ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 40
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Wednesday 23rd July 2025

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

Dear Parents/Carers

Wow – where did that year go? The children have all got that bit taller, the staff are all another year older and wiser and I'm sure all the parents and carers are looking forward to the summer break, enjoying mornings without digging out PE kits and making packed lunches. Let's hope that sunshine remembers to come back for the next few weeks.
Last week saw our Awards Assemblies for the all the classes and included our 3 end of year awards for the Year 6s as chosen by the class. Well done to everyone who received an award.
Friday evening was the Leavers Party which was a great success. The parents and children did a fabulous job of fund-raising and organising the event and it was a great send off for our wonderful class of Year 6s.
The Leavers' Assembly is always one of the highlights of the Summer Term and I can confirm that a number of tissues were used today – and that was just Mrs Garwood! The Year 6 classroom was a bustling hive of mixed emotions today – nerves, excitement, anticipation and most definitely held a vibe of friendship and memories. Thank you to all the parents and staff for making the end of their primary school experience so memorable.

On behalf of all the school staff, I would like to thank you all for the kind gifts, cards and messages from all the parents/carers and children. We are all over-whelmed with your generous words and gifts. Thank you.

As our academic year draws to a close, I'd like to wish you all a fabulous summer break with your loved ones and I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Thursday 4th September.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Wed 3rd Sept – INSET DAY
Thurs 4th Sept – All children in school

INSET DAYS FOR 2025/2026

Wed 3rd Sept 2025
Mon 3rd Nov 2025
Mon 5th Jan 2026
Fri 27th March 2026
Fri 22nd May 2026

#together

SPOTLIGHT ON...Mr Morley!

1. **What is the most challenging marathon you have taken part in and how many marathons have you run?**

I've done 17 marathons / ultras. The longest I did was 100k / 62 miles, non stop over the South Downs without sleep. It was really tough physically and mentally. We had to do it as a team of 4 which made it harder as one of our teammates was struggling with injury and miles 30-50 were torturously slow! I have another marathon in two weeks time and I have done no training... I am just hoping to just wing it! My running mantra is 'The head gives up before the legs do!' so it it takes all day, then so be it! It takes place on the canals of Birmingham so if I feel like stopping for a balti... I am having a balti!

2. **What is your favourite dressing up costume and is there one that you have always wanted to get?**

I always like the dressing up as a pirate... at a previous school I crashed my car on the way to school dressed as a pirate and had to share details with the other drive dressed as Captain Jack Sparrow. I like the idea of a school Zombie Day but I think we would end up in the Daily Mail!

3. **Why did you choose teaching as a career and did you always want to be a head teacher?**

I don't think I ever really chose teaching... It chose me! As a 15 year old I did my work experience in a school. Then Volunteered in a school through Sixth Form in my free periods. After that I ran foreign language schools when I was a university student. My career pathway was taking me in one direction but I am not sure if I realised at the time. Becoming a Headteacher... again...I am not sure it was something I chose...It reached a point in my career where I felt ready for the challenge and I felt I could make a difference.

4. Who is your favourite player from Derby county?

So hard as there are SO many. The reason I support Derby is because of a player called Kevin Hector. As a kid I was allowed to stay up late one night to watch Match of the Day. My favourite kids TV show at the time was Hector's House. I saw Kevin Hector score that night... made the link to Hector's House and that was it... a lifetime of underachievement and disappointment!
Charlie George was also a favourite as he had so much swagger. Check him out on youtube scoring twice when we beat Real Madrid 4-1 in what became the Champions League. Finally Bobby Davison, a Derby goalscoring legend. Brave and fast. Used every bit of his talent every game.

5. If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Easy one this... Toast with butter and marmite, covered in Heinz beans and then topped with extra mature cheddar (or a stinky blue stilton)

6. Who is your favourite England football player?

Gary Lineker. Watch his 6 goals in the Mexico World Cup of 86 when he was the Golden Boot winner. All 6 goals in the six yard box. I bought a pair of Lineker boots and modelled my playing style on him... goalhanging!

7. Who would win in a fight, a gorilla or 100 people?

I saw Guy the Gorilla as a kid at London Zoo. HUGE! I reckon Guy would have fought to the death. I think after a few people had had their skulls smashed together, the others would run away in fear.

8. What is your proudest moment in your life so far?

In different aspects of my life... My children make me proud as they are all successful and have incredible work ethics whilst remaining kind and funny. Professionally, I am proud to be a headteacher although my school report at 15 didn't give me much hope.. 'Lackadaisical at times, David needs to adopt a more serious approach. Jokes don't impress examiners!' I am proud of my running achievements too. I have never been very fast but I do have quite a 'good engine' and I reckon I can do it 'on a cold, wet Tuesday night in Stoke'!

LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY

LEAVERS' PARTY

#together

#together

We were delighted to have a special friend back with us today. It was great to see you Mr Bradbury.

#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.

#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

#together

#together