ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 20
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 7th February 2025

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07786208889 – Text only

Dear Parents/Carers

Just one week until our February Half Term and plenty to squeeze in before then!
Monday afternoon sees our Movie Night, kindly organised by our Friends Association. I'm sure it'll be a great in-house cinema experience.
After School Clubs – please note that Dodgeball, Chess and Parkour are all cancelled this week, but will resume after half-term.
Parents' Evenings will take place on Wednesday and Thursday of next week. You should now all have an appointment booked in with the relevant class teacher, but if not, please do contact the school office as soon as possible.
Year 1 have their Class Assembly on Friday 14th February. Parents and carers are welcome to attend and it will start at approximately 9am in the hall. Entry via the office please.
Friday 14th February is all about sharing the love on Valentine's Day and we will be embracing 'Heart Day' and supporting charities that are close to our hearts – Little Hearts Matter, the British Heart Foundation and St Michael's School.
Everyone is invited to wear red, hearts or simply non-uniform and make donation your choice via Parentpay. There will be a cake sale and raffle on the playground at 3.30pm. All year groups are invited to donate cakes. Please drop them off to the school office. Please note the cake and raffle event will be cash only. Poster below for full details.
Attendance – please note that Mr Morley will be writing to parents at the start of the next half term whose children's attendance is less than 92%.
This week has been a particularly busy one for sporting fixtures. Please scroll down for Mr Day's report on how our pupils got on.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

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

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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

ATTENDANCE AWARD

It was very close this week, but the award goes to Year 3 with 99% attendance. Well done.

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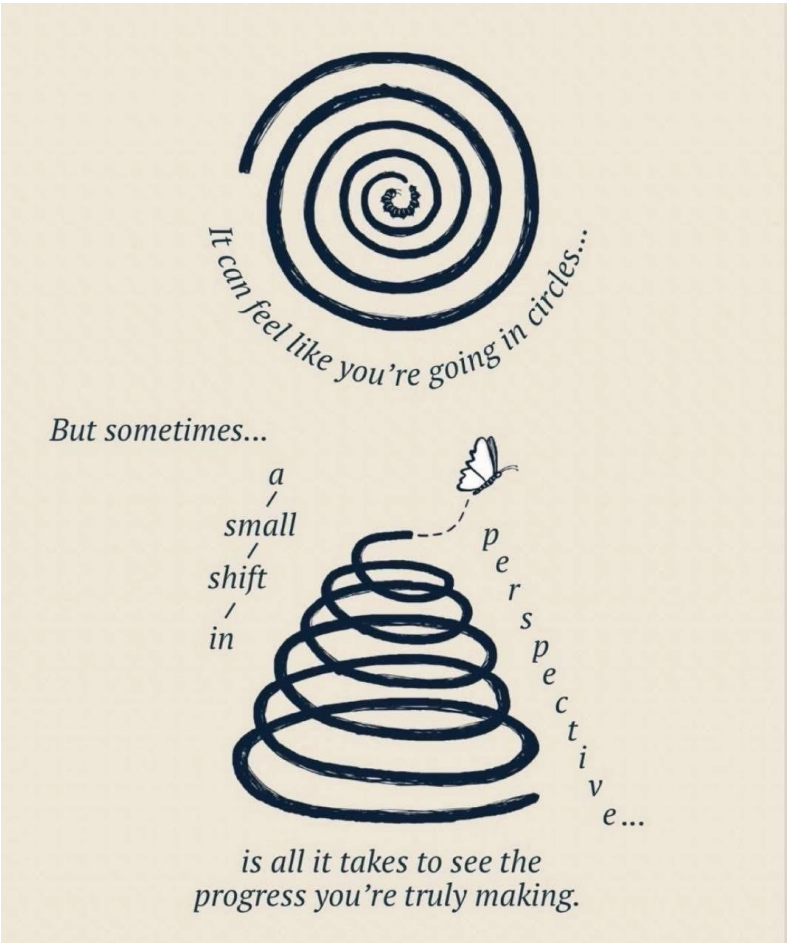
MESSAGE FROM MRS HANN

I came across this on a day when lots of things were feeling tricky to make progress with. People I've already shared it with have found it useful. Hope it helps you next time you're having one of those days.



Best wishes as always,
H Hann

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

GOLDEN LEARNERS

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

Foundation	**Ted, Edward, Rex**
Year 1	**Aryan, Barnaby, Koby**
Year 2	**Amber, Oakley, Antonio**
Year 3	**Edie B, Alfie, Reggie**
Year 4	**Samuel, Bear, Adelaide**
Year 5	**Tia, Katherine. Sophia**
Year 6	**Harry, Ben, Eliza**

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SPOTLIGHT ON…

Introducing Miss Venters!

Miss Venters was found in Year 6 for the last few years, but the lucky Year 3s have welcomed her into their class since September.

1. **What is your favourite lesson that you have taught so far this year?**
   I have really enjoyed teaching 'Through the Ages' and learning all about the Stone Age. My favourite lesson that we have done so far is definitely making Stonehenge…OUT OF BISCUITS!

2. **What other languages can you speak?**
   I can speak a little bit of French and German, but would love to be more fluent in another language. It is such a useful and interesting skill to have!

3. **Why did you want to become a teacher?**
   To be honest, I always wanted to become a teacher. I love helping other people and finding new and exciting ways to learn. I had some amazing teachers when I was in primary school and my Grandad was also a teacher that I was inspired by and looked up to.

4. **What is your favourite experience that you have ever done?**
   When I was in school, I got to fly a tiger moth plane after winning a competition.

5. **Favourite flavour of crisps?**
   100% salt and vinegar!

6. **If you were in celebrity jungle... Is there anything you wouldn't do?**
   Anything to do with spiders!

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ST MICHAEL'S CELEBRATIONS

This swimming superstar attended the Bedfordshire County swimming competition over the last two weekends and bagged a silver and two bronze medals as well as several personal best times. She came 4th overall in her age category. Well done! We are all very proud of you.

The first match of 2025 and this football superstar managed to score 2 goals and gained an assist for the winning goal.
He was awarded Player of the Match and as you can see from that beaming smile, he was very pleased.
Great work!

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MR DAY'S ST MICHAEL'S SPORTING ROUNDUP

Thank you from the PE staff:

We have had one of our busiest weeks ever and have loads more coming up in St Michael's sports. Massive thanks as ever to all the parents who have given up their time to help transport and cheer on the pupils.
Please keep washing and returning kit as quickly as possible, and keep checking your emails for any forms.

St Michael's 0-1 Cheddington

In their first ever game for the school, our year 5 boys played amazingly well to nearly draw with a strong year 6 Cheddington team. This has to be one of the most impressive year 5 teams we have seen for a long time and they will go on to play some great games for the school. Player of the match was given equally to Charlie and Liam, but all the boys deserved a medal after this game.
St M - Sebastian, Ben, Lewis, Beau, Liam, Luke, Charlie, Samuel, Alfie, Joseph,

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Futsal

On Monday our first ever futsal squad travelled to Henry Floyd to play in a tournament. Futsal is a sport that is very popular in Brazil and is essentially indoor football with a heavy ball so that the emphasis is on dribbling and short passing.
Our team were amazing and won 5 out of 6 games in the group phase. They then won their semi final to reach the final. Unfortunately, we lost the final to a very strong Broughton team that included many academy players. But once again our children more than held their own against much bigger schools.
St M - Rosie Ta, Rosie Tu, Gracie, Ted, Harry Br, Tom, Ed t, Zed

Skills for Life

On Wednesday we took some students to St Michael's School in Aylesbury to take part in a Skills for Life Festival. This is a new multi game event where the team tackled 9 different challenges that mirrored some of the everyday tasks we do at home. They included competitive clothes folding, coat zipping, shoe lace tying and sock throwing!
We had a brilliant time and have some great new games to play in PE.

Basketball Tournament

On Tuesday our year 6 basketball team went to Aylesbury High to play in a tournament. Basketball is the second most popular sport in Primary Schools and the standard was very high. After winning our second game, we were narrowly beaten in our others but had a great time. Our team scored some amazing baskets and molded themselves in to a good team by the end of the tournament. Well done all involved.

St M - Corey, Carys, Scarlett, Arnie, Eddie, Madi, Riley, Harry Ba

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2025 AV Swimming Gala

On Wednesday our swimming team went to the Stoke Mandeville Pool to take part in the annual AV swimming gala. This is one of the best events in the sporting calendar as 8 swimmers go and compete against 11 other schools in the pool. After some heroic swimming, the St Michael's team ended up finishing 5th and were very close to getting in the top 3. Well done to all involved, all looked very tired when they got back in the afternoon!
St Michael's Sensational Swimmers: Chloe B, Cade, Bethany, Olympia, Harry M, Luke and Jacob.

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

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

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.