ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 17
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 21st January 2026

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

Dear Parents/Carers

What a dark rainy few days, although I'm sure it's getting lighter at the end of the day and the snowdrops are popping through so Spring is definitely on its way.

Our wonderful Friends Association are running a Beetle Drive on Friday 30th January. It's £3.50 a ticket and start at 5.45pm. Refreshments will be available and it'll be a great family evening to start off the weekend. Please see the poster below for details on how to secure tickets.

Please can I remind you that our disabled parking space is for Blue Badge holders only and the person for whom the badge is issued must be in the vehicle with you at the time of usage. Thank you for your understanding.

Wishing you all a great weekend.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Sat 24th Jan – County Football Finals – Y5/6
Friday 30th Jan – Friends Beetle Drive – please see the poster below for details.
Thurs 5th Feb – Kapla Workshop – all classes
Thurs 5th Feb – Swimming gala, Stoke Mandeville – Y5/6
Friday 6th Feb – Thornton Trail
Wed 11th Feb – Parents Evening
Thurs 12th Feb – Parents Evening
Friday 13th Feb – Heart Day – non-uniform day & cake sale
Thurs 26th Feb – Year 3 Cake Sale
Friday 27th Feb – Year 2 Class Assembly
Thurs 5th March – World Book Day – dress as your favourite book character or come in your pyjamas
Friday 6th March – Year 6 Learning Fayre
Thurs 19th March – Year 4 Cake Sale
Tues 24th March – Year 4/5 performance – afternoon
Wed 25th March – Easter Church Service at 9.30am
Wed 25th March – Year 4/5 performance – evening
Thurs 26th March – Foundation Stay and Play
Thurs 26th March – Easter Fayre
Friday 27th March – INSET DAY
Mon 13th April – Start of Summer Term
Thurs 16th April – Year 5 Cake Sale
Wed 22nd April – Year 3 Swimming lessons start

Thurs 23rd April – Class photos and Leavers' photos
Friday 24th April – Year 3 Learning Fayre
Thurs 14th May – Year 6 Cake Sale
Wed 6th May – Foundation visual screening
Thurs 14th May – Year 6 Cake Sale

Bellringers #together

GOLDEN LEARNERS

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

Foundation	**Albert, Edie, Noel**
Year 1	**Toby, Aurora, Freddie**
Year 2	**Koby, Rory, Maya**
Year 3	**Ellie, Luca, Albert**
Year 4	**Malak, Jacob, George**
Year 5	**Oliver, Mia, Noah**
Year 6	**Willow, Kaitlyn, Sebastian**

#together

Chess Club News from Mr McClellan

I am delighted that all but one of the beginners who completed the "Introduction to Chess" course last term have returned this term to be joined by older and more experienced players. The mixture of beginners and more experienced players adds vibrancy to the club, to the benefit of both groups. The combined group has been entered for the U.K. Chess Challenge and will play a series of seven competitive games this term.

Some of the older children in the Chess Club have had several terms of chess tuition, but they should never get bored as they are taught something new every lesson.

I have enough material to last for over 10 years and, indeed, have had children whom I have taught from primary school age until the end of their secondary education.

I am sometimes asked, "How can my child get better at chess?"

Like anything else in life the answer is to practise, practise and practise. The more a child puts into it the more they will get out of it. I expect the children who have been taught chess for several years to become better players than I am!

This is certainly the case for one of my ex pupils, now in his twenties, whom I invited to play a simultaneous game against all of my current R.L.S. students.

He didn't lose a single game!

LUNCHTIME FUN!

Are you able to help make the lunchtimes **even more** fun for the KS2 children at St Michaels?

We are looking for any crafts /pre-loved toys/games for the children to enjoy at lunchtime.

If you're able to donate anything that would be suitable for either inside or outside play, the children will be very grateful and appreciative.

Any donations can be brought into the school office.

Thank you in advance.

FRIENDS ASSOCATION

#together

St.Michael's School
Stewkley
Cake Sale Challenge
The Year 2 Cake Sale
raised a brilliant £130.51
Well done to all involved
This money will be made available to Miss Hyland to spend on the class

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
2nd and 13th February
Hot Chocolate
& biscuits prize
for the class with
the heaviest
bucket overall

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Friends of St Michael's School

Christmas Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported and helped at the events

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Live Music
By Perm
At Stewkley Village Hall
Saturday 7th March 2026
7.30 - 11.45pm
Tickets on sale January 2026
£15 per ticket
call Fiona Pollard
07841845145
LICENSED BAR
Fundraising for St Michaels Y6 leavers party
Little Hearts Matter & Stewkley FC

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BMTLW
Long Buckz Long Music

YOU ARE INVITED TO

BETWEEN 9AM - 1PM

- ALL STANDARDS (1 TERM TO GRADE 8)
- ALL INSTRUMENTS
- ALL SINGERS
- ALL AGES

BMT
AYLESBURY
MUSIC CENTRE
Love Bucks ★ Love Music

OPEN DAY

AT AYLESBURY MUSIC CENTRE

SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY

IT'S FREE!

NO NEED TO BOOK

JUST TURN UP!

GOT A QUESTION?

WALTON ROAD | AYLESBURY HP21 7ST | TEL 01494 216 066
AYLMUSIC@BUCKSMUSIC.ORG

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BMT

COME PLAY AND SING

WHAT CAN I DO?

9-10.30 'JUNIOR JAM'
OPEN TO ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS (INC GUITAR & PIANO)
1 TERM TUITION TO GRADE 3
INFORMAL PLAY THROUGH AT 10.15
- PARENTS/FAMILY WELCOME

10.45-11.45 'BIG SING'
OPEN TO EVERYONE
ALL AGES
ALL STANDARDS
COME AND FIND YOUR VOICE

11.30-1PM 'SENIOR SYMPHONY'
OPEN TO ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS (INC GUITAR & PIANO)
GRADE 4-8
INFORMAL PLAY THROUGH AT 12.45
-PARENTS/FAMILY WELCOME

BMT AYLESBURY MUSIC CENTRE Love Bucks Love Music

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NHS
Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust

Mental Health
Support Team
Buckinghamshire

FREE

FOR PARENTS
AND CARERS

LIVE WEBINARS

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

DATES:
JAN– APRIL
2026

TIME:
6PM – 7.30PM

To register, scan the QR codes on the next page!

01865 901566

bucksmhst@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

*PLEASE NOTE: YOUR CHILD MUST ATTEND AN MHST SCHOOL FOR ACCESS TO THE WEBINARS. IF YOU ARE UNSURE, PLEASE CONTACT US.

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SCAN THE QR CODE TO SECURE YOUR PLACE:

Topic	Date	Link	QR code
Exam Stress	Monday 12th[h] of January 2026	Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams	
Awareness and understanding of eating disorders	Monday the 26th of January 2026	Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams	
Understanding childhood development and behaviour	Tuesday the 10th of February 2026	Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams	
Understanding low mood	Monday the 9th of March 2026	Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams	
Understanding adolescent development and behaviour	Monday the 20th of April 2026	Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams	

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Heart Day
Friday 13th February

Wear something red to school,
Heart theme or just non uniform
Donations can be made via parent pay

After school there will be a cake and toy sale
Raffle for piñata and a chance to win a voucher for a made to order cake

Cake donations from all year groups would be much appreciated

Monies raised for LittleHearts Matter, The British Hearts Foundation & Y6 Leavers

Little Hearts Matter
Supporting every step of the half a heart journey

British Heart Foundation

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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, 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.

DOGS

Dogs are not permitted anywhere on the school premises at any time. Please ensure that anyone accompanying you is also aware.

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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