ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 11
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 28th November 2025

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office@st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
07786208889 – Text only

Dear Parents/Carers

Next week will see some of our KS2 children take part in our Bikeability courses. Those involved will need to take their bike and helmet to school on the relevant days and bikes should be parked up infront of the school office by 9am. Please remember to bring extra layers to keep warm e.g. gloves, hat and warm coat.

At St Michael's School we encourage good attendance from all our pupils. On Friday 5th December we will be writing to parents if their child's attendance has fallen below 92% as well as the parents of children who have been late to school on more than two occasions since September.

When parking can be challenging at drop off and pick up times, we are fortunate to have the use of the village hall car park on most occasions. Please note that there are regular bookings at the hall on Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning as well as Friday afternoons and so unfortunately parking for St Michael's is not available at these times.

Please note some new dates for your diary. New items are highlighted in bold for your attention.

Have a great weekend and I will see you all back in school on Monday.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Mon 1st Dec – Thurs 4th Dec – Bikeability Level 2
Tues 2nd Dec – Parkour performance to parents – approx. 4.10pm
Friday 5th Dec – Bikeability Level 1
Friday 5th Dec – Friends' Christmas Fayre – 3.30pm on playground
Friday 5th Dec – Year 3 Class Assembly – approx. 9.10am
Wed 10th Dec – Year 4 Christingle – approx. 9.10am
Friday 12th Dec – Foundation Nativity 2.45pm
Friday 12th Dec – Leavers' Pre-loved Toy/Games Sales, 3.30pm
Tuesday 16th Dec – Church Service 9.30am, parents/carers welcome. Standing room only.
Wed 17th Dec – Year 2 Nativity – approx. 9.10am
Wed 17th Dec – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Wed 17th Dec – Silent Christmas Discos
Thurs 18th Dec – Year 1 Nativity – approx. 9.10am
Friday 19th Dec – Last day of Autumn term
Mon 5th Jan – Start of Spring term
Thurs 15th Jan – Year 2 Cake Sale
Tues 20th Jan – Year 4 Swimming lessons commence

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Thurs 5th Feb – Kapla Workshop – all classes
Tues 11th Feb – Parents Evening
Wed 12th Feb – Parents Evening
Thurs 26th Feb – Year 3 Cake Sale
Friday 27th Feb – Year 2 Class Assembly
Friday 6th March – Year 6 Learning Fayre
Thurs 19th March – Year 4 Cake Sale
Tues 24th March – Year 4/5 performance – afternoon
Wed 25th March – Easter Church Service at 9.30am
Wed 25th March – Year 4/5 performance – evening
Thurs 26th March – Foundation Stay and Play
Friday 27th March – INSET DAY
Thurs 16th April – Year 5 Cake Sale
Thurs 14th May – Year 6 Cake Sale

INSET DAYS FOR 2025/2026

Mon 5th Jan 2026
Fri 27th March 2026
Fri 22nd May 2026

MESSAGE FROM MRS HANN

St. Michael's School Choir At Church Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 14th December 2025

We are delighted that our school has been invited to bring our singers along to sing at the Church Christmas Tree Festival. We very much hope your child can take part in this lovely village event.

What day? Sunday 14th Dec 2025

What time meet Mrs Hann and Mrs Deverill? 2.45pm

What time will the actual singing start? 3.00pm

What time do I need to collect my child from church? 3:30pm

What does my child need to wear for the performance? A Christmassy jumper/top please.

It would be great if you could stay and enjoy in this lovely festival; however, should you wish to leave your child(ren) and collect afterwards, that's fine. All we ask is that we hand your child back to you in a similar way as the end of the school day, to ensure they go home with the right person.

Please confirm your child's attendance by completing and returning the attached slip by **MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER**

Best wishes as always,
Helen Hann
Learning Mentor, Music Lead and DSL
My usual working pattern is Monday to Wednesday.

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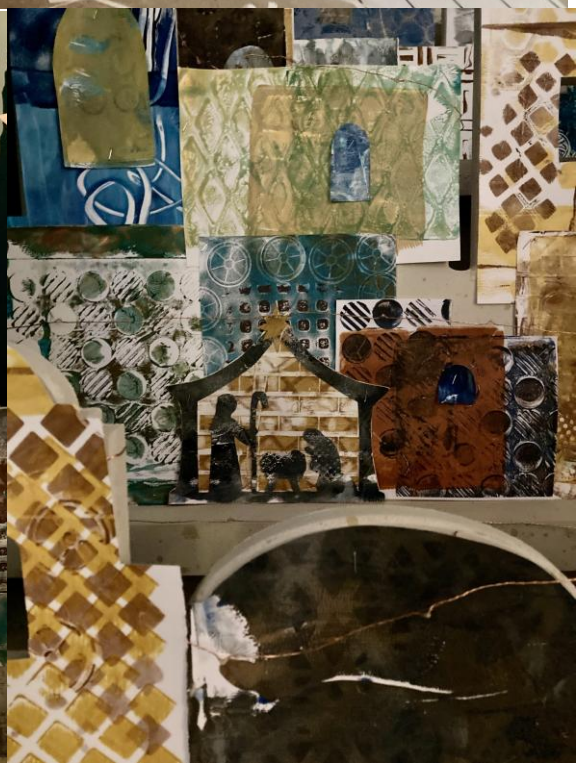
WADDESDON ART PROJECT

You may recall the Waddesdon Art Project that all the children took part in a few weeks ago. The artwork created by the children is now all compiled into a wonderful display and is on display in the Coach House at Waddesdon Manor for public viewing.
If you are visiting Waddesdon over the festive period please make sure you go and admire the childrens' handiwork.



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GOLDEN LEARNERS

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

Foundation	**Noah, Freddie, Curtis**
Year 1	**Max, Lily-Rae, Evie**
Year 2	**Trystan, Arlo, Matteo**
Year 3	**Harry, Hunter, Louis**
Year 4	**Yasmina, Tayler, Vidya**
Year 5	**Aleksander, Poppy, Owen**
Year 6	**Charlie, Sofia, Olympia**

ST MICHAEL'S CELEBRATIONS

This Year 5 tumbling superstar competed at the historic Lilleshall national sports centre last weekend.
After a great event, she came away with 2 medals – individual gold and team silver. What a fabulous achievement!
Everyone at St Michael's School is very proud of you.

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St.Michael's School
Stewkley
Cake Sale Challenge
The Year 1 Cake Sale
raised an amazing £202.80
Well done to all involved
This money has been made available to Mrs Toland to spend on the class

New & Used Toy Sale
Yr 6 are holding a toy, game & puzzle sale
Friday 12th December
@ 3.30pm on the playground
Proceeds for Y6 leavers party
cash or card accepted
Great opportunity for a pre Christmas clear out!
Purchase a Christmas gift from our sale
Donations can be taken to reception from Monday 8th December

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GENERAL SCHOOL INFO

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, we will text or ring 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 **Sunday at midnight, 1 week 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.

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.

DOGS

Dogs are not permitted anywhere on the school premises at any time. Please ensure that anyone accompanying you is also aware.

Friends of St Michael's School

Christmas Fayre

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER

KS1 Playground - 3:30pm

Weather permitting, otherwise in the school hall

LOT'S OF CHRISTMAS THEMED STALLS & GAMES

Tokens for stalls will be available for sale prior to the event

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CHRISTMAS SILENT DISCO
WEDNESDAY 17th DEC
KS1 & FOUNDATION 3:30PM - 4:30PM
£4 PER CHILD INC CRISPS & SWEETS
KS2 4:45PM - 6PM
£5 PER CHILD INC DRINK, CRISPS & SWEETS
PLEASE PAY VIA PARENT PAY BY 10TH DEC
WE CANNOT GUARANTEE REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SUITABLE FOR ALL ALLERGIES.
PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY ALLERGIES

Penalty Notices for School Attendance

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following will come into force for absences that start after 19th August 2024. This is nationwide and across borders if you move school or house. **Term Time Leave is only allowed in exceptional circumstances when communicated in advance with evidence provided as soon as possible to the Headteacher.**

FIRST OFFENCE

The first Penalty Notice issued for Term Time Leave of Absence or Irregular Attendance, the amount of the fine will be £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days and reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid with 21 days

SECOND OFFENCE

For the second Penalty Notice (within three years of the first offence) issued for Term Time Leave of Absence or Irregular Attendance, the amount of the fine will be £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered

THIRD OFFENCE AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave of Absence or Irregular Attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. If found guilty there could be up to a maximum fine of £2,500 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 months.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

In law only the headteacher of a school can authorise a child's absence. A pupil's attendance forms part of their official school record.

Parents do not have an automatic right to remove their child from school during term time for the purpose of a leave of absence and are strongly advised not to do so.

Headteachers are unable to authorise leave of absence during term time unless they are satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.

The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional' are rare, significant, unavoidable and short. 'Unavoidable' implies that an event could not reasonably be scheduled at another time.

<u>10 sessions in 10 weeks</u>

Penalty Notices will be considered for any 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in 10 weeks.

5 consecutive days of term time absence can trigger a Penalty Notice.

Do not forget that Penalty Notices are issued Per Parent. Per Child.
i.e. Two siblings absent would result in each parent receiving 2 fines. This could amount to £640

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