ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 12
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 29th Nov 2024

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Dear Parents/Carers

Can anyone believe it's December this weekend? Just 3 weeks left of school before we break for the Christmas holiday and my goodness, there's a lot to squeeze in before then!
This will be my third Christmas at St Michael's School (where has that time gone?) and it continues to astound me how many festive activities we manage to cram in to create such great and memorable experiences for the children.
The nativity costumes are being prepared, rehearsals are well underway, stage props being created and song being practised in advance of our KS1 Nativity performances. Please see below for details of times and dates.
It's turned fresh out there again – please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather i.e. warm coats, hat and gloves. We do have some beautiful pre-loved winter coats in stock, so please contact the office if you would like to have a look.
It has been shown that there is a direct correlation between a child's attendance and their attainment at school. Please note that Mr Morley will be writing to all parents of children whose attendance has fallen below 92% on 16th December. This is approximately the same as having 6 days off since September.
Thank you to everyone who has donated a shoe box for our annual appeal. Please scroll down for details if you would like to know more and we would be delighted to receive your donations before 10th December.

Have a wonderful weekend and we will look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday morning.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Mon 2nd Dec – Please note that the school office will be closed until 9am.
Friday 6th Dec – Non Uniform – in return for an item for Friends' Christmas Treat Tombola
Mon 9th Dec – Friends' Association EGM – electing of Chair and Secretary. 8pm at The Swan pub.
Wed 11th Dec – Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
Wed 11th Dec – School Discos
Thurs 12th Dec – Year 1 Nativity 9.10am
Friday 13th Dec – Year 4 Christingle Service 9am
Friday 13th Dec – Foundation Nativity 2.45pm
Tues 17th Dec – Christmas Fayre – 3.15pm on playground (weather permitting)
Wed 18th Dec – Year 2 Nativity 9.10am
Friday 20th Dec – 9.30am Christmas Service at the Church
Friday 20th Dec – End of Term
Mon 6th Jan – INSET DAY

Fri 14th Feb – Year 1 Class Assembly
Fri 28th Feb – Foundation – Tring Museum
Mon 3rd March – Class group and Leavers' photos
Fri 7th March – Year 2 Class Assembly 9.10am
Fri 14th March – Year 3 Learning Fayre
Fri 21st March – Year 6 Learning Fayre
Fri 28th March – Foundation Stay & Play 2.45pm
Fri 4th April – END OF TERM
Tues 22nd April – Start of the Summer Term

MESSAGE FROM MRS HANN

We have been musical detectives by listening to two versions of Nimrod by Elgar. We noticed many similarities and differences… how many can you find?

https://youtu.be/Cn9oXU8k5qE

Best wishes as always
H Hann

Learning Mentor, DSL and Acting SENCo
My usual working pattern is Monday to Wednesday in school.

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WOODEN HILL COFFEE VAN

Since our Summer term, we have been fortunate to have Mr Fender and his Wooden Hill Coffee Van pop up on the school driveway serving amazing coffee and pastries – a great way to start the day. A portion of each sale is donated to St Michael's School and we have received over £300 since May, which is much appreciated.
Mr Fender will be at the top of the driveway at both ends of the day on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please note that the service isn't available on the afternoons of 28th Nov, 10th Dec and 11th Dec, but he will certainly be around for our Christmas Fayre on Tuesday 17th December.
The Stewkley Christmas Fayre is at The Rec on Sunday 8th December and the van will be there serving coffee and cocktails if you are planning to pop along and get in the festive spirit.
There aren't many primary schools who are able to boast their very own coffee vans and it's a welcome sight on these cold mornings. Thank you, Mr Fender!

ECO COUNCIL – WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

The School and Eco Councils have been working on a new project this term. We are going to have a **Walk to School Week** next week, to reduce pollution and congestion around the school, as well as being a healthy option and keeping us fit. Each class will keep a tally of the numbers of children who walk, cycle, scooter or park and walk to school (we understand that some people are unable to travel by car for logistical reasons.)
The winning class will receive a trophy with the **Walk to School Week** logo (designed by Willow in Year 5) and extra Golden Time on a Friday afternoon.
Let's see if we can use the car less this week!

CHILDREN IN NEED

As you could tell from all the spotty attire, our Children In Need was great fun. Thank you to everyone who donated via Parentpay. We raised a total of £170.

CHRISTMAS TREE ON WHEELS

Some of Year 6 did a marvellous job of decorating our Christmas tree on wheels. It has now started its journey round the classrooms where it will slowly become even more embellished with bling as it makes way up the school years.

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MR DAY'S ST MICHAEL'S SPORTING ROUNDUP

Handball Tournament

Last Friday our year 6 handball team went to Aylesbury Grammar School to play in a tournament. Their first game against Bierton was tough and St Michael's found themselves 5-2 down with 5 minutes to go. They amazingly fought back to win 6-5 and didn't look back after that. Two more wins, the second 9-2 meant that St Michael's won the tournament with 3 wins from 3. A great team effort, we look forward to more handball in the New Year.

Boys Cup- Newton Longville 4-2 St Michael's

After losing 7-0 two weeks ago, the boys cup team travelled again to Newton Longville to play one of the best teams we have seen this year. St Michael's got off to an excellent start after Josh smashed a corner in to the box, Ted flicked on and if hit an NL player and went in to the goal. Our hosts equalised just before halftime but St Michael's took the lead at the start of the second half when Zed bundled the ball in from inside the area. NL equalised again and it looked like we were heading to extra time when the home team scored. St Michael's then got a corner and Riley, our goalkeeper, ran up to cause havoc in their goal mouth. Unfortunately, they ran up the other end and scored with the last kick of the game.

A really good match that could have gone either way, very proud of our team after a tough fixture there previously. Special mention to our year 5's, Luke and Liam who were our best players, Liam was given player of the match by NL

St M: Josh, Liam, Luke, Riley, Ted, Tom, Riley, Zed, Henry, Ed T

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – SPRING TERM

We are currently planning the After School Clubs for the Spring Term.
It is likely that we will keep running the following clubs in January on the same days as before:

- Dodgeball – Years 5/6
- Chess
- Parkour – Years 3/4
- Street Dance – KS2
- Musical Theatre – Years 2/3/4/5/6

These will run until the Easter holidays.
The outdoor clubs will resume after the February Half Term when hopefully the weather has improved and the afternoons are lighter again.

CALL FOR HELP!
We would love to be able to offer more clubs that are free of charge for the children to attend, either at lunchtime or at 3.30pm and have consulted the children to see what they would be interested in. We have had suggestions of coding, rounders, art club, lego club, computing, cross-stitch, crochet, board games, loom bands and many more.
Would you like to get involved? We would be delighted to have some parents/carers/grandparents involved if you would be interested in running any such clubs. Please contact the office if you would like to know more.

GOLDEN LEARNERS

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

Foundation	**Jesse, Kai, Edward**
Year 1	**Barnaby, Mila, Koby**
Year 2	**Jack, Charlie, Casey**
Year 3	**Jacob, Albie, Lucy**
Year 4	**Edward, Poppy, Isabelle**
Year 5	**Luke, Aailyah, Edie**
Year 6	**Harry Br, Corey, Edward T**

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ATTENDANCE AWARD

Year 2! Amazing! 100% attendance this week. You have done incredibly well to battle against all the coughs and colds out there. Well done.

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BELLRINGERS #together

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Friends of St Michael's School

EGM

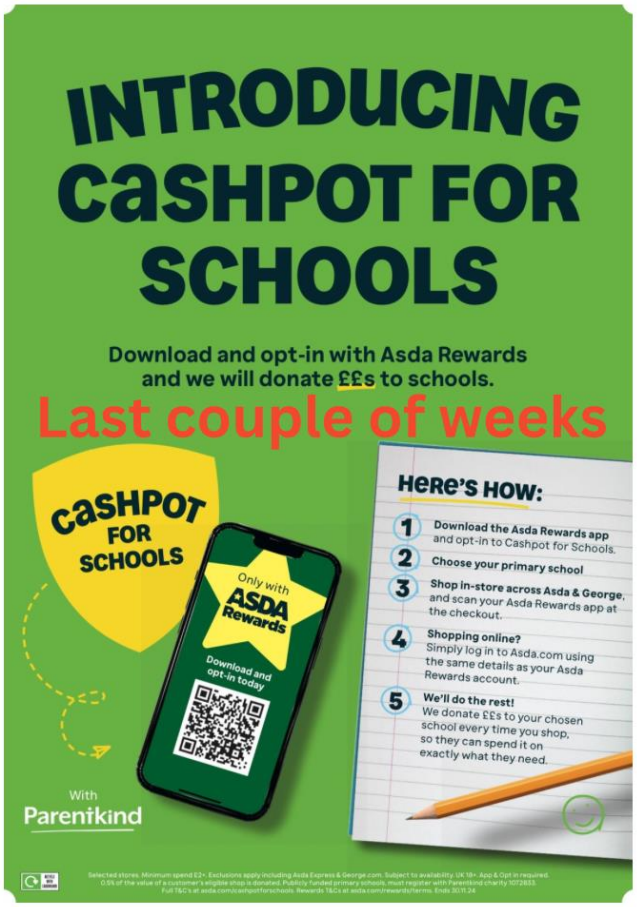
Monday 9th December

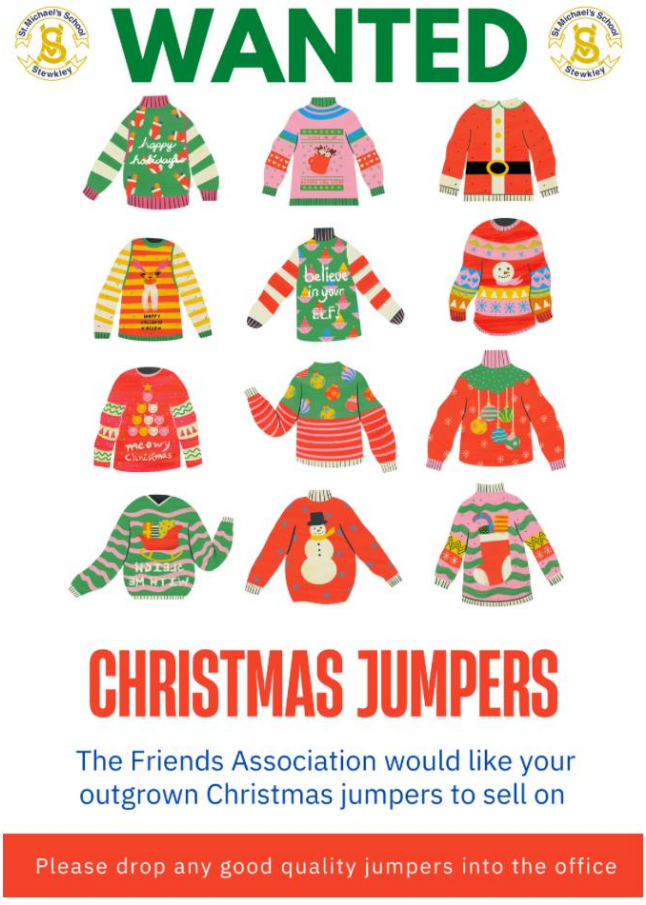
8pm - The Swan

Everyone Welcome

WE WILL BE ELECTING THE CHAIR & SECRETARY POSITIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR AND MAKING PLANS FOR FUNDRAISING EVENTS

GET INVOLVED TO HELP ENRICH YOUR CHILDS SCHOOL EXPERIENCE





St. Michael's Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2024

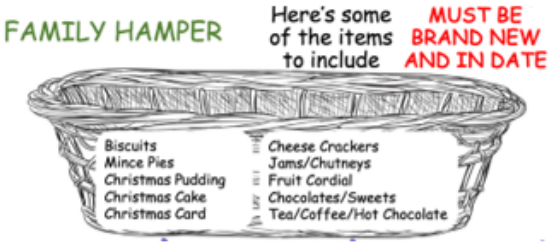
"Kindness is giving hope to those who think they are alone in the world"

We are pleased to announce that we will again be supporting this very worthy charity. Women's Aid is the national charity working to end domestic abuse against women and children.

How can we help?

Collecting shoeboxes or giftbags and filling them with gifts and essential items.

You can either bring in a filled shoebox/giftbag, or bring in any individual items for us to fill a shoebox, giftbag or hamper for you.



DO NOT INCLUDE

- ANY USED/DAMAGED ITEMS
- OUT OF DATE FOOD ITEMS
- WAR/POLITICAL/RELIGIOUS MATERIAL
- ALCOHOL
- MEDICINES
- SHARP OBJECTS OR MADE OF GLASS
- CANDLES

ALL DONATIONS HAVE TO BE DROPPED OFF AT THE SCHOOL RECEPTION BY TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER

Thank you in advance to everyone who is able to help in any way.

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GENERAL SCHOOL INFO

Details of our school policies can be found on the school website

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.

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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Christmas Tree Festival
At St Michael and All Angels Church
Stewkley
Mulled wine, mince pies cake and raffle throughout
6
DECEMBER
Open for viewing
3.30pm - 7.30pm
Santa's Grotto
opens its magical doors
from 3:30pm
7
DECEMBER
Open for viewing
3.00pm - 7.00pm
Live Organ medley
of Christmas numbers
from 3.15pm
8
DECEMBER
Open for viewing
3.00pm - 7.00pm
Songbirds
from 3.15 pm

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