ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 19
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 3rd Feb 2023

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Dear Parents/Carers

Each week St Michael's is packed with learning and activities and the continuing sense of family and community here is something that I have experienced daily since I have started at St Michael's.
This week heightened the strength of our school togetherness when we unfortunately had to share the sad news of the death of Deany-Lee's mum.
Mr Horwood has asked us to pass on his gratitude to everyone who has contacted him with their condolences and offers of support. He has been overwhelmed with the warmth and compassion of our school community and wishes to thank you all.
Our thoughts are with the whole family at this sad time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Mon 6th Feb – Chess & Netball 5/6 Club
Tues 7th Feb – MK Dons 5/6 Football Club & Parkour Club
Thurs 9th Feb – MK Dons 3/4 Football Club + Hockey Club
Wed 8th February – Parents Evening
Thurs 9th February – Parents Evening
Fri10th Feb – Year 1 Class Assembly 9am
Fri 10th Feb – Dress Down Day & Cake Sale for Heart Day
Fri10th Feb – last day of school before half term
Wed 22nd February – Tenancity Street Dance Club starts
Fri 24th February – Foundation Class Assembly 9am
Thurs 2nd March – World Book Day
Wed 8th (9.30am) & Thurs 9th (6pm) March – Year 4/5 Performances
Saturday 11th March – District Cross Country
Friday 17th March – Comic Relief Red Nose Day – more details to follow

*****Multi Skills After School Club will now start after half-term. *****

*****Please note that After School Club on Tuesday 7th Feb will only be available until 4.30pm*****

PRE-SCHOOL

Our School Governors have decided to invite applications from existing Pre-School providers with a view to them opening a setting on our site. We are very keen to see a return to pre-school education at St Michael's and will be in touch as soon as we have more information to share.

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NEU STRIKE ACTION

The next strike is due to take place in our region on 1st March. I am unable to say at this stage if the school will be open or closed and therefore I strongly advise parents to have contingency plans in place for childcare

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.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH

In our assemblies this term, we are introducing the pupils to Christians who managed astonishing achievements rooted in their faith. The first was Gladys Aylward; a young woman, a century ago, a domestic servant and poor, Gladys believed herself called by Christ to go to China. She was told however that she didn't show enough capability to go. But Gladys went anyway, by train. That in itself was a feat, but to buy the ticket, Gladys saved a little each week taking that to the train station. The station held the money for her until she had enough for the ticket. Getting as far as Siberia, the train was stopped and with the other passengers, Gladys was told she had to go home because a local war prevented them from going further. Gladys refused, walked down the track, met up with a Japanese boat and via Japan, reached China.

From scratch with another missionary, Gladys did a massive amount for the Chinese and introduced many to the Christian gospel. They called her The Virtuous One. And then, in 1938, Gladys singlehandedly rescued 100 orphans from an advancing army, taking them on a lengthy mountain trek to safety, despite being wounded herself.

Lots of people of no religious conviction at all do achieve amazing things. But the significant point is that Gladys had no idea what she would meet with, but she went anyway. Answering that sort of call is worthy of reflection.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Howard Robson.

AYLESBURY WOMEN'S AID

Following the generosity of everyone who kindly donated a shoe box before Christmas, we have received a thank you letter from Aylesbury Women's Aid. The shoeboxes were gratefully received by all the women and children at the Woman's Aid and they really helped them to enjoy a better Christmas. Thank you once again to everyone who took the time to provide a shoebox.

POPPY APPEAL

The Poppy Appeal back in November raised £152.38 for the Royal British Legion. Big thanks to the St Michaels community for a generous contribution.

BUILDING WORK

Please note that some building works are currently taking place at "The Old School". The contractors will endeavour to keep traffic to a minimum, particularly during drop off and pick up times.

SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING – VOLUNTEER NEEDED

As you know we have been collecting soft plastics (wrappers, crisp packets, cling film, plastic bags etc) during lunchtimes and these have been taken to the big recycling bins outside Tesco's every 10-14 days.
With Mrs Munday's departure we are now looking for a volunteer to pick up a full bag occasionally and take to Tesco in LB when they are already shopping or picking up their online order. Please let us know if you can help by contacting the office.

GOLDEN LEARNERS

Congratulations to all these superstars this week:

Foundation	Elizabeth, Maisie, George
Year 1	Ruby, Edie, Darcie
Year 2	Aleksander, Poppy, Siena
Year 3	Ben, Liam, Alfie
Year 4	Carys, Freddie, Edward
Year 5	Kian, William, Lucia, Lexi
Year 6	Harriet, Oliver, Evelina

ATTENDANCE AWARD

The Attendance trophy is moving to Year 5 this week who achieved a fantastic 98% attendance. Well done Y5.

HANDWRITING CELEBRATION

As you know, January was Handwriting Month and the children did a fantastic job of working on their handwriting. Lots of prizes were awarded at Assembly this morning to the class winner and also the overall school winner for the most improved handwriting.

Well done everyone!

Handwriting Month Winners
Overall - School Winner - Parker Fountain Pen + £20 Amazon Voucher + Certificate
Harvey B

Class Winners
Fountain pen + Certificate
Foundation- Lily K
Year 1- Siena S
Year 2 - Archie C
Year 3- Ben P
Year 4- Sienna J
Year 5- Harvey B
Year 6 - Primrose A

MESSAGE FROM OUR LEARNING MENTOR, MRS HANN

Our school lives by ***#together*** *and this week especially, as a school community, this has been evident in thought, word and deed.*

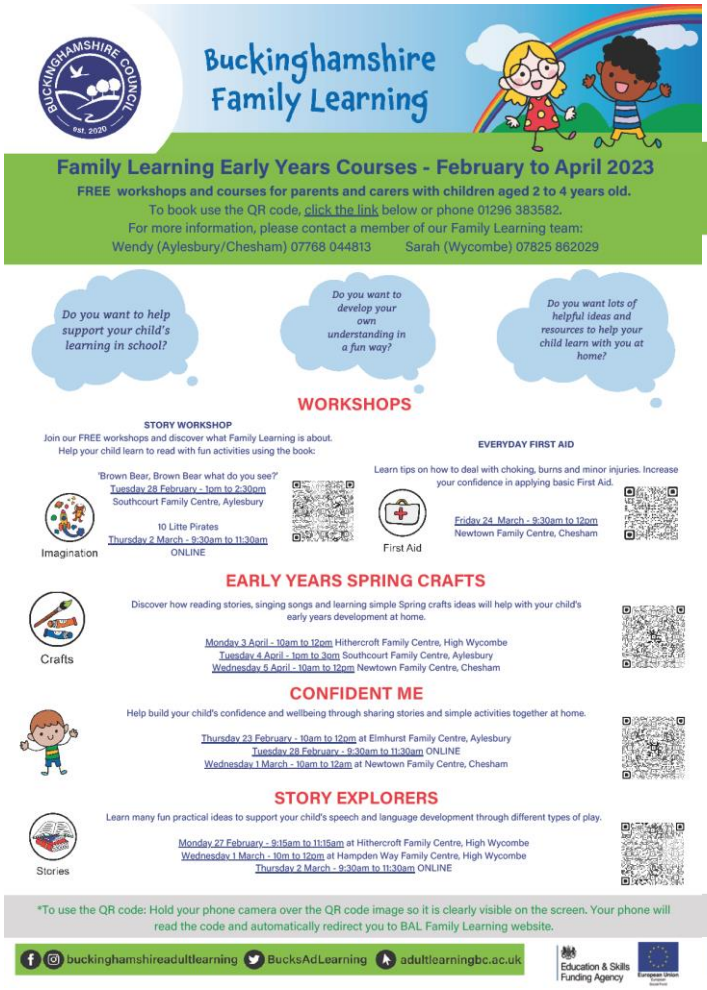
Your children may well have questions and thoughts to share with us and with you. You may find that Harry's Rainbow, a local charity http://www.harrysrainbow.co.uk/ and https://www.childbereavementuk.org/help you to navigate these conversations, as they arise.

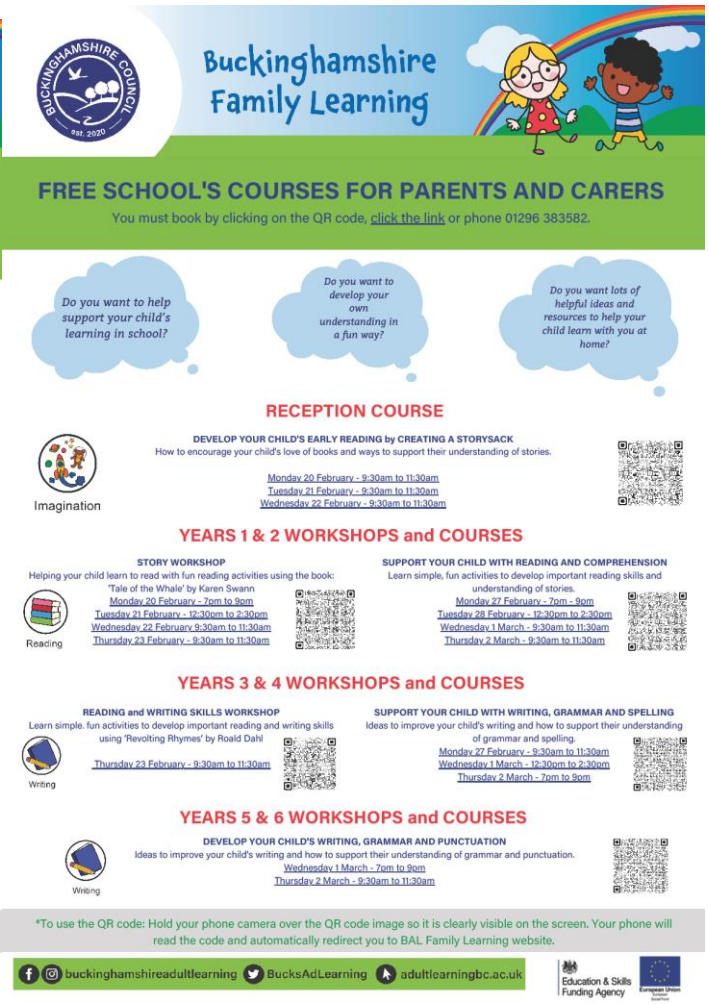
Please do get in touch if you need help and support.

With best wishes
H Hann, Learning Mentor

BUCKS FAMILY LEARNING

Please find below some leaflets regarding some fabulous courses for Bucks families. Check them out as they may be of interest to some of our families or someone that you may know.





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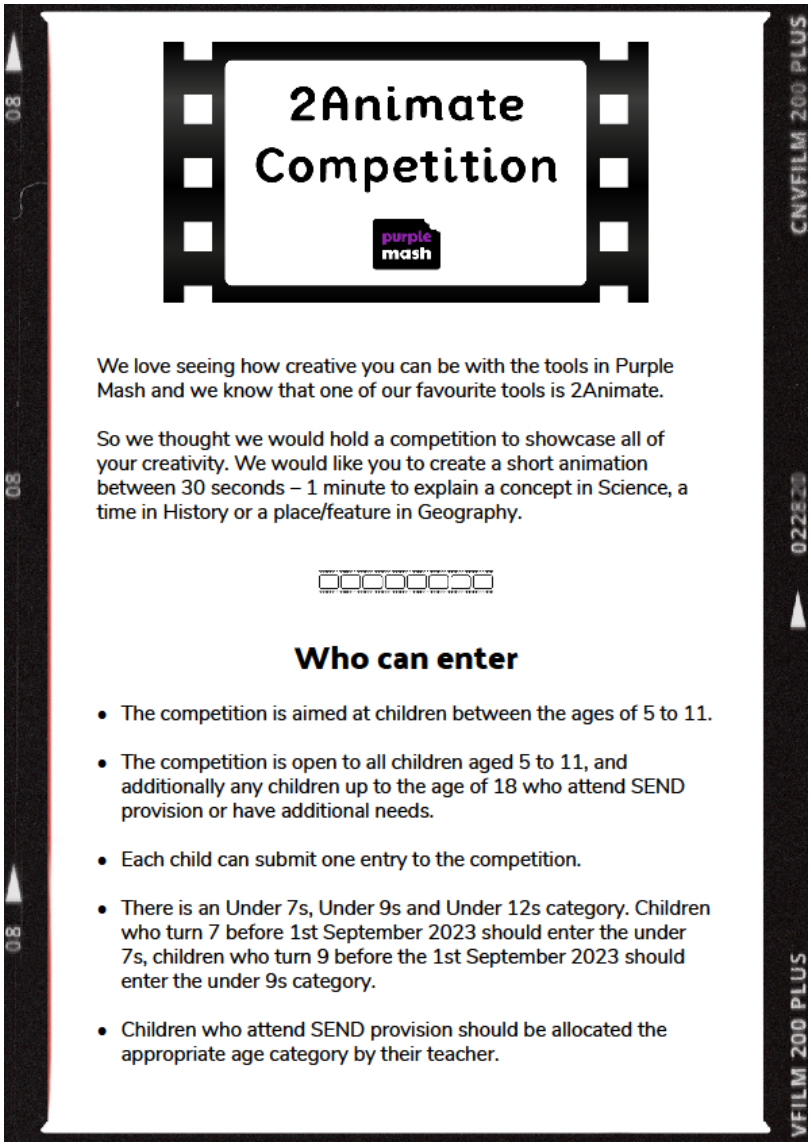
PURPLE MASH COMPETITION

Please see below for details of a Purple Mash competition from Miss Venters.



PurpleMash are holding an animation competition from 26th January until 6th April. The children can use the 2Animate tool in PurpleMash and create a short animation between 30 seconds – 1 minute to explain a concept in Science, a time in History or a place/feature in Geography.

Children can complete this and enter themselves. There are instructions for them to see on PurpleMash. The instructions also explain that the competition Display Boards will be visible to the public, so it's important not to include personal information in your entries.

I have attached an overview of the competition and there are more details in the 'featured section' of PurpleMash. This can be found on the left-hand side of the screen when you log on to PurpleMash.

There are prizes for the winners of the animations. Winning schools will receive a £200 voucher towards a 2Simple product of their choice, and a collection of DK Learning books for the school library. Winning pupils will receive a £20 Amazon voucher, and a 2Simple Goody bag. All winning animations and runners up will also be hosted within Purple Mash for other schools to use and see.

This is a lovely idea for the children who absolutely love Computing and have a passion for it, so thought I would share with you all. ☺

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#together bell ringers from this week – Well done!

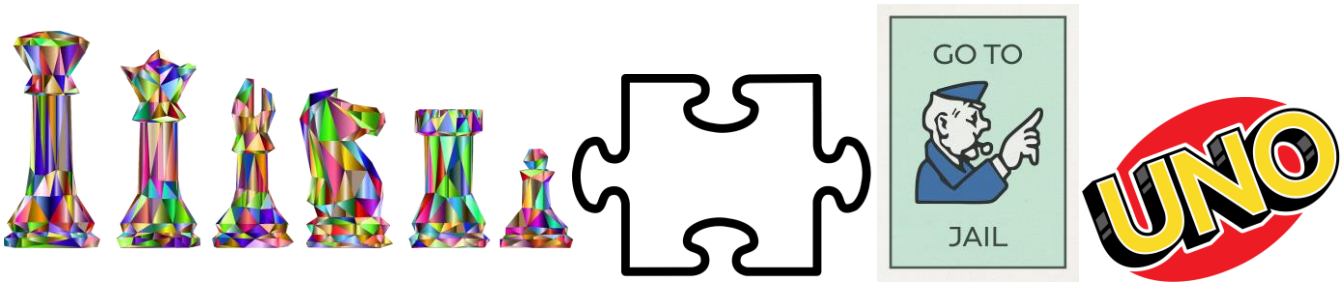
YEAR 6 LEAVERS FUNDRAISING

Save the date – w/c 20TH Feb

The Y6's Leavers are fundraising and would like your help! You can do so in 2 ways:

1. Please donate any unwanted games/jigsaws/books w/c 20th Feb. Perfect to time to have a clear out during half term! Details to follow but please don't throw anything out before then!
2. Come along on Friday 24th Feb to buy a pre-loved item or two. Hopefully you'll find a bargain to keep everyone amused over a February weekend and everyone is a winner!

Many thanks in advance, Year 6 will be enormously grateful for your support.



FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Join our Facebook Page - @friends&parentsofstmichaelsschoolstewkley

HEART MONTH

Friday 10th February 2023 will be a non-school uniform day for all pupils for a donation. The charities that will benefit are Little Hearts Matter, St Michael's Friends association and The British Heart Foundation.

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ST MICHAEL'S CELEBRATION

Don't mess with Willow in Y3!
Willow has just successfully completed her Junior Black Belt in Kickboxing.
Here she is with her collection of rainbow coloured belts that she has worked through.
Massive well done Willow.
Everyone at St Michaels is very proud of you.

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL SPORTS INFORMATION

AVPSAA Cross country Championships- message from Mrs Munday

We have many dedicated children in KS2 who have been coming to cross country on Wednesday lunchtimes over the winter. Some of these will be given the opportunity to take part in the Aylesbury Vale Cross Country Championships at Ascott House on Sat 11th March.
Children selected to run, and we are limited by the number we can take to the event, will be selected based on attendance and their ability to sustain their running over a distance and potentially 'cope' with a demanding hilly course. As years 3 and 4 and year 5 and 6 are combined the younger pupils in each age group may not have the opportunity this year but it is likely that they will next year.
As Wednesday Feb 8th Feb is my final cross country session at school, sports leader and Year 6 cross country runner Azzie will be organising a **'NEON FUN RUN**' where children are encouraged to wear the brightest clothes they have!

If there are any parents, carers, pupils or ex-pupils who would be willing to get involved in the setting up and organisation at the cross country event on March 11th please contact me via the school office until 10th Feb or on claireemunday@hotmail.com. The organisation of the cross country and athletics events is unaffected by my departure from St Michael's School. The events are run by a group of volunteers and the committee would be very grateful for any offers of help in putting on these events in the future. Many thanks for your support.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,
Fiona Phimester
School Secretary