ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 18
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 24th January 2025

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Dear Parents/Carers

Another week passed at St Michael's School and thankfully the winds have died down a little in readiness for the weekend.
Our Year 6s enjoyed a Handball tournament on Monday and will return again for more fun on Monday.
Friends Association have plenty of events planned for the next few weeks. Please see below for new dates for your diary and scroll down for more details on the posters.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Mon 27th Jan – Year 6 Handball
Fri 31st Jan – Year 5 boys football V Cheddington (H)
Mon 3rd Feb – Futsal tournament Year 6 girls
Tues 4th Feb – Basketball tournament Year 5/6
Wed 5th Feb – Swimming Gala Year 5/6 Stoke Mandeville
Mon 10th Feb – KS2 Movie Night – Inside Out 2
Tues 11th Feb – NO PARKOUR
Wed 12th Feb – Parents Evening
Thurs 13th Feb – Parents Evening
Fri 14th Feb – Heart Day – non-uniform/cake sale/raffle
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

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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

We have enjoyed listening to Eine kleine Nachtmusik by Mozart this week. Enjoy!

Mozart: Eine kleine Nachtmusik | Gewandhaus Quartet
with Stefan Adelmann (double bass)
youtu.be

I am in the process of organising a series of workshop sessions for parents. Lookout for information about these- there will be cake!
Best wishes as always,
H Hann
Helen Hann
Learning Mentor, Acting SENDCo and DSL
My usual working pattern is Monday to Wednesday in school.

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SPOTLIGHT ON…

This week's Spotlight features Mrs Deverill, our Deputy Head and Year 4 teacher along with Mrs Buckland. Mrs Deverill is one of longest standing members of the St Michael's and has taught generations of Stewkley families over the years!

1. **How long have you been working at the school for?**
   I joined St Michael's in September1997. I was a Newly Qualified Teacher (as we were called at the time) and had 40 Year 5 children in my first class. Some of those children are now parents in our school.

2. **What was your favourite game to play when you were younger?**
   I used to love skipping, especially Dutch skipping with two ropes. I also spent hours playing elastics and standing against a wall with a tennis ball in the bottom of one of the legs of a pair of tights hitting it against the wall. I know - it sounds ridiculous, but those of us of a similar age will know what I mean! My favourite board games were Guess Who? Frustration and Ludo.

3. **What do you like about this school?**
   Everything! We have fantastic children, parents and staff and #together we create a lovely atmosphere to be in everyday.

4. **What is your dream country to visit?**
   I would love to visit New Zealand. I have been to Australia and probably should have popped in when I was close by. Never mind - one day.

5. **If you weren't a teacher, what would you be?**
   I always wanted to be a teacher (another one of my favourite games when I was younger). However, if I wasn't a teacher and I'm too old to be an Olympic Gymnast, I think I would like to run a book shop. So many books, so little time.

6. **Marmite... Is there anything it doesn't go with?**
   Absolutely not, although marmite popcorn is a bit of a challenge!

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ATTENDANCE AWARD

With a number of children being poorly this week, Year 5 have done really well to achieve a fabulous 99% attendance this week.

GOLDEN LEARNERS

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

Foundation	**Henry A, Arthur, Phoebe**
Year 1	**Trystan, Albie, Frankie**
Year 2	**Phoebe, Freya, Lilia**
Year 3	**Vidya, Tayler, Max**
Year 4	**Aleksander, Grae, Flynn**
Year 5	**Emily, Beau, Alfie**
Year 6	**Edward S, Eddie, Chloe**

BELLRINGERS #together

#together

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH 2025

This weekend, from Friday – Sunday (24th-26th January), the children are taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. They are going to birdwatch for an hour to gather information for the RSPB (The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds). The children have taken home a tally chart for their homework to record their results on. You can then upload this to the RSPB website. Have a look at the following information from the RSPB.

Taking part is as easy as 1, 2, 3

1. **Count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park for one hour between 24 and 26 January 2025.**
   Use the tally boxes on the next page to count and record the birds you spot. Transfer your count to the results form. This chart shows some birds you might see. You may see others, if so record those on the results form too. Where only one bird is shown on the ID Chart, both male and female birds look similar but are not always identical.
2. **Following these simple rules makes it easy to count the birds you see.**
   Only include birds that land, not those flying over. Count the highest number of each species you see at any one time, otherwise you could count the same bird twice. For example, if you saw a group of eight Starlings but then towards the end of your hour you saw six together, record '8' as your final Starling count.
3. **Go online and tell us what you saw at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch**
   Submitting online is quick and easy and it means we can spend more on saving nature as it reduces our costs. Whatever you saw – even if nothing at all – please tell us. The more results we have, the better the picture will be of how garden birds are faring.

   If you are unable to submit your results online, please complete and send us the print-from-home form.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nldtLbyIU6I

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

You may have noticed a new Friends donation button on Parentpay. This is for anyone who wishes to make a one off donation to the friends just because they want to, in lieu of attending a fundraiser or if they wish to donate in return for some preloved uniform (not compulsory). Please do not use this to pay for tickets to Friends events.

All events such as movie nights, discos etc will have their own payment on Parentpay to allow us to have a record of whose attending for safeguarding/health & safety requirements.

Thank you

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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

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FRIENDS ASSOCIATION – Friends have some great fundraising events planned for this term. Please see the posters for more information and tickets are available to purchase via Parentpay.

Boozy Bingo
7th March - 7pm
Music Theme
Licenced Bar
£5 Entry pp
Get Your Tickets From
Helen, Rachael or Ali
(card payments accepted)
School Hall
Eyes down 7.15pm
Strictly adults only

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HEART DAY – 14TH FEBRUARY

Heart Day has become an annual tradition at St Michael's since Lucia Pollard a former pupil attended the school.
February is national heart month. On heart day pupils can wear hearts, red or non uniform to school.
Donations can be made via parent pay.
Donations are needed from ALL year groups it's a whole school cake sale. Thank you in advance for your support with this.
After school a cake sale will be held on the playground and also a piñata and cake voucher raffle £1 a go. Please bring cash only for the cake sale and raffles.
Lucia was born with a complex heart defect known in simple terms as half a working heart. Lucia and her family are supported by the only UK charity for the condition Little Hearts Matter
Tragically one of our parents Gaynor Brown died suddenly in March 2022. So we also give a donation from Heart day to The British Heart foundation in her memory.
Funds raised from Heart day are split between Friends of St Michael's School, Little Hearts Matter and The British Heart Foundation.

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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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