# ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

**NEWSLETTER NO 17**
**www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk**
Friday 17th January 2025

**01525 240248**
**office@st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk**
**07786208889 – Text only**

**Dear Parents/Carers**
**Our second week back and hopefully everyone is back into the swing of normal routine again. Thanks to everyone who attended the Friends' Association meeting last night. I know there are plenty of fundraising events planned for 2025 which will be great fun for both adults and children. If you are interested in getting involved, please let me know and I can put you in touch with the Chairs who would be delighted to have you on board.**
**Next Thursday is the Year 6 Cake Sale. Any donations can be dropped into the school office and I promise we won't raid the cake tins! Weather permitting, the cakes will be on the playground at 3.30pm.**
**Sporting Roundup will resume next week once Mr Day has taken some of our older children to a Handball competition on Monday. Meanwhile, please scroll down to find out more about some free offers at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre.**

**Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.**

**Best wishes**
**Mrs Fiona Phimester**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Thurs 23rd Jan – Year 6 Cake Sale
Wed 12th Feb – Parents Evening
Thurs 13th Feb – Parents Evening
Fri 14th Feb – Year 1 Class Assembly
w/c 17th Feb – Half term break
Mon 24th Feb – INSET DAY
Tues 25th Feb – return to school
Thurs 27th Feb – Year 5 Cake Sale
Fri 28th Feb – Foundation – Tring Museum
Fri 7th March – Year 2 Class Assembly 9.10am
Fri 14th March – Year 3 Learning Fayre
Fri 21st March – Year 6 Learning Fayre
Thurs 27th March – Year 4 Cake Sale
Fri 28th March – Foundation Stay & Play 2.45pm
Fri 4th April – END OF TERM
Tues 22nd April – Start of the Summer Term
Thurs 24th April – Class photos and Year 6 Leavers photos – *amended date*
Thurs 24th April – Year 3 Cake Sale
Wed 30th April – Year 3 Swimming lessons start
Thurs 22nd May – Grandparents Assembly – Foundation, Year 1 & Year 2 at 2.45pm
Fri 23rd May – INSET DAY

w/c 26th May – Half term break
Thurs 5th – 6th June – Year 3 Caldecotte residential trip
Wed 11th – Fri 13th June – Year 4 Everdon residential trip
Fri 13th June – Year 2 Class Assembly
Mon 16th – Fri 20th June – Year 6 IOW residential trip
Fri 20th June – Foundation trip to Waddesdon Manor
Fri 20th June – Year 4 Class Assembly
Tues 24th June – KS1 Sports Day
Wed 25th June – KS2 Sport Day
Fri 27th June – Year 1 class picnic
Tues 1st July – Year 6 Transition Day
Wed 2nd July – Year 6 Transition Day
Fri 4th July – Foundation Class Assembly
Tues 8th – Thurs 10th July – Year 5 Hudnall Park residential trip
Thurs 10th July – Year 1 Cake Sale
Fri 11th July – Year 3 Assembly
Wed 23rd July – Leavers Assembly 1.50pm
Wed 23rd July – Last day of term

**MESSAGE FROM MRS HANN**

https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/familycentres/wing-family-centre/

Happy New Year to you all. Our local Family Centre in Wing offers a wide range of activities, support and drop-in sessions for local parents and carers. It's well worth exploring what is on our doorstep and I've found the staff to be warm and welcoming.

Best wishes as always,
H Hann

**Helen Hann**
**Learning Mentor, Acting SENDCo and DSL**
*My usual working pattern is Monday to Wednesday in school.*

**SPOTLIGHT ON…**

**This week's Spotlight features Mrs Evans, our Year 1 teacher who has a great sense of adventure and loves travelling.**

1. **Of all the countries you have visited, which has been your favourite and why?**

I found this a very hard question to answer because I love so many things about the places I have been lucky enough to visit! I really enjoy trying different food and learning about different places and cultures. I would have to say my favourite is Vietnam because the landscapes across the country are so different and I really enjoyed meeting and staying with some local people there.

2. **Who would you rather fight…. A horse sized duck or 20 duck sized horses?**

I have to say I have never thought about this one before… I think a horse sized duck could be rather terrifying so I would rather 20 duck sized horses. Although they sound quite cute so if anyone finds one I wouldn't mind having a pet duck sized horse ☺.

3. **What is your favourite lesson to teach?**

Anyone who knows me will be able to answer this one… Geography is my favourite lesson to teach because I love exploring different places and cultures. It is also lovely to see the children get so excited about maps and where they have been/ would like to explore.

4. **What do you like to do as a hobby?**

When I lived in London I was part of a netball team and I love team sports. Now I go to a social gym where you exercise in teams.

5. **Do you have a favourite sports team?**

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I enjoy watching most sports but I prefer going to watch matches live because the atmosphere is exciting. My husband plays in an ultimate frisbee team which can be quite interesting to watch.

6. **What was your favourite subject to learn when you were younger?**

I really enjoyed and still enjoy books so I would say English. I can still remember the books we read and have enjoyed watching film adaptations of some of them since.

7. **What do you think is special about St Michael's School?**

The atmosphere and ethos - it is always inviting to children and adults and I quickly felt part of a strong team!

**ATTENDANCE AWARD**

**100% attendance for our Year 3 class this week. An amazing effort! Well done everyone.**

**GOLDEN LEARNERS**

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **Foundation** | **Nico, Evie, Austin** |
| **Year 1** | **Florence, Lucy, Freddie** |
| **Year 2** | **Hunter, Betsy, Joseph** |
| **Year 3** | **Darcie, Lucy, Rebecca** |
| **Year 4** | **Eliza, Maddie, Sophie** |
| **Year 5** | **Luisa, Willow, Harry** |
| **Year 6** | **Freddie, Sienna, Arnie** |

**BELLRINGERS #together**

**#together**

**TIDDENFOOT LEISURE CENTRE**

We are delighted that Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre have chosen to 'adopt' us for the month of February. This will allow parents free access to the gym, pool, classes, sauna and steam room for two consecutive weeks in February and the children would be able to swim free for the whole month of February. How fabulous is that? Ideal for February half term holidays.
Please use the QR on the poster below to get started.

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In partnership with Knowsley CLCs, all parent/carers are invited to an:

# Online Safety Information Session

This session is delivered virtually so can be watched from anywhere!
We will share the link with you privately.

**Current trends** – what children are doing online and what apps/games are popular amongst children.

**Understanding the Risks** – a look at the risks associated with using technology, in particular when using social media, online gaming & live streaming.

**What can you do?** - suggestions on how you can support your child with their online lives and what parental controls are available to help you.

**Further Support** – signposting to services that are available to help you.

**WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY 2025**

**9.30AM – 10.15AM**

Knowsley City Learning Centres

**#together**

Friends of St Michael's School

START SEARCHING DOWN THE SOFA, IN THE CAR, COAT POCKETS...

# The Spare Change Challenge is back!

Please bring your spare change into school and pop it in the bucket in your classroom between 31st January and 13th February

Hot Chocolate & biscuits prize for the class with the heaviest bucket overall

**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.

# TEACH IN BUCKS
## RECRUITMENT FAIR

*Interested in becoming a teacher?*
*We want to meet you!*

**Saturday 8 February 2025, 10am - 3pm**

**Buckinghamshire New University | Wycombe Campus**

## Event Programme

Featuring presentations from a number of organisations including the Department for Education and several of the county's school and university based Initial Teacher Training providers:

**10.00am** **Doors open - opportunity to review local providers**

**10.30am** **Get into Teaching Introductory Presentation - Why, How and What**
- Presentation by a representative from the Department for Education

**11.30am** **How to Apply - Applications, Qualifications, and Compliance**
- Presentations by Chepping View SCITT* and National Mathematics & Physics SCITT

**12.30pm** **Training Programmes:**

**1. Early Years and Primary Teacher Training**
- Presentations by Buckinghamshire New University and Chepping View SCITT

**2. Secondary Teacher Training Programme**
- Presentations by Astra SCITT and Insignis SCITT

**3. Teaching in Further Education**
- Presentation by the Buckinghamshire College Group

**1.30pm** **Break - opportunity to review local providers**

**2.00pm** **Routes into Teaching:**

**1. The Apprenticeship Route into Teaching**
- Presentation by Astra SCITT and Insignis SCITT

**2. The Assessment Only Route into Qualified Teaching**
- Presentation by The Buckingham Partnership SCITT

**3. University Routes into Teaching**
- Presentation by Buckinghamshire New University

**3.00pm** **Close**

**Register for a FREE ticket: Eventbrite**

SCAN ME

If you have any queries about the event, please email **teachinbucks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk**

*Programme is subject to change*
**SCITT: School Centred Initial Teacher Training*

Buckinghamshire Council

**A collaborative event between partner organisations**

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# 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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