ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 21
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 14th February 2025

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

Dear Parents/Carers

I love that our mornings and afternoons are getting noticeably lighter now and I'm sure there's even some birdsong starting to be heard. Bring on the Spring! I'm confident that the blue skies and longer days will be with us when we return after the half term break. I hope you all share my optimism!

Heart Day was a great success today and it was fabulous to see everyone dressed up in their hearts and red theme – just perfect for Valentines Day! Please scroll down to see Mr Morley in his suit that he specially saves for today. Such great charities to support especially when they are so close to home. Thank you all so very much for your generous donations, and thank you, as always, to Mrs Pollard for organising the event.

We were able to enjoy some sweet treats after school today with the charity cake sale, but please remember that we support a healthy lifestyle at school. If you provide a packed lunch for your child, please remember that we are a nut-free school and chocolate bars and packets of sweeties are to be kept at home. Thank you for your continued support.

Please all enjoy your half term break and I will look forward to seeing you back on Tuesday 25th February – remember it's an Inset day on Monday 24th February.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

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 – pyjamas & teddy bears
Thurs 6th March – Height & Weight NHS Screening – Foundation & Year 6
Fri 7th March – Boozy Bingo 7pm
Fri 7th March – Year 2 Class Assembly 9.10am
Fri 14th March – Year 3 Learning Fayre
Sat 15th March – District Cross Country – Ascott House
Thurs 20th March - Foundation & KS1 Movie Night – pls see poster below
Fri 21st March – Year 6 Learning Fayre
Thurs 27th March – Year 4 Cake Sale
Fri 28th March – Foundation Stay & Play 2.45pm
Fri 28th March – Non uniform day for chocolate tombola donation
Tues 1st April – Year 4/5 performance – 2.15pm

Thur 3rd April – Easter Tombola
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
Fri 4th July – Colour Run
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://youtu.be/dtC1W-6hwIU?si=0TgkkJpEVcfN28R7
This is a link to the fabulous song by Bill Withers, "Lean on me". We have really enjoyed listening to it and the children were incredible at understanding the deeper meaning of the lyrics. These fit so well with our #together motto. In fact, they liked it so much that they would like to learn to sing it. So here is a link to the song with lyrics as well.

https://youtu.be/p84rf4mz0MM?si=-AkA5mGtZAFerFvc
Enjoy a sing a long over the holidays.
Please also do reach out via the office, if you need to "Lean on me" in my role as Learning Mentor.

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

ATTENDANCE AWARD

Year 3 had a super healthy week and achieved 100% attendance this week. Amazing! Well done everyone.

GOLDEN LEARNERS

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

Foundation	**Freddy, Lily-Rae, Kai**
Year 1	**Aubrey, Harry, Kingsley**
Year 2	**Lily-May, Elizabeth, Harry**
Year 3	**Edie A, Albie, Tyler**
Year 4	**Eva, Reagan, Wilf**
Year 5	**Olympia, Charlie, Yiannis**
Year 6	**Scarlett, Emily-Rose, Corey**

SPOTLIGHT ON…

Introducing Mrs Sareen!
Year 1 are lucky to have Mrs Sareen as part of their team and is often seen sorting them all out with their reading books and making sure they have everything they need.

#together

What is your favourite animal?
I absolutely adore animals, especially dogs and horses, and I'm sure everyone in Year 1, they'll tell you my favourite animal is elephants. I mean, who wouldn't love them? They're big, they're smart, and let's be honest, they probably throw the best parties in the animal kingdom. On my bucket list is to visit every elephant sanctuary in the world and spend my days playing with baby elephants. Imagine how much fun that would be - I'm basically just waiting for my invitation to the baby elephant club!

What was your least favourite subject in school?
Sadly, I have to admit it was PE. It's not that I don't like being active, but I found it hard to enjoy PE when the weather's cold enough to freeze your socks off. Running around outside in the freezing wind while trying to look like I'm having fun was not easy! Not my idea of a good time. If I could've traded PE for a nice cosy class on "How to Drink Hot Chocolate 101," I would've been there in a heartbeat!

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?
I absolutely love to travel, and now that my daughters are off at university, I finally have some time to explore. One of the top spots on my list is Peru especially Machu Picchu. I'm all about history, and there's something magical about walking through ancient ruins. Plus, I'm pretty sure the photos I'd take there would make all my social media followers think I'm some kind of expert explorer. Watch out, Indiana Jones!

You are proudly from Wolverhampton... What words are used locally in Wolverhampton that we wouldn't understand?
Oh, don't even get me started on Wolverhampton lingo! When I first left Wolves, I walked into a bakery and asked for a "cob," and people looked at me like I'd asked for a spaceship. It's just a bun, folks! Other gems include "bostin" (meaning great or excellent) and "Tara A Bit" (which is basically our way of saying goodbye—without actually saying goodbye). And let's not forget "yam saft" (which translates to "you're silly") and, of course, "tay" for tea. Just try saying all that with a proper Black Country accent, and you'll fit right in—though I've sadly lost mine over the years. Don't worry, I'm still an honorary Wulfrunian and avid Wolves supporter!

What is the best thing about working at St Michael's School?
I've been at St. Michael's School for years, and honestly, the best part is getting to make a difference every day. The students are fantastic, and my colleagues are all amazing—so much so, I'm convinced they're secretly superheroes. Everyone works so well together, it's like a big, happy family. It's genuinely rewarding, and I wouldn't trade it for anything (except maybe a lifetime supply of chocolate, but that's another story).

BELLRINGERS #together

ST MICHAEL'S CELEBRATIONS

A few of the girls in Year 3 took their first ISTD Tap exam on Sunday and they have just received their results!
They have worked very hard and were so amazing on exam day, full of positivity and encouragement for each other even though it was a bit nerve wracking!
I love this photo as you can get such a strong sense of friendship from those encouraging smiles. Well done girls!

#together

EQUESTRIAN TEAM

The National Schoools Equestrian Association (NSEA) runs events for schools to compete at locally and around the country with qualifiers and championships shows. Classes consist of dressage and show jumping from 40cm upwards.

We are looking for children to join our St. Michaels team, membership to the association is £21 per child.

If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Emily Freeman 07960651111

HEART DAY

Hearts galore across the school today! Well done to everyone for making such a great effort for some fabulous causes.
We will let you know how much was raised once Mrs Pollard has totted up all the donation. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

#together

KS1 MOVIE NIGHT

"Tiddler"

20th March 3:30-4:30pm

Popcorn/Crisps & a drink included

£3 to pay via Parent Pay

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

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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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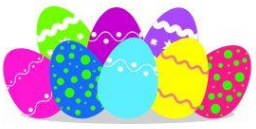
Friends of St Michael's School

COMING UP

Thurs 27th Feb	Year 5 Cake Sale	
Fri 7th Mar	Boozy Bingo Music Theme (Adults Only)	
Thurs 27 Mar	Year 4 Cake Sale	
Fri 28 Mar	Non Uniform Day in return for Chocolate	
Thurs 3 Apr	Easter Tombola	

pta-stmichaels@outlook.com

#together

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.