ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 23
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 7th March 2025

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Dear Parents/Carers

What a glorious week of sunshine! It feels like Spring is finally springing into action and lifting everyone's spirits. Long may it continue!
We've had another busy week at St Michael's with lots of sporting fixtures – please see Mr Day's weekly write-up below. Well done to everyone who represented our school.
World Book Day yesterday created a hub of excitement and the children and staff fully embraced our pyjama/bedtime story theme. It was a full day of activities as the children moved from class to class for a stream of different ventures. A great way for all the children to become familiar with all our teachers across the school in a fun and relaxed manner. There will be lots of photos for you in next week's Newsletter.
Unfortunately, the Newsletter wouldn't be complete without me mentioning parking. It is becoming a regular occurrence that some of our staff struggle to park in the morning/lunchtime due to cars using the staff car park. Please avoid the staff car park at drop off and pick up times unless you hold a blue badge.
Please supervise your children as they make their way up the driveway in order to avoid the risk of any accidents.

Please note that there are a few extras dates for your diary, so please have a look through.

Wishing you a safe and relaxing weekend.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

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
Wed 2nd April – Year 4/5 performance – 6pm
Wed 2nd April – Author visit for KS2 – Jacob North's 'Ice Apprentices'
Thur 3rd April – Easter Tombola
Fri 4th April – Easter Church Service – 1.45pm. Parents/Carers welcome, but standing room only.
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*

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Thurs 24th April – Year 3 Cake Sale
Wed 30th April – Year 3 Swimming lessons start
Thurs 8th May – Visual Screening – Foundation class
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
Fri 11th July – Transition Games – Year 6 at Cottesloe School
Fri 18th July – Year 5 Class Assembly – Hudnall memories
Wed 23rd July – Leavers Assembly 1.50pm
Wed 23rd July – Last day of term

GOLDEN LEARNERS

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

Foundation	**Remi, Caspar, Thomas, Kai**
Year 1	**Mila, Koby, Ellie**
Year 2	**Jack, Hayden, Muriel**
Year 3	**Oscar, George, Iris**
Year 4	**Charlotte, Grace, Eliza**
Year 5	**Ella-Louise, Sofia, Oliver**
Year 6	**Rosie, Willow, Teddy**

Year 3 – wow! 100% An amazing week of attendance and learning in Year 3 this week. Congratulations!

#together

BELLRINGERS #together

SPOTLIGHT ON…

Mr Day – Head of PE and an integral member of the Foundation team. Organiser of extra-curricular activities, all sporting fixtures and responsible for our continuing sporting success across the county. Recognisable from this photo? Questionable, but he assures me that those flowing locks are his!

1. **What was your favourite sport when you were younger?**

   Football! I have been obsessed since I was 7 and watched the 1985 FA Cup Final (1-0 to Man Utd, goal from Norman Whiteside).

2. **What was your least favourite subject in school when you were younger?**

   I can't remember not liking anything, I don't think I was very good at anything but I loved school.

3. **If you were an animal, which would you be?**

   Woolly Mammoth, would just love to have their hair.

4. **What is your favourite thing about Easter?**

   I was actually born on Easter Sunday! Obviously I love all the chocolate!

5. **What is your favourite thing about being a PE teacher?**

   PE is the best subject by miles! You get to run around, go outside, shout at your mates, win points, help others, learn new things every week, improve your skills and throw things at your friends, but the greatest bit about being a PE teacher is the amount of fun the children have and watching them do that every week is my favourite thing!

6. **What is your favourite event that you have ever been to?**

   Hard to beat watching Carlisle United win the Autoglass Windscreens Trophy at the old Wembley in 1997 (beat Colchester United on penalties). I was also at Wembley when the Lionesses won the Euro's which was the best atmosphere I have ever been in. But the best events I have ever been to have to be music festivals, I have been really fortunate to play at Glastonbury 3 times and had one summer when my band played at over 20 different festivals. Nothing better in the world than being in a muddy field listening to or playing music.

7. **Never see Carlisle United again or never play the drums again?**

   This is by far the hardest question I have ever had to answer. One of these things has given me 90% disappointment throughout my life, and the other is drumming! It's so hard!! I started playing drums when I was 10 and found out I was much better at hitting things than playing football. But I also started going to watch Carlisle at the same age and was addicted to following the mighty Cumbrians. My children have spent the hour trying to answer this and have come up with never see Carlisle again so I will have to go with this.

   If you want to come and see me drumming then please come to the Village Hall on Sat 26th April where my current band PERM will be playing to raise money for the Year 6 Leavers party. We have played there for the last few years and is always a brilliant night. We are also headlining Recfest this year on Sat 19th July so hopefully see some of you at both.

Chess news from Mr McClellan Spring Term 2025

Having taught chess for over 20 years in seven different schools I have evolved, what I consider, to be an effective system to enable children to learn this highly enjoyable but difficult game. During the Autumn Term I run an "Introduction to Chess Course" where complete beginners and those who have some experience of the game will be taught the basics. It is non competitive and some pupils enjoy this stage more than when competitive play is introduced.
In the Spring Term these beginners and children who have already completed the Introductory Course, compete against one another as part of the U.K. Chess Challenge. I am sometimes asked if a new child to the school can join the club at this stage, because they know how to play the game having been taught by a grandparent. My answer would be, it depends. I would run through a series

of questions which they would need to know the answers to if they were to feel comfortable joining the club at this stage.
For example: Do they know the points value of all the pieces? Can they recognise a stalemate? Do they know what e5 represents? All taught in the "Introductory Course".
"Can't beginners be taught alongside experienced players?"
It would be easy for me and more profitable to have a larger group containing more pupils, but I do not think that either group would be taught effectively.
The reason? When teaching chess a lot of talking and discussion is involved and movement from child to child while advice is being given. More experienced players who know how to play need peace, quiet and minimal disturbance in order to be able to concentrate properly. In my experience neither group would gain full benefit from such a mix.

MARIE CURIE

We will be doing our annual appeal for Marie Curie from next week until the end of term. If you would like to donate please send it in a sealed envelope with your child and they will have the opportunity to choose a daffodil when some of our Year 6 children take them round the classes.
Many thanks.

ST MICHAEL'S CELEBRATIONS

This Rubik cube genius attended a Rubik cube tournament recently and achieved some amazing personal best times. Very impressive! Well done!

#together

MR DAY'S ST MICHAEL'S SPORTING ROUNDUP

St Michael's 2-1 High Ash

Our year 5 girls hosted High Ash last Tuesday in only their second ever match together. We started the game well and went in front with a smart finish from our captain Emily. High Ash scrambled one back just after half time but Emily scored again from a delicious corner by Olympia (who got player of the match). The girls held on at the end to record their first ever victory.

St M: Emily, Amelie, Kaitlyn, Bethany, Willow, Olympia, Katherine, Madi, Rosie

Overstone 0-2 St Michael's

On Wednesday our year 5 boys went to play their second ever match against a strong Overstone team, mainly made up of year 6's. After some initial pressure from the home team, St M's hard work paid off and Liam managed to squeeze the ball past their keeper from a very tight angle. One nil at half time and the boys managed to resist a flurry of corners in the second half, it was from one of these that Charlie broke away, held of 2 defenders and slotted the ball home to give St M's a commanding 2-0 win. Player of the match was given to Joseph who made tackle after tackle in midfield.

St M: Luke, Yiannis, Beau, Lewis, Charlie, Joseph, Seb, Liam

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Overstone 1-0 St Michael's

Our year 6 boys also went to Overstone but couldn't get the result they wanted and deserved. The Stewkley team dominated possession and shots but could not get the ball over the line. Overstone scored from a scrappy bobbling shot that bounced over Arnie in goal. Eddie was really close to equalising at the end when he ran the length of the pitch, had his first shot saved and then went wide with his follow up.

St M: Arnie, Noah, Ted, Corey, Tom, Teddy, Freddie, Eddie, Zed

Dodgeball Tournament

Our year 5's experienced their first ever dodgeball tournament at Cottesloe on Wednesday and had a great time. They played against 5 other schools, all with strong year 6 teams. We struggled in the first few matches, mainly coming to terms with courts that were a lot longer than our hall. But the team worked out new tactics and went on to win their last 3 games.

St M's: Oliver, Tia, Sophia, Charlie, Katherine, Alfie, Monty, Perry

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POSTER COMPETITION

Get creative and enter the British Science Week annual, UK-wide poster competition! To enter, you simply need to create a poster which fits in with the theme of 'Change and adapt'.

Think about change and adaptation – what it means to you and how it relates to science you've learnt about. Here are some points and questions to get you going:

- Think about ways that you might have changed or adapted to new experiences and places as you've grown.
- What about change and adaptation in the world, and beyond? How do plants and animals adapt to a changing environment? Do the stars and planets in space change?
- Technology changes all the time. How is it changing our lives? Is it always for the better?

Posters will be judged on creativity, how well they fit the theme, how well they have been made or drawn, and how engaging they are

Your poster must be A4 or A3 and you can use any materials. You can take a look at last year's entries for the theme of 'Time' by the office.

Due in by Monday 17th March.

Friends of St Michael's School

Spare Change Challenge

A massive thank you to everyone who supported the 2025 Spare Change Challenge

An amazing

£554.55

was raised

KS1 MOVIE NIGHT

"Tiddler"

20th March 3:30-4:30pm

Popcorn/Crisps & a drink included

£3 to pay via Parent Pay

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Press Release from Buckinghamshire Council

03 March 2025

Stop - It's the law

Council urges drivers to be respectful of the vital work carried out by school crossing patrollers.

Known commonly as lollipop men and women, Buckinghamshire's 60 school crossing patrollers are on duty come rain or shine, morning and afternoon during school term time, wielding their trusty STOP signs to help children and adults reach school safely. While most drivers are respectful and stop when requested, a small minority can be abusive and put lives at risk with dangerous manoeuvres, as they refuse to stop to allow safe crossings.

Since the start of the school year in 2021 to November 2024, there have been 39 reported incidents. Of these, four were injury incidents, 29 were near misses, and the remainder were verbal incidents. However, it is expected numbers are higher than this, as patrollers don't report every incident, despite encouragement.

School crossing patrollers have a legal right to stop traffic for anyone who needs help crossing the road. They have the same authority as a police officer to stop traffic. Failing to stop when a school crossing patrol displays the stop sign is an offence that can result in a £1,000 fine, three penalty points, and disqualification. Failing to stop puts vulnerable road users at risk and patrollers are instructed to report any driver who fails to stop to the police, which could lead to prosecution.

Instances of dangerous behaviour include drivers using abusive language, failing to stop when the patroller is already in the road, and swerving around patrollers to get past. Drivers also make patrollers' jobs more difficult by blocking pavements and stopping or parking inconsiderately to drop off children, especially at School Keep Clear markings and bus stops.

Steven Broadbent, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport at Buckinghamshire Council, said: "Our lollipop men and women play an invaluable role in our local school communities and are deeply appreciated by both pupils and parents.

"While most drivers are considerate, there is a minority who disregard the Highway Code and potentially endanger lives. We have a zero-tolerance policy towards any behaviour that threatens the physical or mental wellbeing of our crossing patrollers or compromises road safety.

"We hope that the community continues to support their local patrollers in carrying out their duties safely. Drivers must be patient and considerate—it only takes a few seconds to ensure everyone crosses the road safely." "

Drivers are being reminded when approaching a school:

- Slow down when you see a patrol warning sign or flashing lights and be prepared to stop.
- Stop when the patrol is displaying the stop sign.
- Be patient and do not move forward.
- Do not park where the patrol works, on zig-zag lines, or other areas with parking restrictions.

To report any incidents involving School Crossing Patrollers, residents are asked to contact:

- Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe (West) - Corinne Randall on 01296 383 432
- Chiltern & South Bucks and Wycombe (East) - Nigel Rosier on 01296 382608

PERM

STEWKLEY VILLAGE HALL
7:30PM-11:45PM

RAISING MONEY FOR THE YEAR 6 LEAVERS AND STEWKLEY FC
TICKETS £15
FOR TICKETS CONTACT
DAN-07921 867261
MELISSA-07904 436247

“Are you a parent or carer interested in knowing more about ADHD? Come to our free MIND Morning event this March. To book on scan the QR code on the attached flyer or click this link: https://forms.office.com/e/Sv5XmdrmtR”

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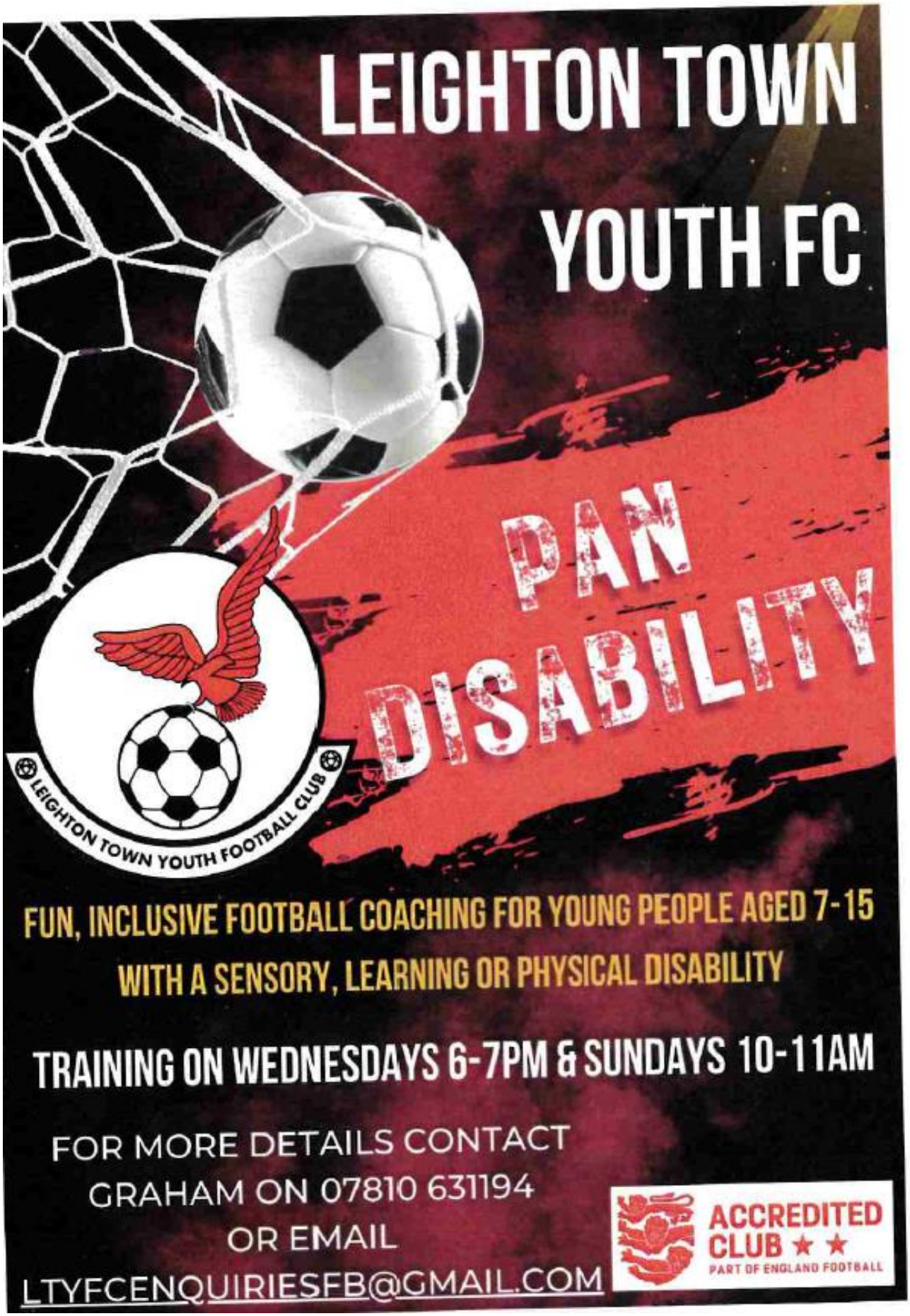
LEIGHTON TOWN
YOUTH FC
PAN
DISABILITY
LEIGHTON TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB
FUN, INCLUSIVE FOOTBALL COACHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 7-15
WITH A SENSORY, LEARNING OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY
TRAINING ON WEDNESDAYS 6-7PM & SUNDAYS 10-11AM
FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT
GRAHAM ON 07810 631194
OR EMAIL
LTYFCENQUIRIESFB@GMAIL.COM
ACCREDITED
CLUB ★ ★
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

CHURCH & CHAPEL
QUIZ
NIGHT
SAT 22
MARCH
7pm, Tables of 6
Adults £10 each
Under 18's £5 each
Includes hot supper,
welcome drink & cake
at the chapel schoolroom
Pleas book by 16/03/25 contact
Lynda on 01525 240337

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.