ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 15
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 12th January 2024

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Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to you all! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas break and are easing yourselves back into normal routines again. It's almost the middle of January already and as always, there is a lot in the St Michael's diary so please make a note of anything that may affect your child/children.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Mon 15th Jan – Multi Skill Year 1 and Year 2 resumes
Tues 16th Jan – Parkour Year 3 resumes
Thurs 18th Jan – Strong Girls Club KS2 starts
Mon 22nd Jan – Y5/6 Boys Football Tournament
Fri 26th Jan – African/Caribbean Dance Workshop
Fri 26th Jan – Year 4 Multi Skills – St Michael's Secondary School 10am – 11.30am
Wed 31st Jan – Year 5/6 Girls' Football at Cottesloe 9.30am – midday
Fri 2nd Feb – 9am Year 2 Stay & Play
Fri 2nd Feb – Aspiration Day
Thur 8th Feb – Heart Day – non uniform – wear hearts/red
Thur 8th Feb – Year 6 Cake Sale
Thur 8th Feb – Parents Evening

Please see the link below for term dates on our website.

https://www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk/Parents/Term-Dates/

OFSTED

As you are aware, we had Ofsted come to visit us for a couple of days in December. Ofsted procedures mean that it is normal to have to wait some time for their report to be received. It can be between 30 and 38 working days before the report is ready. With our inspection being so close to the Christmas holidays, this means that it could be the end of January, or because of an early half term in February, even the end of February.
The delay is nothing to be concerned about – this is just standard Ofsted procedures.
Meanwhile, thank you once again for everyone's support and concern for our staff's well-being during the inspection. The St Michael's community spirit shone through once again.

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR VACANCY

We currently have vacancies for some Lunchtime Supervisor positions. Please contact the office if you are interested in finding out more. Please feel free to share this with anyone who you think may be suitable.

TEA TOWELS

We have a handful of tea towels left if anyone is interested in purchasing any. I have 3 x KS1 and 6 x KS2 tea towels. They are £4 each and available from the office if you are interested.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH

From all of us in the church ministry team, we hope you enjoyed your Christmas and New Year celebrations. When our third child was a day old, we brought him home and our middle son, aged not quite 3, knelt by his new baby brother and said "what are we going to do with him?".
We have explored this theme is this week's assembly and at Pop Up Church. What are we going to do with the Christ child now January is here and everything has gone back to normal? At Pop Up Church we had a Christmas tree and some (unbreakable) decorations and the pupils were timed as to how long it took them to dismantle the tree and put it away. I recall a group of four secondary school lads taking just 7 seconds – they picked up the tree complete with decs and thrust the whole lot into the box.
The question we discussed was therefore have we packed Jesus away with the Christmas decorations? Have we kept him as the Christmas baby who we don't allow to grow up and move among us? The Christmas story teaches us that in coming among us, Christ shares our life entirely; he grew up as we do to link heaven and earth and enable us to make sense our spiritual yearning.

With every blessing,
Rev'd Howard Robson.

MRS HANN – LEARNING MENTOR

As we move forward in this new year, I'm keen to reach out to you, to find out if there are particular issues that you would like support with. If there is a particular matter with which you would like my support, please contact me, in confidence, via the School Office.
Best wishes as always

Helen Hann
Learning Mentor and DSL
My usual working pattern is Monday to Wednesday.
St Michael's C of E Combined School
Chapel Square
Stewkley
Bucks
LU7 0HA

01525 240248

Chess Club News from Mr McClellan – January 2024

This term, children who have completed the Autumn Term "Introduction to Chess" course will be joined by former members of the club and both groups have been entered for the Delancey U.K. Schools Chess Challenge. This competition provides the opportunity for our players to compete against the players from other schools within the region. You will be kept informed about how they get on.

I am sometimes asked by a parent if their son or daughter can join the chess club in the Spring or Summer term. This is not a good idea, because the child will not have benefited from the intensive instruction provided by the "Introduction to Chess" course that takes place in the Autumn Term. A newcomer who has not had this experience would find it difficult to compete with the other children and to follow the teaching that takes place.

Summer Term chess club members are involved in a national competition where games have to be played in complete silence and no help is given. This could be a bit daunting to a child who has not had the benefit of the advice, help and instruction provided during the Autumn Term.
For children who think they can play chess, or would like to improve their play, there will be another "Introduction to Chess" club in September 2024.

#together bell ringers this week – Well done!!

#together

GOLDEN LEARNERS

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

Foundation	**Rosie, Dilly, Albie**
Year 1	**Hunter, Luca, Louis**
Year 2	**Edie B, Ruby, Yasmina**
Year 3	**Archie, Bobby, Paige**
Year 4	**Lewis, Sofia, Alfie**
Year 5	**Harry Ba, Eddie Hill, Tom Clark**
Year 6	**Dennie, Michael, Abigail**

ATTENDANCE AWARD

A great start to the term with 100% of pupils being in school today. Brilliant!
Year 1 win the cup this week with a fantastic 99% attendance. Well done Year

#together

FAREWELL FROM MRS FARRAN

On Tuesday 19th December, the last day of term, the children and staff of St Michael's lined the driveway, in the pouring rain, and gave me the most amazing send-off to start my retirement. It was totally unexpected and very emotional, but also really special.

I had already received many cards and lovely messages during the morning service, and had enjoyed a fantastic evening with the staff and friends the previous Friday.

I would like to thank all of the children, staff and other members of the St. Michael's community, for all of their kindness and generosity in all of the cards, gifts, and very welcome donation towards a long awaited holiday!

I have enjoyed my 26 years at the school, and have many lasting memories. I will miss the school life very much, but will definitely not be a stranger.

Thank you all, once again, so very much for making my retirement so special. Wishing you all a very happy New Year!

#together

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

Friends of St Michael's School

Christmas Fundraising

Thank you for your support

#together

WANTED

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

Will your children have grown out of their Christmas Jumpers by next Christmas?

If so the Friends Association would like to take them off your hands and keep them to sell on next Christmas

Please drop any good quality jumpers into the office

#together

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

Big Breakfast

Year 6 Fundraiser

Saturday 3rd February

The Pavilion Stewkley Recreation Ground

8am - 11.30

Supporting... Little Hearts Matter | Child Brain Injury Trust "hope for tomorrow - today" | APA All People Active

Bacon or Sausage in a roll £2.50

Full English
Adults £6

Child £4

Limited Spaces so Please contact
Lynsey 07810 300256 or
Fiona 07841845145 to reserve.

St.Michael's School Stewkley

#together

St. Michael's ASC After School Club

At our in-house after-school club we have fun activities on offer

Stay and Play

Join us for Play-worker led activities on Mondays & Fridays

Changing Tuesdays

We will be doing these activities :

09/01/24 - Minute to Win it Championship
16/01/24 - Lego Club
23/01/24 - Magic Club
30/01/24 - Big Screen Pictionary
06/02/24 - Well Being Club

Art Club Wednesdays

Each week we create different types of art and crafts throughout the year. Learning new techniques.

Book Club Thursdays

Children will be able to relax and listen to a story.
We sometime make listening dens
and just like book club we will stop at an
appropriate point, to discuss as we go.

To book a place on the after-school club for either **1** hour or **1.5** hours please do this via Parent Pay by **Thursday** at midnight for the following week.

Children to be collected at 4.30pm or at 5pm

PERM

Saturday 16th March 24

7:30pm-12:00
Stewkley Village Hall

Raising Money for Stewkley FC and the Year 6 Leavers Party and their chosen charities - Little Hearts Matter, Child Brain Injury Trust & All People Active

Tickets £15 each,Please contact Dan 07921-867261, Fiona 07841-845145

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL SPORTS INFORMATION

Check back soon for some more Sporting updates from Mr Day.

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, 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.

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.

#together