ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 12
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Thursday 8th December 2022

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Dear Parents/Carers

With the end of term rapidly approaching, our Christmas tree is slowly making its way round the school and the familiar sounds of 'Little Donkey' being rehearsed is taking me straight back to being in primary school myself – and that wasn't yesterday!
The KS1 children are so excited about performing in front of parents and carers next week and there is definitely glitter and tinsel in the air this week.

Please see below for details of some dates for your diaries, followed by some dates of events taking place locally that you won't want to miss.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

1. 9th Dec – Y1 Nativity 9.15am
2. 10th Dec – Christmas Fayre
3. 13th Dec – Y2 Nativity 9.15am
4. 14th Dec – Christmas Jumper Day – non-uniform
   Christmas Lunch
   Christmas Disco for KS1 3.30 – 4.30pm, KS2 4.45 – 6pm
5. 16th Dec – Foundation Nativity 9.15am
6. 16th Dec – Final date for shoe box to be delivered to the school.
7. 19th Dec – Christmas Church Service
8. 20th Dec – last day of term

Eco Christmas Message

As usual, we will not be sending lots of Christmas cards this year, but if your child would like to make or send a single card for their class, they are very welcome.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB – FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER

Please note that our After School Club will be closed on Friday 9th Dec due to staff training. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

BOOK DONATION REQUEST

If you have some pre-loved books that you would like someone else to enjoy, please can you bring them into school for our library? Many thanks.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE - Saturday 10th December

***Any donations of cakes/sweet treats gratefully received. Please drop them into the office on Friday 9th Dec. ***
*** If you are able to help on the day, please contact Kerry Turnbull on 07903 850 386 or email at k3rry.turnbu11@gmail.com***

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Join our Facebook Page - @friends&parentsofstmichaelsschoolstewkley

MRS MUNDAY

Mrs Munday will sadly be leaving St Michael's School at February half term 2023 to take up the post of Women and Girls Participation Officer for North Buckinghamshire for Bucks Cricket.

Mrs Munday has worked at St Michael's School for 12 years, although her association stretches back further than this through various volunteering roles she took on.

We are very grateful to Mrs Munday for the role she has played in firmly placing St Michael's School on the sporting map and countless opportunities she has provided for our children.

ST MICHAELS CHURCH EVENTS

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER 7pm- Do join members of St Michael's Church, the Cubs and Scouts for Carols in Chapel Square at 7pm. Warm up with mulled wine at the Church afterwards.

SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER 3pm - come and Christingle at 3pm! We'll be singing carols, lighting candles and eating sweets as we think about the impact of the Christmas story. We'll also be raising money to support young people in need, through the work of the Children's Society.

CHRISTMAS EVE 4pm – join us at our Crib Service in St Michaels Church.

CHRISTMAS DAY 10am – Family communion

SCARLETT FEVER & GROUP STREP A INFECTIONS

WHAT IS IT?

This has been prominent in the news this week and the Department of Education is working closely with the UK Health Security Agency to provide information and advice for parents and schools.

Although there is an increased number of cases of Strep A this year, there is no evidence that it is a new strain and the increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing. The bacteria usually causes a mild infection that is easily treated with antibiotics. In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep.

SYMPTOMS OF STREP A:

Sore throat
Headache
Fever
A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel
On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually, but will have a sandpapery feel.

WHAT TO DO:

If your child becomes unwell with these symptoms, please contact your GP or NHS 111(a 24 hour service) for advice.

If your child has scarlet fever, please keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of the antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Please trust your own judgment and if your child is seriously unwell, call 999 or go to A&E if:

Your child is having difficulty breathing
There are pauses when a child breathes
The child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
The child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.

HOW CAN WE PREVENT IT?

Follow thorough hand washing procedures, with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels. Ensure everyone washes their hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, after playtime and after touching animals.

Coughs and sneezes spread bacteria. Please cover nose and mouth when sneezing and coughing to reduce the spread of infections.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH

At Pop Up Church last Friday, the Giant Advent Calendar contained an angel. It was good to hear lots of children being able to identify where in the Christmas story angels appeared and to whom. Angels are messengers and whilst they appear elsewhere in scripture, their role in the birth at Bethlehem story is major. This week the GAC will contain a star – another well known feature of the Christmas story. We'll be talking about light and how it allows us to see physically, but "see" also as in understanding.

I've often wondered though whether anyone else heard the angels' singing? Or saw a special star traversing the night sky? Or did they dismiss those as wind whistling through the roof tops or think Oh, that's a bright star and return to whatever they were doing?

The stable was not, is not, an exclusive venue; we revisit the Christmas story because the stable doorremains open to whoever wishes to enter.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Howard Robson.

SHOE BOXES AND CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPER

A huge thank you to everyone who has kindly donated a Christmas Box so far. I do have a few empty shoe boxes in the office if anyone needs one, please call in at pick up or drop off to collect one.
It's not too late to volunteer to donate a Christmas Food Box if you'd like to. Just drop me a line at the office to add your name to the list.
Please ensure your boxes are fully wrapped in festive paper and the lid is still able to be opened.
The final date for getting your boxes to us at the school is Friday 16th December.

BRING & BUY SALE

Year 6 will be hosting their charity Bring & Buy Sale during the school day on Thursday 15th December. If you have any good quality toys and games that you would like to donate, please drop them into the office at your earliest convenience. Many thanks.

#together bell ringers this week – Well done!!

ATTENDANCE AWARD
Despite all the wintery bugs circulating at the moment, Year 6 managed an incredible 99.5% attendance this week.
Well done Year 6!

#together

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL SPORTS INFORMATION

SPORTING NEWS

Mandeville SSP Years 5/6 basketball league

On Wednesday 10 pupils from 5 and 6 enjoyed 3 matches against schools from across the Aylesbury Vale area. Taking 8 new players, and therefore giving more children the chance to play, St Michael's came up against an excellent Haddenham team in their first game and suffered an early defeat. Despite this they rallied in the next match giving an experienced Oakley team a tight game which ended in a narrow defeat. The final a game against Bedgrove proved to be an exciting match and thanks to some superb baskets from Harry and Reuben in the final minutes the team secured a 4-2 victory! Well done to Georgie, Primrose, Jet, Elliette, Daisy, Toby, Kian, Reuben, Harry & Alfie; thanks to their listening skills, determination and effort they really improved their play as the games progressed. Many thanks to the parents and grandparents who braved the Aylesbury traffic to transport their own children and, in some cases, others.

CHRISTMAS CROSS COUNTRY

Well done to all of the children who turned up in their festive attire to take part in the Christmas cross country races on Wednesday. Well done to Azzie who helped to organise the event and presented glow sticks to the first finishers.
Cross country club will resume in the New Year.

#together

3 / 4 Hockey

Years 3 & 4 will do their final hockey session on Wed; just a reminder for them to bring shinpads/socks/gloves etc as usual. Thanks to parents for helping with this request over the last few weeks.

FOOTBALL AND TEAM KIT

Now our sporting events and fixtures have finished for the year please could all football kit, team polos, borrowed shinpads, socks and boots be returned to school as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Fiona Phimester
School Secretary