ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 19
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 31st February 2025

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Dear Parents/Carers

Some of our Year 6's represented St Michael's at a handball tournament at Kingsbrook School this week. Please see below for Mr Day's report.
The sporting events are picking up now with a boy's football match this afternoon and futsal, basketball and swimming taking place next.
As everyone is aware, parking close to the school at drop off and pick up times can be challenging. The area gets congested with both pedestrians and drivers needing to be mindful of their surroundings. We continue to encourage drivers to park as far away as possible and make the short walk into school e.g. tennis club car park at the rec. Please park considerately, legally and safely. This includes avoiding parking on the corners to the entrance to Chapel Square which can be particularly dangerous.
Please take note of dates of your diary below and note the addition of World Book Day which will take place on Thursday 6th March. Further details to follow closer to the time.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

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
Mon 10th Feb – NO CHESS CLUB
Mon 10th Feb – NO DODGEBALL CLUB
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
Thurs 6th March – World Book Day
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://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week- there are some great ideas and resources for families at the link above.

Best wishes as always,
H Hann

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

#together

SPOTLIGHT ON…

This week's Spotlight features Mrs Foy aka Fairy Foy. Mrs Foy is an HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) and ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) and works with many of our children across all age groups. Often spotted flying through the corridors with her fairy wings.

1. **Why did you want to work in a school?**

   I started off as a parent helper offering my time and creative skills. Working on production costumes and scenery and assisting with art lessons. This led to a part time role, and very quickly into full-time. What I love most is the variety working in a school, no two days are every the same.

2. **What is your favourite film?**

   My favourite film would be Paddington. I'm a big softy at heart. No scary films for me!

3. **What was your dream job as a child?**

   My dream job as a child would have been to be a Ballerina. Now though, my dream job would be to be a Potter

4. **Beach holiday or mountain holiday?**

   Beach or mountain? I was lucky enough to visit Canada where I went hiking for the first time up a mountain, camping at a glacier. This was truly amazing and something I would definitely do again given the opportunity. So, I would definitely say mountain holiday for me.

5. **Favourite thing about St Michael's School?**

   My favourite thing about St Michael's is the warm friendly atmosphere here, from my very first look around I was made to feel welcome. I love how the children have many opportunities here too. St Michael's has a very happy atmosphere.

6. **Do you ever meet up with other fairies?**

   As often as I can I meet up with my fairy friends, particularly for tea and fairy-cakes!

ATTENDANCE AWARD

Well done to Year 2 who achieved 99% attendance this week. Great work!

CHESS CLUB NEWS

I am delighted that nearly all the children who completed the "Introduction to Chess" course last term have rejoined this term and even more pleased to see pupils who have taken this course in the past rejoining the club.
The mixture of beginners and more experienced players adds vibrancy to the club to the benefit of both groups.
This term all the children are involved in the U.K. Chess Challenge and the less experienced players may lose more games than they win, but the best way to improve at chess is to play against someone who is a little bit better than you are. The more that you play the better you are likely to get and in the words of Jose Raul Capablanca the world chess champion:

"You may learn much more from a game you lose than from a game you win. You will have to lose hundreds of games before becoming a good player."

That says it all.
As a member of Milton Keynes Chess Club I lose as many games as I win, so am still working towards that target!

GOLDEN LEARNERS

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

Foundation	**Max, Duke, Jesse**
Year 1	**George, Ava, Amelie**
Year 2	**Joshy, Louis, Lily T**
Year 3	**Jacob, Edie B, Edwin**
Year 4	**Oliver M, Siena, Leo**
Year 5	**Monty, Liam, Lewis**
Year 6	**Henry, Noah, Carys**

BELLRINGERS #together

#together

MR DAY'S ST MICHAEL'S SPORTING ROUNDUP

HANDBALL LEAGUE

Our year 6 handball team have spent the last two Monday afternoons at Kingsbrook School competing in the AVSHA League. The team played against some very big Primary Schools and managed to finish a very credible fourth place in the league. Playing 12 games meant that they developed as a team throughout the sessions and worked out how to improve between themselves. Handball is becoming one of the most popular primary sports and as ever, St Michael's have managed to get to a very high standard.
Well done team:
St M - Gracie, Ed S, Scarlett, Eddie, Harry Ba, Rosie Tu, Zed, Rosie Ta, Josh and Ed T

"READY POSITION"

We have been teaching the Foundation children all about the 'ready position', frequently used in a lot of sports. This is where you stand with feet apart, slightly bent legs and hands out at right angles. It means that you are in the correct position to move or react to anything. In PE we often shout 'ready position' and expect all the children to quickly stop what they are doing and show us they are ready. In assembly on Thursday we thought we would see whether the whole school could adopt the ready position. They did it in less than 2 seconds!!
Well done St Michael's, see if you can do this with your families at home this weekend!

#together

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

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.

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Friends Association of St Michael's School

KS2 MOVIE NIGHT

10th February 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Crisps, Popcorn/Sweets & a Drink Included

Inside Out 2

£3.50 to be paid via Parent Pay by Thursday 6th Feb

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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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St.Michael's School
Stewkley

Heart Day
Friday 14th 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 Sale
Raffle for a Piñata and a chance to
win a voucher for a
Celebration Cake made to order.
Cake donations needed from all year
groups please!

Remember to bring cash on the day
for Cakes and Raffle!

Monies raised for Friends of St
Michaels School, Little Hearts
Matter, The British Heart Foundation
and in Memory of Gaynor Brown

British Heart Foundation

Little Hearts Matter

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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

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.

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