ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 15
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 20th Dec 2024

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Dear Parents/Carers

We've made it to the end of our first term of the academic year! Phew! I think this Autumn term must be the busiest and it always ends in an explosive of tinsel, sparkle, joy and singing! St Michael's has been a special place to be in the last couple of weeks with 4 nativities, 2 award assemblies, a music concert, church visits, a roaming Christmas trees on wheels, a Christmas Fayre, a visit from Father Christmas, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas lunch, Christmas Discos… I think we might just have 'ticked' the Christmas box!
Thank you so much for all your support throughout the term and a big thank you to our Friends Association who organised the fabulous Christmas Fayre this week. There was such a lovely atmosphere and although we are still waiting on final numbers, at least £500 was raised.
From everyone at St Michael's, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, happy and healthy 2025.
Please remember we have an Inset day on Monday 6th January and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Mon 6th Jan – INSET DAY
Tues 7th Jan – Start of the Spring term
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

Many thanks to the pianists, guitarists and singers from our mini- concert on Monday. You were wonderful and your music teachers were incredibly proud of you all.

Wishing you all a lovely holiday filled with music and fun.

#together

Best wishes

H Hann

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

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SPOTLIGHT ON…

This week's Christmas special Spotlight feature is on Miss Symes. Miss Symes is an invaluable support to our Year 4 class and always has a smile to share.

1. **Why did you choose to work at St Michaels?**

   Well, some of you might not know this, but I actually worked at St. Michaels back in 2017 and then took a break to have my daughter Maisie. When a role came up last year I couldn't resist! St. Michaels is a unique place to work, it's like coming home to a lovely, welcoming and supportive family. Both my children have attended the school and I couldn't be happier to be back as part of the St. Michaels team.

2. **What is your favourite Christmas song?**

   I LOVE Christmas and my favourite Christmas song is Feliz Navidad, it's just so catchy and upbeat.

3. **What is your favourite sport and why?**

   My favourite sport is weightlifting! If that counts! I was never very sporty as a child but since discovering resistance training I love to keep fit as it makes me feel strong.

4. **Do you support a sports team?**

   Honestly not really...obviously I support all the amazing St.Michaels teams and sometimes I'm forced to watch England or Scotland play football and rugby! It's always tense when they play each other in my house.

5. **Which subject did you find the hardest at school?**

   I absolutely loved school as a child! My hardest subject was probably art or DT...I'm not very creative and can only draw stick people.

6. **Pineapple on a pizza - discuss!**

   Pineapple on pizza is definitely ok with me! Can't beat a Hawaiian pizza...yummy

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SHOEBOX APPEAL

The Women's Aid in Aylesbury were blown away by the generosity of our school community when they came to collect our Christmas shoe box donations this week.

Mrs Casey did a wonderful job of coordinating the collection of all the donations. In total we had 39 shoe boxes and 6 hampers of goodies which will put a smile of lots of faces over Christmas. Thank you to everyone who contributed. You are all wonderful!

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NATIVITIES

YEAR 2 DID A MARVELLOUS JOB OF PERFORMING TO THEIR PARENTS AND CARERS THIS WEEK.
NUMEROUS PEOPLE SEEMED TO HAVE SOMETHING IN THEIR EYE BY THE END OF THE SHOW…
WELL DONE TO EVERYONE AND CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS HYLAND FOR HER FIRST SUCCESSUL NATIVITY PERFORMANCE!

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YEAR 4 CHRISTINGLE

A heart-warming performance from our Year 4 class. Well done everyone.

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FRIENDS CHRISTMAS FAYRE

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Friends of
St Michael's School
Thank you!
TO EVERYONE WHO
SUPPORTED & HELPED
AT OUR CHRISTMAS
FUNDRAISERS
WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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BELLRINGERS #together

#together

ST MICHAEL'S CELEBRATIONS

Have a close look at this Mathletics Hall of Fame – one of our pupils made it to third in the WORLD! Isn't that impressive? Fabulous work! Can anyone beat that?

ATTENDANCE AWARD

Lot of coughs and colds doing the rounds this week, but well done to YEAR 2 who did a great job of avoiding them with 98% attendance! Well done!

AWARDS ASSEMBLIES

Last week we welcomed some familiar faces back to St Michael's as special guests to present our end of term awards to the classes. It was great to see Mrs Cockroft and Mrs Shefferd again and huge congratulations to all the children.

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SUPER STAR AWARD
STAR AWARD
WELL DONE
VISITOR
Well Done

Well Done
SUPER STAR AWARD
Special Award
Well Done
GOOD BEHAVIOUR AWARD
STAR AWARD
#Together
GOOD BEHAVIOUR AWARD
Star Award
VISITOR
Special Award
STAR AWARD

#together

GOLDEN LEARNERS

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

Foundation	**Toby, Theodora, Nathanael**
Year 1	**Grace, Freya, Ellie**
Year 2	**Charlie, Reuben, Maisie**
Year 3	**Max, Tyler, Alexander**
Year 4	**Harrison, Owen, Reagan**
Year 5	**Joseph, Samuel, Amelie**
Year 6	**Oscar, Madison, Freddie**

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.

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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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