ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 21

www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk

Thursday 13th February 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Attached to/contained in this week's newsletter:

1. **Friends' Association <u>Bag2School</u> –** we are sending home a blue bag to all families today (extra bags available from school office) – collection is **9am THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2020 – first Thursday after half term. Please leave bags by main school reception.** They collect any good quality adult and children's clothing, paired shoes (tied together with an elastic band), hats, belts, handbags, ties, soft toys and jewellery. Please remember no bedding, curtains, towels, household linen, pillows, cushions, carpets, rugs, mats, soiled or wet clothing, corporate clothing and work wear, shredded material, textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material, bric-a-brac or school uniform with a logo on. Thank you for your support.
2. **KS2 Cross Country Event at St Edwards Junior Catholic School –** Saturday 29th February. Open to all our KS2 cross country club runners. Letter coming home today.
3. **Year F, 1 and 2 Grandparents Afternoon – Monday 2nd March OR Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at 2.30pm –** see section in this newsletter to book in.
4. **Y5/6 Girls Football Match v Haydon Abbey School AWAY** – Thursday 27th February. Letter for team members.
5. **Y5 Boys Football Match v Ashmead at HOME** – Thursday 27th February. Letter sent out already.
6. **Milton Keynes Sports Partnership Y5/6 Hockey League** – letters for hockey players playing on 26th February, 4th March, 11th March and 18th March at Woughton, Milton Keynes after school.

****Appeal – if anyone has an electric oil filled radiator they no longer want, we could find one a good home in the corridor next to Foundation. Many thanks in anticipation!****

<u>Best Attendance for this half term</u>

We are continuing the non-uniform day for the class with the best attendance for a half term. However, we have listened to parents concerns about the fairness of the award, so in order to make it fairer, **we are disregarding the absence marks of the child with the lowest attendance in each class.** So, well done to **Year 5** who have once again achieved the best attendance this half term with Year 1 a close second!

Year 5 pupils have had non-school uniform today due to INSET tomorrow.

This half term's attendance for the whole school is **96.5%**.

Thank you for your support.

<u>Half Term Break – next week.</u>

<u>INSET Day tomorrow Friday 14th February –school closed for pupils.</u>

<u>School re-opens Monday 24th February.</u>

<u>Have you ordered school lunches for after half term????</u>

<u>Have you booked into WAC for after half term????</u>

https://www.parentpay.com/

#together

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy – Fridays plus cover

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, caring, motivated and supportive individual to join our friendly team of Midday Supervisors on a Friday.
Extra cover sessions during the week may be available as and when required.
This role involves supervising pupils on the playgrounds or in class on wet days.
Hours of work are 12.15pm to 1.15pm term time only.
Bucks Pay Range 1 Point 5, pro rata. Currently £8.21 an hour (£8.72 from 1/4/2020) plus holiday pay plus sickness pay plus Local Government Pension Scheme.
No previous experience is necessary but an enjoyment of interacting and working with children is essential. We are committed to safeguarding all our children and staff. An enhanced DBS check and references will be required. For an application form and job description, please contact the school office on 01525 240248
or email office@st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Closing Date for applications: 9am on 28th February 2020

Updates on Coronavirus from Department for Education

https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus

Public Health England blog:

https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/

Trainee Teacher in Year 1 with Mrs Mason after half term

We welcome Mr Whyman-Litton to our school for the second half of the Spring Term. He will be gaining experience in a KS1 class, away from his base school, so will be joining Year 1 and working alongside Mrs Mason. Meanwhile, Mrs Lai-Kit, trainee teacher in our Year 6 class, will be joining another school in Milton Keynes after half term to gain experience in a KS1 class away from St Michael's.

Parentpay Payments

Please make sure you are checking your Parentpay accounts regularly and are keeping up with payments especially for Wide Awake Club and the KS2 residential trips. If you have any issues or concerns please get in touch with us. https://www.parentpay.com/

Foundation Topic People Who Help Us

Many thanks to Hannah Lyon, Vet, and one of her dogs , Noah, a Springer Spaniel ,who came along on Tuesday and talked to Foundation children all about the role of a vet. Noah was beautifully behaved even when his foot was being bandaged!

Year F, 1 and 2 Grandparents Afternoon – Monday 2nd March OR Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at 2.30pm

Dear Parents / Carers of Foundation Stage and KS 1 Children

On Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd March, we would like to invite the **Grandparents of pupils in Foundation, Year 1 and 2** to join their grandchildren who will be singing and entertaining them. This is in belated celebration of Grandparents' day. Tea and cakes start at 2.30pm and the children will be providing entertainment from 2.50pm and finish by 3.20pm. We hope you will be able to pass on this invitation and arrange for the grandparents to attend. In order to help us with refreshments and seating arrangements, you can book online up to 3 seats across the two afternoons. Please visit https://stmichaelscecombined.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/

To keep the grandparents comfortable in our hall and due to expected high numbers, we have decided to do two performances! If you require extra seats please contact the school office and we will try to accommodate. The Friends' Association have kindly offered to serve refreshments – any donations of cakes would be gratefully received! **Please note we do not have enough room to accommodate parents and grandparents**.

A Message from Bucks County Council – Transport Dept – and Bucks Fire & Rescue Service

*We are reiterating the Bucks Fire and Rescue Message that was on the School Travel Coordinators Newsletter, but due to a recent local incident we are sending this out again for schools to reiterate to those undertaking the school collection and drop-off the importance of parking safety and considerately. It would be great if you (*the schools*) can send this information out to parents and carers. We appreciate that not all schools have adequate parking nearby, and if there are really no other options than to drive, please allow a few extra minutes for your journey and park further away from the school entrance and walk the last few minutes.*

Please Let Us Through'….

It is probably little consolation to you that your school is not the only one that has issues with parking at the start and end of the school day.

As has been proved recently, inconsiderate parking can cause life-threatening delays to emergency service vehicles that are trying to reach a school during these times.

Here at Bucks Fire & Rescue Service, we are occasionally asked to help a school to tackle their parking issues.

While we are keen to help if we can, please be aware that we have no powers of enforcement when it comes to parking.

We can only suggest, usually with signs on lampposts, or fliers on windscreens (a last resort) that people consider emergency vehicles when parking.

Your school may have tried the 'usual' methods to tackle the parking issue; letters in school newsletters, or direct to parents, etc. Other areas have tried different approaches; pupils talking to errant drivers, even temporary road closures, with varied levels of success.

We are pleased to be working with the Bucks County Council Healthy Travel Team, looking at ways that might help all schools deal with this issue. Unfortunately, there is not one 'fix' that will work for all schools, but if we can offer you a range of measures that you can take, hopefully you can find one or more that work for your school.

Keith Wheeler
Road Safety Officer
Bucks Fire & Rescue Service
Email; kwheeler@bucksfire.gov.uk

Fishweir Residents

We have received a complaint about driveways being blocked at drop off and pick up along Fishweir (just off Chapel Square) PLEASE try and avoid parking or turning in this narrow area and park considerately at all times. Also please ensure your children cross safely when dropping off at the bottom of our school drive.

Stewkley Cygnets Pre School Parking Spaces

May we remind parents that the four parking bays along the hedge are reserved ONLY for Cygnets pre-school parking at all times.
Thank you for your cooperation.

#together

Message from St Michael's Church – Messy Church this Sunday 16th February in school hall!

It's Messy Church again this Sunday and our theme is Don't Worry! That's often that is easier said than done, especially at the moment but as Jesus points out stressing doesn't add a minute to our life or change anything ... so what CAN we do? We'll be exploring a few ideas from 10am...

Birthday treats and birthday invitations

Can we please ask that parents distribute any birthday treats and party invitations they may have themselves, in the playground, and not ask staff to hand them out to children in school? This ensures we do not give any treats to children that are not allowed them or have allergies, and not upset any uninvited children. We appreciate your support with this policy.

A message from Stewkley Parish Council – drop in meeting

On Monday 24th February, Dandara the developers who will be building on the Soulbury road site, are hosting a drop in meeting in the pavilion from 3pm-8pm. All welcome to attend as this is the only opportunity to view the plans /ask questions before the application is submitted.

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL SPORTS INFORMATION

Girls Football League Match v Swanbourne at home – Thursday 6th February

It was the second time our girls team have faced Swanbourne this season and this match proved to be rather tougher. St Michael's created many chances in the first half and dominated the game but the first half ended at 0-0. A fabulous goal by Lottie at the start of the second half turned out to be the winner and the whole team should be congratulated on their effort and determination throughout the game. Well done to Sarah, Emily, Anna, Baylie, Issy, Ava, Darcey, Matilda and player of the match Lottie on an excellent performance.

Buckingham School Sports Partnership Y5 Squash Festival- Tuesday 11th February

On Tuesday morning four of our Year 5 pupils travelled over to the Swan Pool in Buckingham to take part in the Buckingham SSP squash festival. This festival comprised of a series of individual and paired activities where the children scored points for their team. They also had the chance to experience some rallies on the full squash courts and learn a little bit more about the game.

Sarah, Charlie, Anna and Lew thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to develop their skills and try out a new sport and were constantly exploring ways to get better and quicker at the timed activities. Their determination was rewarded when they finished the competition in first place and were thrilled to discover that they had qualified for the County Finals in July.

Many thanks to Mrs Hadley for transporting and staying to support the children and a special mention to Anna for stepping into the team at the eleventh hour!

Boys Football League Match v Edlesborough at home – Tuesday 11th February

Despite the bitter cold winds created by Storm Ciara , the Year 6 boys team gained their second league win of the season against a good Edlesborough team, thanks to a first half goal from Philip . Player of the match went to Patrick for his strong all round play across the pitch. Well played Freddie, Fin, Sam, Patrick, Matthew, Max, Syd, Stuie and Philip on an energetic and determined performance and many thanks to all the parents who braved the bracing conditions to support the team.

Yours sincerely,
Alison Cooper,
School Secretary