ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 12
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
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Dear Parents/Carers

The end of term is almost upon us and it's hard to believe that this is our last newsletter of 2022. What busy week it's been! Nativity performances, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch, Discos, Bring & Buy Sale, Christmas orienteering and visits to the winter wonderland that is the Secret Garden – on top of all the usual learning!
Please look out for lots of festive pictures of our week at St Michaels – the photographic evidence of Mr Morley in his Christmas suit is not to be missed.
I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for making me feel so welcome in my first month at St Michaels. It's great to be part of such a fantastic school community and thank you for your patience while I continue to settle into the role as School Secretary.
From all of us at St Michaels, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.
We look forward to welcoming all the children back on Thursday 5th January for our Spring term.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

1. 19th Dec – Christmas Church Service
2. 20th Dec – last day of term
3. 4th Jan – INSET day
4. 5th Jan – first day of Spring term

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

CHRISTMAS DAY 10am – Family communion

SOWING & GROWING

One of Y5's topics for next term will be along the theme of 'Sowing & Growing'. Mrs Cockroft would love to be able to visit a local farm for the class to learn about life on a working farm. If you know of anyone locally who might be able to help, please can you ask them to make initial contact with Mrs Phimester in the office? Many thanks.

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.

ATTENDANCE

Just to remind our parents at we will be writing to parents of any child who has an attendance rate of less than 92% so far this academic year in early January.

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.

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION – THANK YOU!

From all the parents, carers and children – a huge thank you to the Friends team for all you have done over the last few weeks.

The fete was a great success and so many children and families commented about what a lovely time they had had. We are so grateful to everyone involved for giving up their Saturday for the benefit of the school. Santa was a great hit and the Grotto looked fabulous. Thank you Santa – it's such a busy time of year for him and it was so good of him to spend some time at St Michaels.

Thanks also to the mums that came in yesterday for Christmas lunches. Having the additional support meant that we were able to serve nearly 200 children in around an hour. Christmas dinners are so lovely and it was very special to be able to share it with your team.

Finally... the discos yesterday were excellent! The DJ did a great job in keeping the children entertaining. The event was very well organised and managed, and doing the disco and snack package worked really well.

We are really grateful for all that you do to make our school such a special place. We have recently spent about £3000 on outdoor equipment for Foundation, Year 1 and 2, and in the next few days there will be some new benches being ordered for our KS2 playground.

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Join our Facebook Page - @friends&parentsofstmichaelsschoolstewkley

SCHOOL GAMES AWARD

Back in July we informed our community that the school had gained the School Games Platinum Award. This highly prized award is recognition for all of the fantastic PE and Sport opportunities that are available to our pupils. Very few schools have been able to gain this accolade and it is something we are very proud of. Thank you to Mrs Munday for her hard work in coordinating PE and Sport in our school and submitting the successful application.

#together

CHRISTMAS LUNCH ON CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

#together

Year 1 Christmas Performance

FUN IN THE SNOWY SECRET GARDEN

#together

BRING & BUY SALE

Thank you to everyone who supported the Y6 Bring & Buy Sale. The children had a great time deciding on what to buy and £270 raised for a good cause.

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

For our last Pop Up Church this year, we had a present in the Giant Advent Calendar. However, no-one could open the present because that way we could have as far ranging a discussion as possible about what we'd like to be inside. As expected, this ranged from gadgets to perfumes to all sorts of other stuff. We then expanded the discussion to explore the present of the Christ child at Christmas.

Rather than only (only!) God's present to the world, Christ was/is a presence amongst us. Because the big challenge of Christmas, and it is a challenge, is to let the babe of Bethlehem grow up and walk along side us in the midst of everyday life. That is what Joseph and Mary showed so clearly when they each trusted in the Christ gift and set their lives along God's path, a path neither could have possibly expected or imagined beforehand.

On Christmas Eve, St Michael's has the Nativity service at 4pm and Holy Communion for Christmas at 7pm (it's St Michael's turn to host the early evening service this year). Christmas Day will be at 10am.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas,

Rev'd Howard Robson

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL CHAIR OF GOVERNORS, SUSIE BRISTER

Dear parents and carers,

As we reach the end of a very busy autumn term, I am sure everyone is enjoying the return of traditional Christmas festivities this year. I was in school earlier this week and it was lovely to hear 'Little Donkey' in the hall and see the famous travelling Christmas tree making its way through the classrooms. Three wonderful nativity plays have taken place at school and on Monday the children will visit St Michael's church for the Christmas service.

Saturday was a very exciting day with the Friends' Christmas fair at school, followed by Santa and his team of lively elves travelling through the village in the early evening. Huge thanks are due to the Friends and all the parents who enable these events to take place and support them. As governors, we know that we are very lucky at St Michael's to have such a strong community where everyone is working together towards the best outcomes for our children.

It has been all change in the school office this term! We welcomed Mrs Phimester as our new school secretary, following Mrs Gardner's departure for to a new role in another school. It was also lovely to have Mrs Cooper back in the office for a week.

We are sad that Mrs Munday will be leaving us in February to take up a new role as Bucks Cricket's Women and Girls Participation Officer (North Bucks). Mrs Munday has been a committed and inspirational leader of PE and sport at our school over the last 12 years. She will be much missed, but we wish her well in her new role.

Thank you all for your continued support for our school. Wishing you and your families a wonderful Christmas, Susie Brister

Chair of Governors

#together bell ringers this week – Well done!!

#together

ATTENDANCE AWARD
Last week it was Year 6, but this week it's the other end of the school – Foundation! Well done everyone – 96% attendance for this week.

GOLDEN LEARNERS
Congratulations to all these superstars this week:

Foundation	Marni Boyes, Reuben Carr, Charlie Colley
Year 1	Tayler Millward, Alexander Atkinson, Alfie Hayers
Year 2	Archie Cronin, Gabriel Mee, Mia Groom
Year 3	Katherine Latham, Darcie Pettigrew, Luisa Conza
Year 4	Corey Fitzsimmons, Zed Day, Chloe Bucktrout
Year 5	Harvey Bonham, Amelie Glover, Poppy Makin
Year 6	Daisy Krause, Primrose Allen, Zaynab Hussain

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL SPORTS INFORMATION

SPORTING NEWS

No sporting fixtures this week but Mrs Claus put in a special appearance to arrange some Christmas Orienteering in the playground and Secret Garden. It was certainly fresh out there but the children wrapped up warm and loved getting out in the fresh air with Mrs Munday.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and we will see you all on Monday for our last couple of days of term.

Best wishes

Fiona Phimester
School Secretary