recorded with reference to Ceasar Augustus and then Herod. The crucifixion presents the Cross as a throne and all the teaching about Jesus' ministry sees Him on walkabout; how modern! Christ the King is not distant or detached.

With every blessing,
Rev'd Howard Robson.

MRS HANN – LEARNING MENTOR

Grounding-and-Calming-Techniques-p
PDF Document · 224 KB

I hope that you find the above techniques useful to know about. I've found them really useful when a child is overwhelmed and distressed in some way. It can be useful to practise them when everyone is relaxed ie before they are actually needed. This is so that as and when those moments of need arise, you and your child can easily turn to one or two of the techniques for calming straight away.

Coffee and a Chat on Monday after drop off as usual. Do come along and forge links with new friends - it's a very relaxed and welcoming time together. Plus of course, there's toast!

Best wishes as always,
H Hann, Learning Mentor, Music Subject Leader and DSL
@MrsHannStMSch on X/Twitter

CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA

Thank you for all the generous donations of chocolate on our casual clothes day yesterday. It was difficult to resist all day! The Chocolate Tombola at our Friends Christmas Fete on 8th December.

CHILDREN IN NEED 2023

Thank you to everyone who so kindly donated to Children In Need last week. We raised a fabulous total of **£267.62.**

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GOLDEN LEARNERS

Well done to these superstars for being this week's Golden Learners.

Foundation	**Grace, Florence, Barnaby**
Year 1	**Casey, Joshy, Lilia**
Year 2	**Siena, Tyler, Edwin**
Year 3	**Oliver, Reagan, Grace**
Year 4	**Ben, Harry, Monty**
Year 5	**Madi, Oscar, Cade**
Year 6	**Poppy, Lucia, Seb**

TEA TOWELS & COASTERS

Thank you to everyone who has returned their tea towels and coasters order forms. These are available on Parentpay and please return your order form to the office. The deadline is Wednesday 29th December.

ATTENDANCE AWARD

Well done to Year 4! Second week in a row that they have had the best attendance in the school! Great work!

ST MICHAEL'S CELEBRATIONS

This Year 6 superstar had an amazing sporting weekend last week. It started with a fabulous win at the Thornton Cross Country event last Friday. We are so proud of all the girls who took part and cheered on their school mates as they crossed the finish line.
Out of school she was awarded a trophy for her efforts and contribution to Triathlon at the Vale of Aylesbury Pony Club. The sport consists of shooting, swimming and running.
To finish the weekend, our Year 6 pupil rode a fantastic round at an Arena Eventing, jumping cross country and show jumps. She rode an astonishing round and was awarded 6th place out of 23 competitors.
Well done! Everyone at St Michael's is so proud of you.

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PARKING

One of our parents were so concerned about the parking situation this morning, they have shared the following:

Do you want you child to be active? Do you want your child to have improved concentration levels? Then please consider walking to school, or parking 10 minutes away.

What a beautiful morning this morning. Fresh and dry, perfect for a 10 minute walk to school. The benefits are plentiful and varied, such as improving your ***health and fitness****, as well as helping get traffic off the road. Seeing how challenging it was for our wonderful safety crossing lady to do her job today, wouldn't it be wonderful if she could do her job and safely get our children across the road without having her vision blocked by parked cars?*
Who doesn't want their child to be more physically activity? I am sure we all do, so what an easy, FREE way of weaving in a healthy habit? It's not just physical health, either, as being more active has been proven to have positive effects on mental wellbeing.
The fitter and more active our children are, the healthier they are likely to be and they are also likely to have more energy while awake, as well as have a better quality of sleep. So for no cost, just an extra 10 minutes of your time you could help your child have better concentration levels in school.
We have all been there, in a rush and wanting to get the kids dropped off as close to school as possible but if this inspires just a few more people to walk 5 – 10 mins in the morning, then for me that's a positive thing. If you want some inspiration then Living Streets has numerous ideas and reasons why this is a powerful behavior change approach.
https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/about-us/our-organisation

Our Organisation
Our Organisation

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If you witness dangerous parking around, please use the below link to lodge a complaint to the council. It is the only way that something is likely to be done to rectify the situation.
https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/around?js=1&pc=lu70ha

MESSAGE FROM CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER FOR ENGLAND

My national campaign is called The Big Ambition. Please see the attached survey for children and parents.
Children or parents can complete the survey here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition. Further resources are available on our website.

It is really important that the pupils at St Michael's Church of England Combined School have participated in The Big Ambition survey and had their say.

I want to ensure that the voices of all children in the Leighton Buzzard area are fairly represented in the findings so that I can share their views with the most senior members of the country.

I must reiterate that it is vital that all children have their voice heard through this survey because, as Children's Commissioner for England, I have a statutory duty to protect and promote the views and interests of children. The Big Ambition provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell political decision makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. I will be sharing their responses with Government to ensure that children's voices are heard.

This is a great opportunity to teach children about politics and why it is important for them to use their voice.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Rachel De Souza
Children's Commissioner for England

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL SPORTS INFORMATION

CROSS COUNTRY

Last Friday our KS2 girls cross country team travelled to Thornton College to take part in their annual cross country race. The St Michaels team was made up of 17 runners, one of the biggest teams to enter the races, where we ran against some of the big, local Independent Schools and some other Primaries.
The first race was our year 5 and 6 girls who raced over a muddy and hilly 2km circuit. Poppy hit the front straight away and led from start to finish, narrowly missing the course record and winning the race. Poppy finished 6th last year and was determined to do better and dominated the race to secure St Michael's first win at Thornton in a race against 60 other girls. The rest of the 5/6 team were roared on by our younger girls and parents and all finished strongly on a very tough course.
Next was our year 3 and 4 girls, who ran a slightly shorter course but still over the same hills and mud. All did brilliantly, special praise to our year 3 girls who as a team finished 4th out of 12, helped by Charlotte and Mia finishing 9th and 12th respectively.
Massive thanks to our great parents for helping with transport and supporting the runners, we would really struggle to get to these events without the constant support of parents and we love how supportive you are of your own children and others.
We are so proud of all our runners and are really looking forward to further races in the New Year.

Year 3 - Mia, Charlotte, Reagan, Grace
Year 4 - Kaitlyn, Louisa, Olympia, Emily, Edie
Year 5 - Rosie Taylor, Gracie, Scarlett, Chloe
Year 6 - Aisha, Abi, Emmie, Poppy

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FOOTBALL UPDATE

We now head in to our winter break in football and all 7 St Michaels teams have had a great start to their seasons. In the last few weeks, 54 of our 63, year 5 and 6 children have played football for the school. A massive thanks to the parents who have had to wash and return kit, and drive the players all over Buckinghamshire.
The next fixtures start again in February when we get a bit more daylight, all we have left is the little matter of the Buckinghamshire County Finals that the girls qualified for in October, good luck tomorrow morning girls!

Elmhurst 1-7 St Michaels (yr 6 boys)
The year 6 boys played their second league match at Elmhurst in Aylesbury and came out 7-1 winners. A strong first half saw an opening goal from Seb followed by a hatrick from Given, including TWO headers from Harry S corners. Teddy added a 5th from the penalty spot and this was followed by great second half strikes by Jake and Harry (awesome freekick). A comfortable victory and the year 6 boys head in to the winter break at the top of their league.

Team: Seb (capt), Given, Henry, Michael, Zak, Harry, Jamie, Jake, Teddy, Cameron, Kian

ABSENCE

If your child is absent for any reason, please contact the office via phone/email/ text prior to 9.15am. Please confirm on every consecutive day they will be absent, until they return. Please note: If we do not know the reason by 9.15am, a text will be sent to you and any unexplained absences will be reported as unauthorised.

If they have suffered from vomit or diarrhoea, please do not return your child until **48 hours** since their last episode.

Please also note that if your child is on a course of anti-biotics, we are able to administer the medication if they are prescribed 4 doses per day. The medication must be delivered to the office by a parent and a medical consent form completed before we can administer the anti-biotics.

SCHOOL DINNERS

School dinners can be ordered via Parent Pay.

The deadline for booking is a **Tuesday at midnight, 2 weeks in advance**. If you require a Special/Medical Diet Menu please contact the office.

If you need to cancel a school dinner after the deadline, you must give 48 hours' notice and call Chartwells on 01908 615705 or email creativekitchenadmin2@comp.

BREAKFAST CLUB & AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Please book your sessions for Breakfast and After School Clubs via Parentpay before midnight on Thursday for the following week.

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ATTENDANCE

Just to remind our parents if any child has an attendance rate of less than 92%, Mr Morley will be in contact with parents to make them aware of the situation with a view to improving the child's attendance at school which has a direct impact on their learning.

Our Attendance Policy states that all holiday related absence in term time will be recorded as 'Unauthorised'. From 1st September 2023, the school will be submitting this data to the local authority and Buckinghamshire Council will begin the process of issuing fines.

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FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Join our Facebook Page - @friends&parentsofstmichaelsschoolstewkley
Or email us at – pta-stmichaels@outlook.com

Friends of St Michael's School

Tickets still available for the Pantomime & Christmas Arrangement workshop

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WYCOMBE MUSEUM

FESTIVE EVENTS

Sun 26 Nov - Thu 21 Dec

Festive Food Trail

Learn about festive food through the ages with our activity trail!
£3 per trail | Drop in or prebook

Sun 26 Nov | 11am - 3pm

Xmas Craft Fayre

Shop for Christmas gifts from local craftspeople and small businesses.
Free entry

Sun 3 Dec | 10am - 12pm

Festive Foliage Wreath Workshop

Make your own beautiful door wreath with natural, locally foraged materials.
Hosted by Nature's Jewels.
Tickets £37.50

Sun 10 Dec | 11am - 3pm

Christmas Family Fun Day: WWII

Experience Christmas on the Home Front! Festive rations recipes, make do & mend craft, and more!
Tickets £6 per child

Fri 15 Dec | 10 - 11am

Tiny Talk Time: Storytime with Mrs Claus

Hear Christmas stories with Mrs Claus, ice gingerbread biscuits, and more.
Tickets £4.50 per child

Thu 21 Dec | Various sessions

Discover & Make: Christmas Candle Crafts

Make beeswax candles and create a festive gift box for a loved one!
Tickets £4.50 per child

Christmas Raffle Fundraiser

24th November - 21st December • Tickets £1.50 • Buy in the museum or online

Show your support for Wycombe Museum from just £1.50 a ticket. Be in with the chance to win hundreds of pounds worth of prizes donated by local businesses.

Get more info and book tickets at www.wycombemuseum.org.uk/blog/xmas23

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