# ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

**NEWSLETTER NO 20**
**www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk**
Friday 13th February 2026

**01525 240248**
**office@st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk**
**07786208889 – Text only**

**Dear Parents/Carers**

**We are at the half way point of the academic year now – the year is going so quickly! Hopefully the rain might dry up slightly over the half term break so you can enjoy some family time outside. Perhaps we will return to some Spring sunshine next week.**

**KS1 Football on the playground:**
**The children love to enjoy playing football on the playground, but unfortunately this sometimes ends in some bruised/cut knees. Many of the children like to wear shorts all year round, but if you are concerned about cut knees, you may wish to consider trousers as an alternative.**

**Wishing you all a wonderful half term and I will look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 23rd February.**

**Best wishes**
**Mrs Fiona Phimester**

## No Excuse for Abuse

Very sadly, there have been some very rare incidents in the last year where staff have been subjected to abusive behaviour from Parents/Carers. All adults working at St Michael's School deserve to treated respectfully. Parents/Carers who behave in a way which is considered abusive, hostile, bullying, causes alarm or is considered harassment may, under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996, will be banned from the school premises. Please find a link below to a copy of our 'Disruptive Visitors Policy'.

https://www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk/docs/Policies/Disruptive_Visitor_Policy_2024.pdf

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

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
Saturday 14th April – County Cross Country – Ascott House
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 – 2.45pm
Thurs 26th March – Easter Fayre

**#together**

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

**MESSAGE FROM MRS HANN**

*https://youtu.be/wkxYlvf1uhQ?si=i4vuLLweISsZYr0H*

*This week, we listened to Andrea Bocelli singing Nessun Dorma at the Opening Ceremony of the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy.*

*You could have heard a pin drop- the children were transfixed by this performance. We talked about what a world class singer he is, performing at a ceremony for the best of the best Winter Sports competitors. We then spoke about how he has achieved this level of excellence with true grit, effort and determination along with an astounding talent.*

*When I explained that as well as this incredible life's work in music, Andrea Bocelli is also blind, there was an audible gasp in the room. They had just not realised; instead, simply being stunned by his performance. The children then very rapidly made the connection between striving for excellence and doing something he loves, against the backdrop of his blindness. One child noted that " some people might have just given up even trying."*

*Food for thought.*

*Best wishes as always*

*Helen Hann*
**Learning Mentor, Music Lead and DSL**
*My usual working pattern is Monday to Wednesday.*

**#together**

## Bellringers #together

**#together**

## MR DAY'S SPORTING ROUNDUP

**Thornton Trail 25/26**

Last Friday our elite girls' cross country team travelled to Thornton Ladies College for their annual Cross Country races against many of the bigger Primary Schools from Milton Keynes. This event was postponed from November and we were lucky that there seemed to be a window in the rain last week that enabled the event to take place.
First race was for our year 5 and 6 girls who have to do 2 laps of the hilly course. The girls were amazing and really supported each other, Mia and Luisa finished our top runners but all did very well. Some of our year 6's were running for the fourth year in a row and were sad that this would be their last!
Then came our year 3 and 4 girls who did 1 lap of the course, 7 of our team of 8 were running for the first time. At halfway Siena was in first and unfortunately, she took a wrong turn, managed to get back on the course, got back in the lead and ended up finishing an incredible 3rd. Another standout runner was Claudia who must have been the youngest girl in the race and finished in 10th, incredible achievement. Special mention to Maisie who was a celebrity for the day as she got the coveted 67 number! The 3 and 4 team ended up finishing 2nd overall and will have many more races to come.

We have more cross country races coming up. If your child is in KS2, they can come along to cross country club on Friday lunchtimes. They do not need to sign up or even attend every week, just need to bring a change of clothes and shoes.

**St Michael's 2-0 Weston Turville**

Our year 5 girls hosted Weston Turville on Monday in their first ever match together. Played in appalling conditions, the girls were amazing and got a win in their first game. Goals from Eva and Reagan gave them a very comfortable win. We look forward to a good couple of years with this team.
St M's - Reagan (capt), Niamh, Grace, Eva, Charlotte, Mia, Sophie

**Whitchurch 1-2 St Michael's**

Our year 6 girls travelled to Whitchurch on Tuesday for a top of the table clash. Whitchurch took the lead with a breakaway goal before constant pressure led to Luisa battling through and equalising just before halftime. The pressure continued in the second half and Whitchurch scored an own goal to give us the lead. The girls then kept battling and got to the final whistle. A brilliant result and performance.
St M's - Bethany (capt), Reagan, Luisa, Olympia, Ella-Louise, Katherine, Amelie, Emily

**#together**

**FRIENDS ASSOCATION**

# Wonderlicious

## LOT'S OF GOLDEN TICKETS TO BE FOUND!

Prizes Include:

- Books
- Tom Gates Colouring
- Ticket for the Movie Night
- Extra Golden Time
- Class Biscuits
- Tickets to the next Disco
- Tokens for the Easter Fayre
- Class time in the Secret Garden
- Top Trumps
- Hot Chocolate with Mr Morley

**£2.50 per 100g choc bar**

**Free-From bars also available**

IT'S A BIG BAR!

**ORDER VIA THE LINK:**

**FRIENDS-OF-ST-MICHAELS-SCHOOL.SUMUPSTORE.COM**

**Deadline for orders 26th February**

**Collection from 3:30pm in the playground on World Book Day**

**#together**

https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/st-michaels-school?utm_campaign=cause-page-social-share&utm_source=cause-page&utm_medium=social&utm_content=Hyperlink

**#together**

As part of our

# Easter Fayre

Friends of

invite you to take part in the

# Easter Bonnet or Hat or Hairband or Headwear Competition

We invite all children to design and make their bonnet (or hat or hairband or headwear) at home and bring them into school on

## Wednesday 25th March

Please ensure all bonnets have the child's name and class on the **inside** of the hat to be entered into the competition,

To be celebrated as part of the
Easter Fayre on
Thursday 26th March 3.30-4.30pm
In the school playground

**#together**

Stewkley Players
Stewkley Players
Present
BREAKFAST
Stewkley Village Hall
Sunday February 22nd
9:30 – 12:00
Adults £7.50
Vegetarian options and children's portions
available
Please pre-book:
stewkleyplayers@gmail.com

#together

Mental Health Support Team
Buckinghamshire

NHS Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

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.

#together

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.

# 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 | |

#together

## 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

**#together**

#together