ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 12
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 1st December 2023

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Dear Parents/Carers
And here we are in December! There's certainly a wintery nip in the air this week so please make sure the children come to school with a warm coat, hat and gloves.
The countdown to Christmas has begun with Year 4's Christingle this morning and lots of renditions of Christmas carols can be heard from the hall on a regular basis as the children practise for their Nativity performances. It's funny how 'Little Donkey' never dates.
Next Thursday is the deadline for any donations of shoe boxes/items to go into shoe boxes. Thank you for all the beautiful that have already been handed in. If anyone else would like to volunteer to make up a box for a woman, please let me know. We have plenty empty shoe boxes in school if you would like one.
Please stay cosy this weekend and take care on icy pavements and roads.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

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

We come again to the beginning of the season of Advent and no doubt lots of advent calendars will just have had their first door opened. Advent is a relatively short season given the huge number of themes and symbols that have at one time or another traditionally been associated with it. It is therefore not meant to be viewed merely as a 'countdown' to Christmas but instead as a season to be fully inhabited in the present moment, day by day – a season of prayerful attention and patience. It is also therefore a time to pray especially for all those whose present moment is very challenging or painful, and with so much else going on around them as the year draws to its close.

With best wishes for the coming week

Andrew Krauss

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MRS HANN – LEARNING MENTOR

Over the last fortnight, we have been listening to "Morning Mood" from Peer Gynt by Edvard Grieg. The children have enjoyed hearing how this piece fits into the story of Peer Gynt. It's a very relaxing and calming piece- worth a listen if you need 6 minutes of tranquil sound!

Edvard Grieg: "Peer Gynt - Morning Mood"
youtu.be

As we move into December and all that the month brings, it can be tricky not to get overwhelmed by all the preparation and things we have to get done. For some, it can also be a time of remembrance of those loved ones who are no longer here. If this is where you're at, try to take just a few minutes to catch your breath and sit with a cuppa, ideally with a trusted friend to restore your energy.

Come along to Coffee and a Chat on Monday after drop off, if you'd like to have the calming cuppa with me and lovely, friendly people. Alternatively, contact me via the School Office and I'll call you back.

Best wishes

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

GOLDEN LEARNERS

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

Foundation	**Aryan, Lillie, Freya**
Year 1	**Charlie, Reuben, Hayden**
Year 2	**Reggie, Alex, Jacob**
Year 3	**Edward R, Gabriel W-C, Aleksander**
Year 4	**Edie, Yiannis, Tia**
Year 5	**Sienna, Harry Br, Tom**
Year 6	**Given, Kian, Amelie**

ATTENDANCE AWARD

Well done to Year 2 this week who have won our Attendance cup with a whopping 99% attendance! Congratulations!

ST MICHAEL'S CELEBRATIONS

Four of our budding musicians were awarded certificate during assembly this week for successfully passing their guitar exams. Congratulations to Seb, Cameron, Benjamin and Edward T.

OH CHRISTMAS, OH CHRISTMAS TREE…

The last couple of days have seen Christmas arrive at St Michael's, much to the delight of the children. Our travelling Christmas tree from Blackthorn Nursery has started its journey round the classrooms and is currently in Foundation before it moves onto Year 1 next week.

We have a new Christmas tree in our Reception area which was kindly donated to us and with the help of Mrs Pierce, a Foundation angel and a couple of Year 6s, it's now looking splendid and twinkly in our reception.

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Y6 CHRISTMAS TREATS
Y6 will be selling some Christmas Goodies at the Bazaar
*HOT CHOCOLATE CONES
*KNITTED ELF HAT CHOC ORANGES
*LOTS & LOTS OF CAKES !
As well as raising funds for the Leavers Party, Y6 are also raising money to purchase a legacy gift for the school and also to be able to make charitable donations to :
Little Hearts Matter,
The Child Brain Injury Trust
All People Active
These are charities that are currently helping and supporting Y6 children & their families
Thank you for your support !

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL SPORTS INFORMATION

Buckinghamshire County Finals

Last Saturday our girls'cup team travelled all the way to Gerrards Cross to take part in the Bucks County football Finals, a tournament we have only qualified for once before. This is a tournament with 8 of the best school teams from the whole of Buckinghamshire and we qualified by coming runners up in Aylesbury Vale.
A tough start saw 2 defeats but the girls were getting better and better, game by game. Rosie Turnball was a constant threat and Peggy was incredible in goal. We finished with a draw and a win and this left St Michael's finishing third, in the whole of Buckinghamshire. An amazing achievement considering we were playing much bigger schools, and more proof that St Michael's are a real force in schools football.
Team: Chloe (capt), Madison, Georgie, Peggy, Rosie Tu, Evie, Aviya, Rosie Ta, Emmie

Aylesbury Vale basketball tournament

Monday afternoon saw our year 5 and 6 basketball team in Stoke Mandeville for a schools tournament against the big Aylesbury schools. Three wins and a draw meant our team won the tournament and progress to the county finals in the New Year. The team were so impressive, especially as they haven't played together before, points were shared amongst the team with Seb our top scorer.

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Team: Seb, Gracie, Harry S, Chloe M, Jamie, Given, Rosie Tu, Georgie

Year 2 Multiskills

On Wednesday morning, the whole of year 2 travelled to St Michael's school (very confusing) to take part in a multiskills morning. The class were an absolute credit to the school and loved taking part in the 16 different PE challenges. Massive thanks to the parents who transported our kids, this is such a great experience for our younger children and couldn't be achieved without the help of our wonderful parents.

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Girls football festival

On Wednesday afternoon, our year 3 and 4 girls went to Kingsbrook School in Aylesbury to take part in a football afternoon. This was a chance for girls to try different football challenges and appealed to the experienced footballers, as well as those who've never kicked a ball. The girls had a great time and hopefully it will inspire them to follow in the footsteps of the great girl footballers we have had at the school.

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.

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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.

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FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

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

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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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