ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 5
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 10th Oct 2025

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

Dear Parents/Carers

The children looked very smart yesterday for their school photos and it was lovely to have the siblings from Buttons pre-school join us for a photo shoot. The children will have come home with a QR code for you to scan in order to view your child/children's photos. These should be available to view in approximately 5 days. We are using a new supplier this year so I hope you are all pleased with the results.

We had a wonderful turnout of parents/carers at the Harvest Festival on Monday and I hope you enjoyed hearing all the favourite harvest songs.

The first of our Parents' Evening of this academic year will be on 22nd and 23rd October. Appointments with your child's teacher will be available to book from 6pm this evening (Friday 10th Oct). Please note that these appointments are for parents only and children should not be left unattended in the school. Please use the link below to access the booking system. Alternatively, this can be found using 'Quick Links' on the left hand side of our website home page.

https://stmichaelscecombined.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/

Important Safeguarding Information: Children's "Spy" Books

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the ***Spy Dogs*****, *Spy Cats*****, and *Spy Pups*** series. The suggested reading ages for these books are ages 7–12 and so you may have them at home.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you:

- If your child has any *Spy Dog*, *Spy Cat* or *Spy Pups* books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site. **If you have any copies of these books that originated from St Michael's School, please return them to the school office so we can dispose them appropriately.**
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

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Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Friday 17th Oct – Waddesdon Art Project
Friday 17th Oct – Show Racism the Red Card Day
Wed 22nd Oct – Flu vaccinations
Wed 22nd Oct – Parents Evening
Thurs 23rd Oct – Year 3 trip to MK City Discovery Centre
Thurs 23rd Oct – Parents Evening
Mon 27th Oct – Fri 31st Oct – Half Term break
Mon 3rd Nov – INSET DAY
Tues 4th Nov – all children return to school
Tues 4th Nov – NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB AVAILABLE
Thurs 6th Nov – Beauty and the Beast performance – details to follow
Thurs 13th Nov – Year 1 Cake Sale
Friday 21st Nov – Year 5 9.30am Chinese Dragon Craft – parents welcome
Friday 28th Nov – Year 6 Class Assembly
Friday 5th Dec – Friends' Christmas Fayre
Friday 5th Dec – Year 3 Class Assembly
Wed 10th Dec – Year 4 Christingle
Friday 12th Dec – Foundation Nativity 2.45pm
Wed 17th Dec – Year 2 Nativity – morning
Wed 17th Dec – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Wed 17th Dec – Silent Christmas Discos
Thurs 18th Dec – Year 1 Nativity – morning
Friday 19th Dec – Last day of Autumn term
Mon 5th Jan – Start of Spring term
Thurs 15th Jan – Year 2 Cake Sale
Thurs 26th Feb – Year 3 Cake Sale
Thurs 19th March – Year 4 Cake Sale
Thurs 16th April – Year 5 Cake Sale
Thurs 14th May – Year 6 Cake Sale

INSET DAYS FOR 2025/2026
Mon 3rd Nov 2025
Mon 5th Jan 2026
Fri 27th March 2026
Fri 22nd May 2026

ORACY CULTURE AWARD

Mr Morley and Miss Venters dug out their glad-rags this week to attend the the ESU-Rutland Oracy Awards in London.
We are all delighted that they were awarded the Oracy Culture Award.
The award is a recognition of the extraordinary work of Miss Venters in supporting our teachers in establishing St Michael's as a beacon of good practice in Oracy.
The judging panel were hugely impressed with the school's progress and felt that development of oracy skills was exceptional for a primary school.

MESSAGE FROM MRS HANN

This week we listened to, then sang "Lean on me" by Bill Withers. The children used both their oracy strategies and musical detective skills to unpick the theme and significance of this song. This helped them sing with great feeling #together- it was a beautiful moment!

Enjoy!

https://youtu.be/dtC1W-6hwIU

Best wishes as always
Helen Hann
Learning Mentor, Music Lead and DSL
My usual working pattern is Monday to Wednesday.

GOLDEN LEARNERS

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

Year 1	**Nathanael, Ted, Toby**
Year 2	**Arlo, Aubrey, Ava**
Year 3	**Oakley, Amber, Betsy**
Year 4	**Tayler, Rebecca, Edie B**

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Year 5	**Cecily, Edward, Eliza**
Year 6	**Luke, Luisa, Edith**

Bellringers#together

HARVEST COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated non-perishable goods for our Harvest collection. We donated 6 crates of goods to Leighton/Linslade Helpers which will go a long way to helping others. Thank you for your generosity as always.

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ST MICHAEL'S IN MALAWI

Our pre-loved uniform is often over flowing and some wonderful parent volunteers come in to help organise it on a regular basis, for which we are very grateful.
Some of our pre-loved items are regularly collected and make their way to schools in Malawi. This week we received this fabulous photo of our uniform being proudly worn by pupils in Malawi.

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The Friends of St Michael's School & The Flower Boutique

presents

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

To purchase tickets, scan QR code
or visit:
friends-of-st-michaels-school.sumupstore.com
Ticket Deadline is 21st Nov

MON 1st DEC

7:15pm - 9:15pm

at St Michael's School

£45 per person

including
seasonal refreshments and all wreath supplies.

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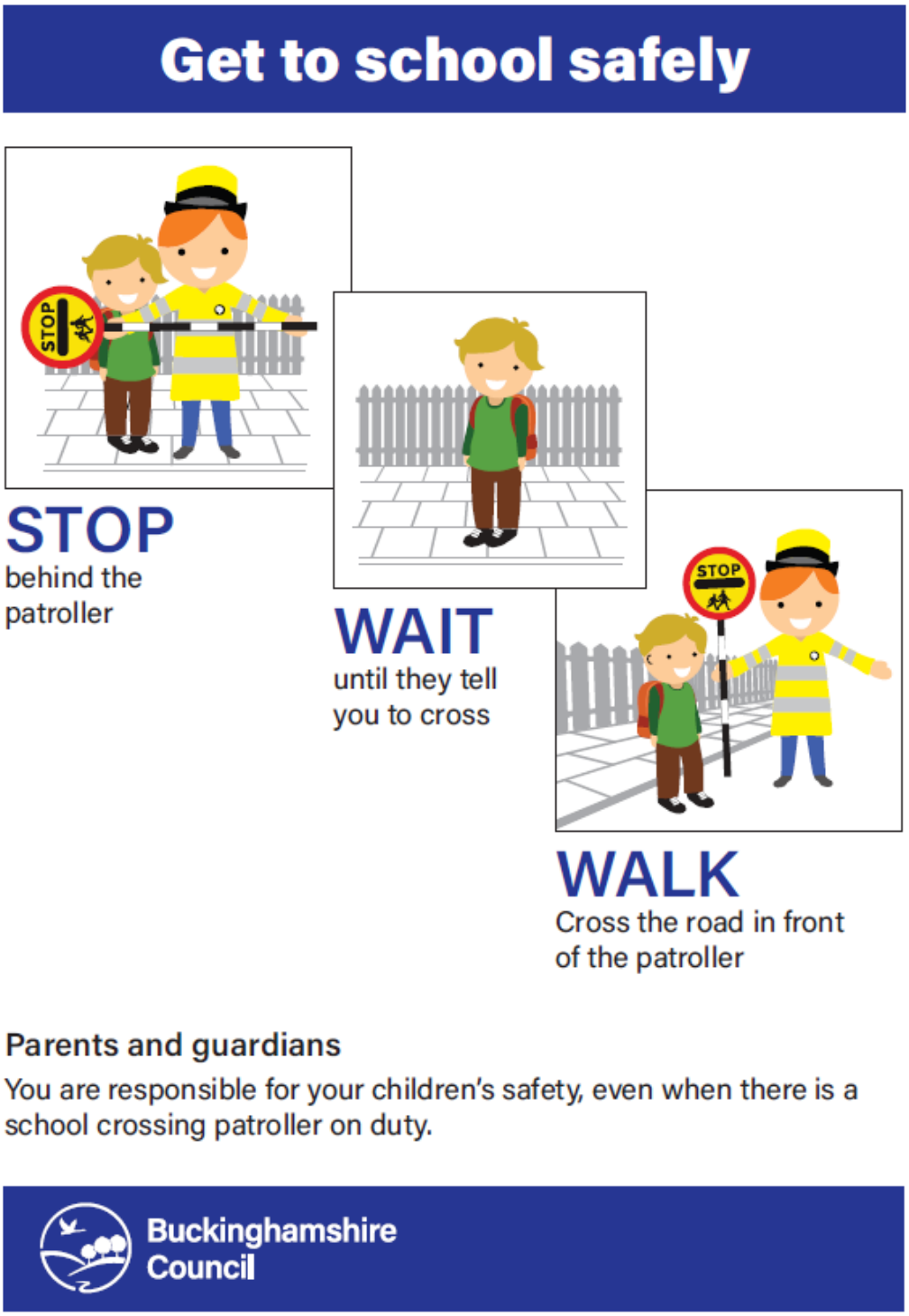
PATROL CROSSING

As the shorter days approach, the sun is lower at either end of the day which makes it harder to see our School Crossing Patrollers as well as cyclists and pedestrians. Please lower your sun visor and drive with extra caution.

Remember to respect our patrollers and stop when indicated to do so. They are here for our safety.



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SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY TODAY

£1 per week

Weekly cash prizes

£25,000 jackpot

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

How it works...

It's simple—choose 6 numbers between 0-9 and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to St Michael's Church of England Combined School

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online by direct debit or debit card.

It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to St Michael's Church of England Combined School

Splitting the £1.00

- **40p** goes to our school
- **36p** goes to cash prizes
- **20p** goes to admin costs
- **4p** goes to VAT

The Maths... **100** tickets sold a week means

= **£30** weekly cash prize

= **£2,080** a year for our school

Buy A Ticket

GambleAware 18+

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JUNIOR OPEN DAY

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

This fun day for juniors aged 6-12 for all abilities!

FANCY DRESS!

Tuesday 28th October 2025
and/or
Friday 31st October 2025

10:00	Arrival + Check In
10:15	Coaching with competitions on the Driving Range, Chipping area and Putting.
12:30	LUNCH (Nuggets, Chips n Beans)
13:15	Junior Texas Scramble First steps onto the golf course playing 3 holes as a team
15:15	**Halloween Pumpkin Pitching and Tombstone Challenges**
15:45	Results, Presentation and Prizes
16:00	FINISH

ALL THIS FOR

£35 per child

TO SIGN UP CONTACT
HEAD PGA PROFESSIONAL RUSSELL PHILLIPS ON
07843 692948 or r.phillips@avgc.co.uk

Please book at least 1 week in advance as days may cancel and please pay on arrival.

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OCTOBER HALF TERM
TENNIS CAMP
GREAT LINFORD & STEWKLEY TENNIS CLUBS
GETCOACHINGUK
TENNIS · PADEL
FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT
GETCOACHINGUK.COM

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FACE

November Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Raising Self Esteem	3 Nov 10am
Decreasing Depression	3 Nov 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	4 Nov 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	4 Nov 7pm
Improving Family Communication	10 Nov 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	10 Nov 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	11 Nov 10am
Supporting A Child with ADHD	11 Nov 7pm
FREE ADHD Kids & Homework	**13 Nov 6-7pm**
Understanding Anger	17 Nov 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	17 Nov 7pm
Facing Defiance	18 Nov 10am
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	18 Nov 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	24 Nov 10am
Anxiety Explained	24 Nov 7pm

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.

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

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