ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 31
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 16th May 2025

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07786208889 – Text only

Dear Parents/Carers

Another beautiful week of weather and great to see everyone arrive at school in good spirit. Amazing what some sunshine can do.

School lunches – we are aware that these are not yet available to order via Parentpay. Chartwells, our lunch provider, have assured us that these will open up at the start of next week. Parents will receive an email direct from Chartwells once bookings are available.

A number of our older children are cycling to school which is great at easing traffic congestion and a good healthy way to start the day. However, please remind your children to wear a helmet, remember road safety when crossing the roads and dismount at the bottom of the school driveway to push their bikes to the bike park.

Smoking and vaping – neither of these are permitted on the school premises. If you take cigarettes or a vape onto school property, please ensure they are securely located on your being, eliminating any risk of them being dropped on the playground.

Wishing you a great weekend as always.
Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

MESSAGE FROM MRS HANN

******PLACES STILL AVAILABLE. PLEASE BOOK VIA THE OFFICE BY 4PM, MON 19TH MAY******

Conversation with Carol - Tuesday 20th May 2025
2-15pm refreshments to start session at 2-30pm

This is an invitation for Year 4, 5 and 6 parents/ carers to join me as I interview the lovely, local legend Carol Nash. I'll be asking Carol to share with you some of the ways she successfully navigated some of the challenges (and highlights) of supporting a child through their final years of primary school and into secondary school. This session is particularly relevant if your child has experienced any significant changes at home.
Please let Mrs. Phimester and I know via email or text if you will be attending.
Refreshments will be provided, including gluten free options.
I look forward to welcoming you to this session.
Best wishes as always
Helen Hann
Learning Mentor, Music Lead and DSL
My usual working pattern is Monday to Wednesday in school.

#together

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Wed 21st May -Year 2 Cake Sale
Thurs 22nd May – Grandparents Assembly – Foundation, Year 1 & Year 2 at 2.45pm
Thurs 22nd May – Year 6 Plant Sale – amended date
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
Thurs 19th June – Foundation Cake Sale
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 2 Class Assembly – ***amended date***
Fri 27th June – Year 1 class picnic – 2.30PM
Fri 27th June – 'Anything but a School Bag' Day. Details to follow.
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 1Class Trip to MK Museum
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

SPOTLIGHT ON…

Mrs Casey can be found helping the children in Year 3 and supervising on the KS1 playground at lunchtime. She has been a constant support to so many over the last 20 years. Yes – 20 years at St Michael's! How amazing is that?

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1. What is your favourite St Michael's memory from the last 20 years?
There have been quite a few over the years, but I think the one that stands out so vividly happened many years ago during one lunchtime. It was on the KS1 playground and an orange traffic cone had been left on the grass after the Summer Fête that weekend. I noticed one of the boys looking at it, as I was busy taking the equipment out from the shed. I then heard a very muffled "Look Mrs Casey!" and when I turned around, all I could see was this traffic cone walking slowly towards me. The young boy, being curious, had managed to slip it up and over his head and body to see what it was like. I did laugh, but it took two of us to get it off him!

2. Where is your favourite place in Italy and why?
I am fascinated and in awe of historical landmarks and visiting Pompeii was an experience I'll never forget. For a few moments, as I stood there amongst all the ruins and artefacts, there in the distance I could see and feel the presence of Mount Vesuvius, standing tall and proud. I had goosebumps then and goosebumps now, as I recall that experience.

3. What is your favourite hobby?
I don't have a hobby as such, but many interests. I am attempting to grow my own tomatoes and garlic (Thank you to Mrs Pennifold for her guidance). I keep my 'little grey cells' active by watching/reading detective mysteries and I find any needlecraft activity extremely therapeutic.

4. Where is your dream location to go on holiday and why?
This isn't going to be an easy answer, as I don't have one location. However, I've always wanted to go on a worldwide cruise, stopping off at a range of historic sites, such as the Acropolis of Athens, to the pyramids in Egypt, then onto Easter Island. There'd be no stopping me!

5. We know you love cooking with the children. What is your signature dish at home?
It has to be a rich pasta sauce, filled with lots of garlic, anchovies, herbs, juicy plum tomatoes and a glug of red wine. Once you have mastered your own signature sauce, it is so versatile that you can use it for many pasta dishes.

6. If you had to live off one food, what would it be?
Cheese without a doubt! The stronger the better! Mind you, if I could add some salami, fresh olives, sweet tomatoes and a dressing of extra virgin olive oil and basil - I would be in heaven!

7. If you could choose a different career, what would you choose?
At this moment in my life, I would quite enjoy running a quaint Bed and Breakfast. It would be somewhere on the Cornish coast, surrounded by beautiful beaches and idyllic clifftop walks, with homegrown and local food for all the guests to enjoy.

GOLDEN LEARNERS

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

Foundation	**Caspar, Evie, Ralf**
Year 1	**Harry, Florence, Kingsley**
Year 2	**Hunter, Casey, Stevie**
Year 3	**Rebecca, Oscar, Max**
Year 4	**Eva, Samuel, Bear**
Year 5	**Sebastian, Amelie, Yiannis**
Year 6	**Riley, Sienna, Rosie Ta**

Chess News from Mr McClellan

I am delighted that nearly all the children in last term's chess club have returned, with the addition of other children who had previously completed my "Introduction to Chess" course who have rejoined.

Last term, chess club members completed the In-School stage of the Delancey U.K. Chess Challenge, the U.Ks largest junior chess competition.

The Chess Challenge is a four stage competition and each stage gets progressively harder. Entry to the Megafinal is now open. It used to be to be held in High Wycombe for children from Bucks. For many years Mrs McClellan and I used to go down to Wycombe High School on a Sunday to support the children who had entered. Sadly, this year a Megafinal is not going to be held in Buckinghamshire and the nearest venue is in Oxfordshire. (There is a list of venues on the website.) Alternatively children can enter the competition on line – details also are on the website.

Trophies, medals, certificates and cash prizes are awarded to the participants so the question to be considered is should my child be entered for the Megafinal?

My advice would be to have a go if your son / daughter is serious about working to improve their chess, as the Megafinal will provide them with the opportunity to compete against stronger and more experienced players, the best way to learn. Even if they lose more games than anticipated, the day's experience will have been of benefit.

Finally, whether entering for the Megafinal or not, I hope that your child has enjoyed playing chess under my guidance and that their level of skill and power of concentration has improved.

* Please let me know if you have entered your son / daughter for a Megafinal, as I will be happy to provide them with some free of charge coaching prior to the event.

Bellringer#together

MARIE CURIE DAFFODILS

The response to our Marie Curie daffodil collection was amazing and we raised £89.96 in total. Thank you so much to everyone to donated.

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MR DAY'S ST MICHAEL'S SPORTING ROUNDUP

AVSFA Cup Semi-Final
St Michael's 2-0 Turnfurlong

Our girls cup team travelled to a neutral school in Bierton to play their cup semi final last Friday against Turnfurlong. This is our 3rd semi final in 4 years and our last was against the same opponents, ending up with a win for St Michael's on penalties.
The girls dominated from the start and kept attacking with energetic runs from Rosie Tu and Luisa. With just five minutes to go till halftime, Madi won a penalty and stepped up to take the kick. She leaned back and sent a vicious shot over the bar! Nil nil at halftime and the girls needed a goal. Gracie swapped the goalie gloves with Luisa at halftime and immediately calmed down the big crowd with a goal, smashing it in with her left foot from the right hand side of the area. Madi made up for her penalty miss by adding another just before the end with a lovely touch and finish. The game ended 2-0 but should have been a lot more.
Now the amazing girls go on to the cup final this Friday, again at Bierton and against William Harding. If anyone is in the Bierton area at 4pm on Friday then please come and watch.
Rosie T was made player of the match.
St M's - Rosie Ta, Luisa, Olympia, Gracie, Emily C, Emily B, Rosie Tu, Madi

Year 5 Handball

On Monday our year 5's played their first ever handball tournament at Kingsbrook. They will play a lot more handball in year 6 and this was a great way to build experience of this amazing sport. They ended up winning 2, drawing 2 and losing 2, but in general had a lot of fun!
Alfie won our player of the tournament award for his calmness and teamwork.
St M's - Tia, Alfie, Yiannis, Willow, Liam, Harry, Bethany, Lewis

Year 4 Girls Football Festival

Every year we get to take the year 4 girls to a dedicated football festival to get them to enjoy football. This isn't matches but lots of different skills based games that give the girls more of an understanding of the sport. They had a brilliant time (even though it was freezing) and lots of talk was had about their own football team when they get in to year 5. A big thanks to St Michael's School in Aylesbury who hosted the event and always love our students when we go to events there. They adopted us as mini St Michael's today and cheered on our girls in every drill.

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FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The sun was out last weekend and our wonderful ladies from Friends hosted a breakfast morning at the Rec. It was a huge success with lots of hungry families coming to support it.
Approximately £500 was raised. Thank you to everyone who helped organise such a lovely event and also to everyone who went along for some breakfast in the sunshine.

'Guess the Name of the Croissant' was won by Ben Pollard. Daphne the Croissant!

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NO SCHOOL BAG DAY!

27 JUNE

Bring your school things in ANYTHING but a school bag

PLEASE BRING IN A DONATION IN THE COLOUR OF YOUR YEAR GROUP TO PARTICIPATE

ALL DONATIONS FOR THE COLOUR RUN RAINBOW RAFFLE ON 4 JULY!

Your colour donation can be absolutely anything in that colour
e.g. sweets, candles, drinks, stationery, toys, hair accessories, toiletries, crafts, books etc

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Year 6 Leavers Fundraising
Plant Sale
CACTI - HOUSE PLANTS - HERBS - VEG
Thurs 22nd May @ 3.30pm - KS2 Playground
£1.50 each or £2 for 3 | Cash Only, Bring Change

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GIVE RUGBY A TRY

MILTON KEYNES R.U.F.C.

PRIDE. PASSION. RESPECT

Experience the excitement of playing rugby in a friendly and supportive environment.

Great for beginners, starting from the age of 5 - 16! Boys & girls. No experience necessary.

29TH JUNE
10 - 12 P.M.

- Learn new skills
- Meet new friends
- Fun activities
- A *new love* for rugby!

BBQ & REFRESHMENTS

MILTON KEYNES RUFC
The Valley, Bowland Dr,
Emerson Valley, Milton Keynes MK4 2DN

OUR CITY.YOUR CLUB

FREE
TO ATTEND

More Information
enquiries@mkrufc.com

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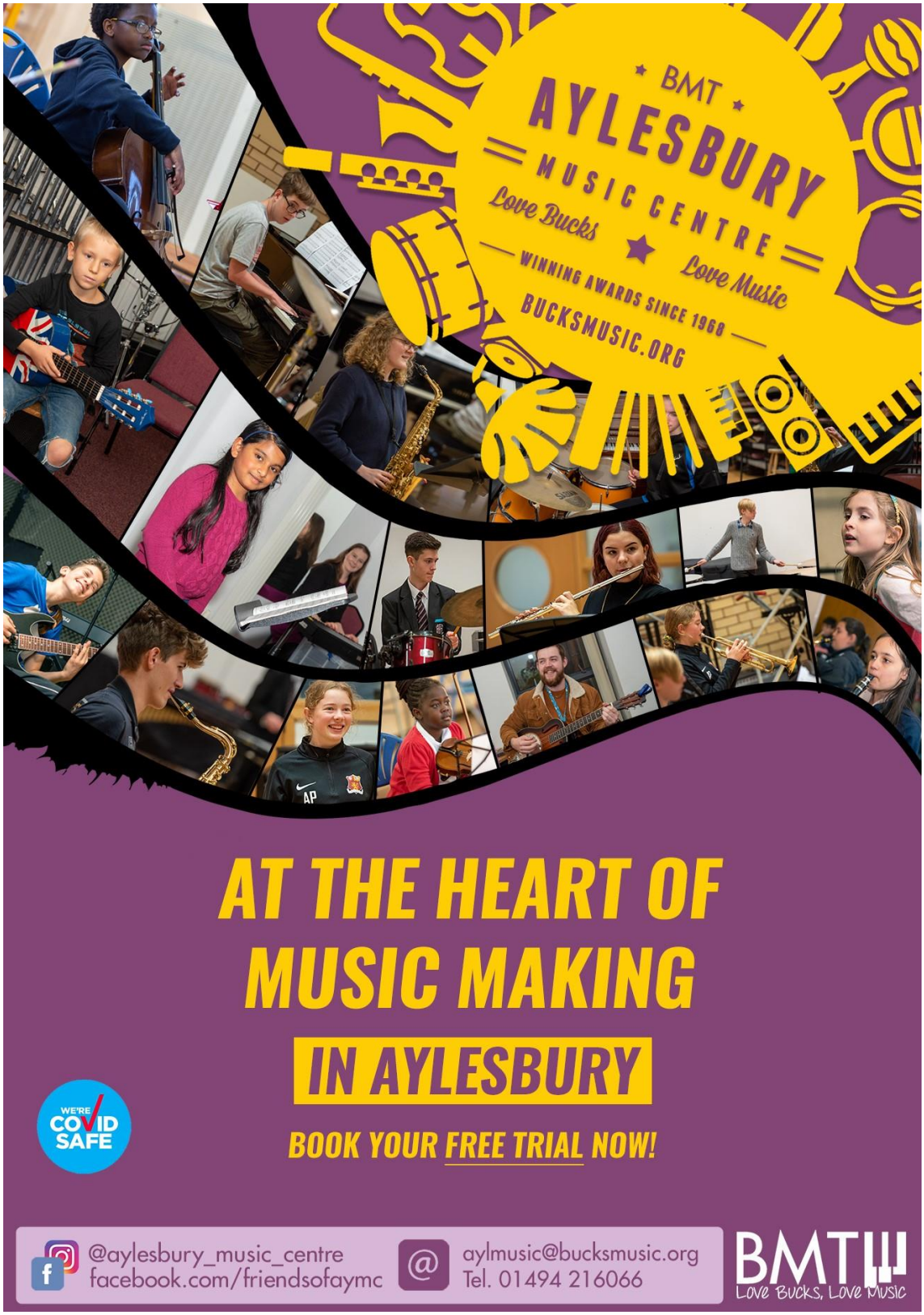

Aylesbury Music Centre offers a wide range of exciting musical activities for children of all ages and abilities. From ensemble groups and instrumental lessons to choirs and music theory classes, there's something for everyone to explore and enjoy. Joining the Centre gives children the chance to develop their musical skills, build confidence, and make new friends in a supportive and fun environment. Whether your child is a beginner or an experienced musician, Aylesbury Music Centre can help them reach their full potential. For more information about what's on please go to www.bucksmusic.org or email us at aylmusic@bucksmusic.org

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BMTH
Love Bucks, Love Music
BUCKS CHILDREN'S CHOIR
29TH MAY 9:30-12:30
THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL
OPEN TO ANYONE FROM YEAR 4 TO 8
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
PERFORMANCE AT THE END OF THE DAY
SIGN UP HERE
HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/YC5MRKVX
FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL AYLMUSIC@BUCKSMUSIC.ORG

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WYCOMBE MUSEUM

Half Term Events

Tue 27th & Wed 28th May

Discover & Make: Hydro Power!

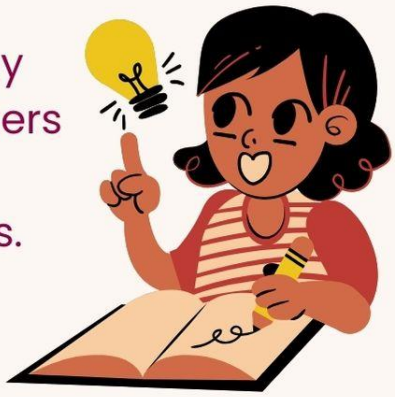
Create a spinning water wheel, and make a splash as you test it! Learn how local industry was powered through water mills along the River Wye.
For children aged 4 - 11.
Pre-book. £4.75 per child.

Fri 30th May

FREE Creative Writing with Arka Learning

ARKA LEARNING

Dive into creative writing inspired by Roald Dahl's unforgettable characters and magical storytelling.
For ages 6 - 11. Pre book. Free tickets.
Led by Wycombe based tuition provider **Arka Learning**.



Book at wycombemuseum.org.uk

01494 957210 info@wycombemuseum.org www.wycombemuseum.org.uk

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Parents can you help with the Colour Run?

The Friends of St Michael's School are organising a Colour Run on Friday 4th July and are looking for businesses to sponsor the event either with a monetary donation or by supplying some of the equipment needed.

In return for sponsorship we will promote your company at our event, in our newsletter and on our social media page.

If you work for or own a company that can help with sponsorship or work for a company that offer match funding and are able to volunteer to help at the event please speak to a member of the Friends Committee or the School Office.

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Charity Number: 1049311

COLOUR RUN

FRIDAY 4 JULY

2-4pm | School Field

Bar & Rainbow Raffle

Raising Funds for Friends of St Michael's School

Race Pack provided (£5 voluntary contribution)

More information to follow

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KRIS PRATT MEMORIAL TOURNAMEMT
A fun tournament in memory of one of our longest serving members, Kris Pratt.
Mixed event and all abilities welcomed!
OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS
SUNDAY 18TH MAY 10-2PM
Dm to sign up or email
jeremy.gibbs@hotmail.co.uk

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Don’t forget to secure your tickets for the Chanteuses concert at St Michaels on 17th May, please go to www.chanteuses.co.uk to book tickets

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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.