ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 8
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 3rd November 2023

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07786208889 – Text only

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! I hope all our families had a lovely half term break and that the children were looking forward to coming back to school for another busy half term in the run up to Christmas. Please see below for dates for your diaries and lots of information on some great events being organised by our fabulous Friends' Association. They are keen to recruit some extra help, so please get involved if you can.
As you can see from Mr Day's sporting section, there are plenty of football fixtures coming up in the next couple of weeks before it gets too dark. I look forward to hearing how they all get on and I know that Mr Day will have plethora of different sporting activities tucked up his sleeve for later this year.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Fri 10th Nov – 9am Year 5 Class Assembly
Mon 13th Nov – Robin Hood Day – dress up day.
Fri 17th Nov – Year 6 Class Assembly 9am
Fri 17th Nov – Children In Need – bring in a teddy
Fri 24th Nov – 9am Year 3 Class Assembly
Fri 1st Dec – 9am Christingle Service – Year 4 only
Thur 7th Dec – 9am Year 1 Nativity
Wed 13th Dec – Christmas lunch, Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Discos
Thur 14th Dec – 9am Year 2 Nativity
Fri 15th Dec – 9am Foundation Nativity
Tue 19th Dec – 9.30am Church service

MRS FARRAN

After 26 years at St Michael's, Mrs Farran is taking well-deserved retirement at the end of this term. Mrs Farran has been a stalwart of the school for many years, seeing generations of families pass through St Michael's. She has looked after thousands of children, cleaned up countless grazed knees and been a friendly, smiling welcome in the office for many years. Mrs Farran will be greatly missed by all the staff and families, but I'm sure you will all join me in wishing her long and peaceful retirement.
They are difficult boots to fill, but the office will soon be looking for someone to help out on a part time basis.

PLEA FROM YEAR 4

Year 4 are going to have a visit from an artist next week and are looking for donations of unwanted, leftover emulsion paint that might be lurking in your sheds/garages. It doesn't matter what colour or how much is left in the tin, anything will be gratefully received.

Also if you have any ribbon or material that can be cut into strips, please bring it along to either the classroom door or to the office by Tuesday at the latest. Mrs Deverill and Mrs Buckland will be most grateful. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

Every Christmas we support two great causes with our generously filled shoe-boxes from our amazing school community. These are Women's Aid in Aylebury and the Leighton Buzzard Food Bank.

More communication will be with you soon, but if you would like to start gathering together some shoe boxes along with some goodies to put in them, that would be great. Many thanks in advance.

PRE-LOVED WINTER COATS

As the weather is turning colder and wetter, many of us are digging out the winter coats. If your children have sprouted since last winter, but the coat are still in good condition, please consider donating them to our yellow uniform bin which can be found outside the office door.

REMEMBRANCE POPPIES

With Remembrance Sunday rapidly approaching, our Year 6's will be selling poppies in the classrooms next week. Please send in a donation with your child if you wish to purchase a poppy.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

If you would like to order your child's school photos, please note that the deadline for free delivery to school is **Tuesday 7th November**. Any orders placed after the deadline will be subject to postage & packaging costs with delivery direct to you at your home address.

PARKING AT THE REC

From Monday 6th November there will be workmen at the Rec for approximately 3 weeks while they create a new pathway round the Rec. The carparks will still be open, but may have limited spaces available due to the work equipment/vehicles.

If you usually park there and walk into school, please bear this in mind when considering your journey.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Friday 17th November is Children In Need. With Pudsey the giant teddy bear being the biggest representative of Children In Need, the children are all invited to bring in a teddy of their choice that day. It will be full uniform as usual.

If you would like to make a donation to Children In Need, this is available to do so via Parentpay. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH

In this week's assembly we looked at yesterday's celebration of All Saints; an annual event in the Christian calendar. The basis of All Saints is that a Christian shows, shines, with the light of Christ just as the song Shine Jesus shine puts it.

We began with the pupils naming any saints they knew of and we had a broad mixture from St Stephen to St Joseph, not forgetting St Michael of course. We then talked about what made them special and concluded they had shown something of the Christ light in their lives through their words and actions. I then asked the question "can anyone be a saint?". After some discussion, we concluded that yes, anybody can be a saint just as the Bible says we can be. I then produced my visual aid, an outline of shoulders and a head with hair, but a hole where the face would be. We set about discovering whether some of the pupils' faces would fit. And they did! All of those we tried!

So yes, anyone can be a saint because we can all follow Christ. Some people are very well known for their witness hence we know their names, but we made clear that as any/all can be Christ followers, All Saints really does do what it says on the tin.

With every blessing,
Rev'd Howard Robson.

MRS HANN – LEARNING MENTOR

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. As the weather is getting colder, the cost of heating and energy bills may be causing some concern. The link below may be helpful if you need support and help with managing those costs. Do get in touch with m
e if you need help with accessing this support.

Help with heating and energy bills
familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

This week we have been listening to the Firework Symphony by Handel. Here's the link so that you can enjoy it as a family:

Handel: Music for the Royal Fireworks, Overture.
youtu.be

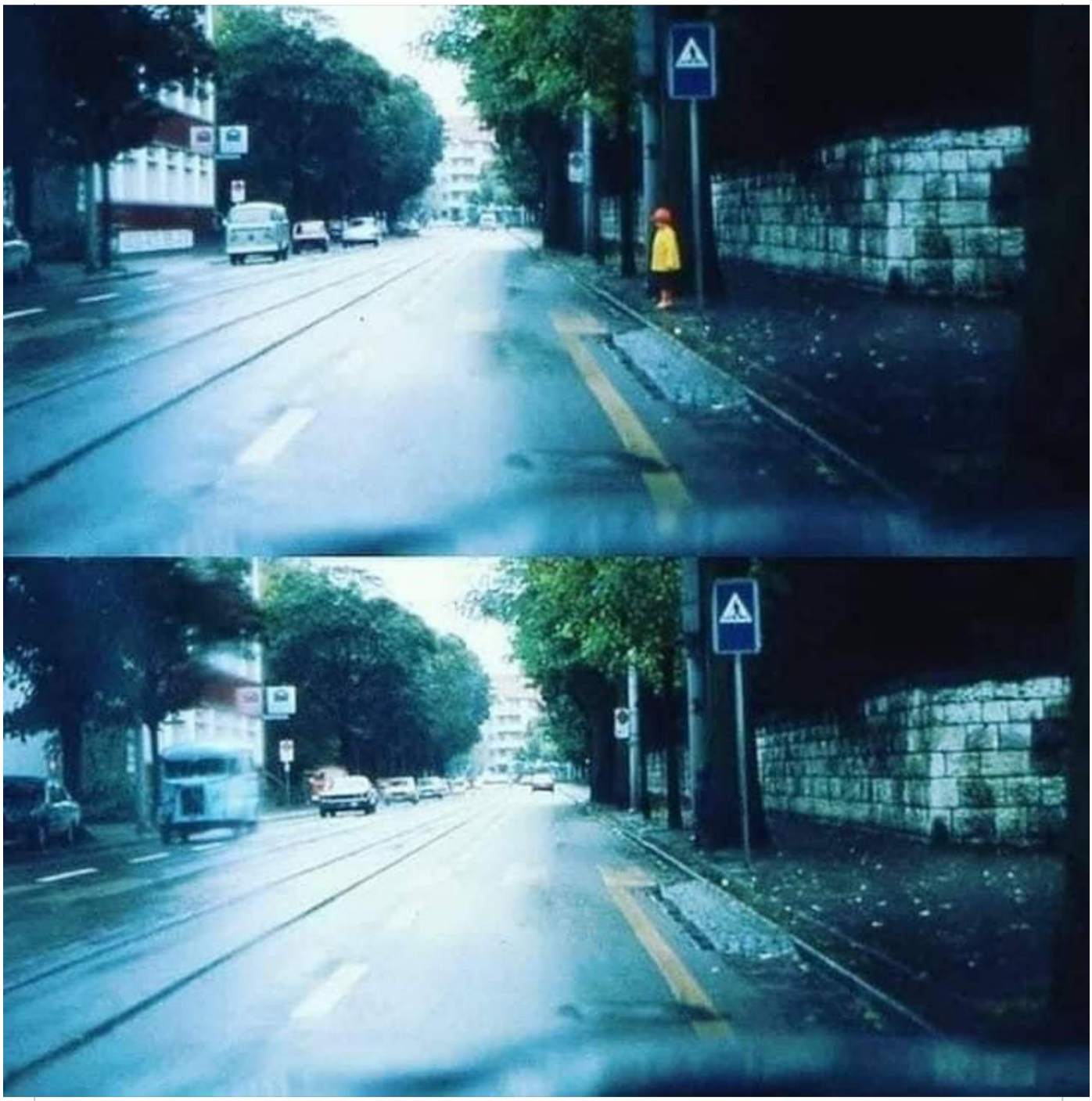
Best wishes as always,
H Hann, Learning Mentor, Music Subject Leader and DSL
@MrsHannStMSch on X/Twitter

#together

STAY BRIGHT – STAY SAFE

As the darker days are now with us and many of you may be looking for new winter coats, please consider the images below when out shopping.

Our Patrol Crossing team have shared these pictures and they really highlight the importance of wearing bright colours in the autumn and winter months in particular.



Pic credit: Christian Thomas

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GOLDEN LEARNERS

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

Foundation	**Rory, Lottie, Joe**
Year 1	**Joseph, Hunter, Jack**
Year 2	**Oscar, Alfie, Ruby**
Year 3	**Shore, Mia, Eva**
Year 4	**Jacob, Joseph, Alfie**
Year 5	**Freddie, Gracie, Layla**
Year 6	**Hattie, Cameron, Aisha**

#together bell ringers this week – Well done!!

ATTENDANCE AWARD

FOUNDATION achieved the highest level of attendance this week with a fabulous 98.9%! Well done everyone for staying so fit and healthy.

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FRIENDS CHRISTMAS CARDS

We are delighted to announce that we are participating in the Christmas card project with Art Projects for Schools (APFS) again this autumn.

Children have enjoyed creating their artworks and you now have the opportunity to order cards, wrapping paper, gift tags, mugs and tote bags printed with your own child's picture to share with family and friends. Every order you place will also raise valuable funds for our school.

If they have not already done so, your child will be bringing their masterpiece home in the next day or two. Each piece of artwork will have a label on the back, detailing a unique order code linked to that artwork only.

To place your order, simply visit www.apfsorders.co.uk

- To place your order, simply visit www.apfsorders.co.uk
- Enter the code along with your child's name.
- You will then be able to choose your items, personalise cards with your own greeting and add your child's name on the back as the artist.

Please place your order by midnight on Thursday **7th November,** when the online shop will close. All orders placed by this date will be dispatched to the school by 24th November.

Orders placed after 18th November can still be processed, but you will be responsible for postage to APFS and the school will not receive any funds from your order.

We hope that you will decide to place an order to see your child's artwork printed onto items and support the school. Should you need any help, please do get in touch with Art Projects for Schools, either by emailing info@apfs.org.uk or call 01227 262417

Many thanks

The Friends Association

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL SPORTS INFORMATION

Football roundup

For the first time ever, St Michaels has FIVE football teams this year, competing against other schools in the Aylesbury Vale Schools Football Association Leagues.

This means that we are playing a lot of matches in the next few weeks, so that we can get as many games played until it's too dark to play after school.

So far we have had three league fixtures with our year 6 and both our year 5 boys' teams playing.

Our year 6 boys started the season with a dominant 2-0 away victory at St Louis in Aylesbury. A thumping header from Seb, followed by a smart finish by Jamie, gave St Michaels their first win. A certain Mr Jones was the coach of St Louis, he was very complementary of our boys and wished all the school the best of luck for this year.

Both our year 5 boys' teams have lost their opening games against Newton Longville and Whitchurch but have showed some brilliant teamwork and individual skill. Not many schools enter year 5 teams in

the leagues, but we think it's great that they get to play against older kids, and gives them good experience for year 6.

Next week sees home fixtures for both our girls' teams and our year 5 boys. Hoping for some good football, please come and support your children if they are selected.

As we move through the year, there are increasing amounts of sporting fixtures so please keep an eye on your emails as all forms are sent electronically. Please contact the office as early as possible if you need assistance with transportation or kit. And please can you wash and return any kit as quickly as possible!

Thanks
Mr Day

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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, a text will be sent to 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 **Tuesday at midnight, 2 weeks 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.

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Family Support Service

How to build...

Confidence and Self-Esteem

Course for young people

Starts 7 November 2023

Want to feel better about yourself? Want to feel more confident around other people?

If you're in school year 7 or above, then our interactive 6-week course could be for you.

6 sessions cover:

- Why the media affects how we see ourselves
- How to cope better with setbacks
- How to deal with peer pressure
- How to feel better about ourselves

Book by 23 October 2023

To secure your place, scan the QR code for more information.

If you need help email earlyhelpduty@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Chesham
Newtown Family Centre Plus

Tuesdays
5pm to 6pm

SCAN ME

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FAMILY BINGO

- NOVEMBER 17TH 2023
- STEWKLEY PAVILION
- DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM
- EYES DOWN AT 7:00PM
- £5 ENTRANCE INCLUDES A BOOK
- EXTRA BOOKS £2.50
- BAR OPEN
- CAKES FOR SALE
- **RAISING MONEY FOR STEWKLEY FOOTBALL CLUB**

STEWKLEY 19 46 FOOTBALL CLUB

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Family Support Service

How to...

Live your best Life

Course for young people

Would you like to feel empowered to make different choices?

If you're in school years 7 and above then our interactive 6-week course could be for you!

Sessions cover:

- Building self-confidence
- Knowing who we really are
- Understanding what exploitation may look like
- Knowing what a healthy relationship is
- Preparing for a brighter future

For more details, or to book your place scan the QR code. If you need support or help to complete the form email earlyhelpduty@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. **Book a place by 16 October.**

Elmhurst Family Centre
Tuesdays
5:30pm to 7pm
Starts 7 November

Castlefield Family Centre
Thursdays
6pm to 7:30pm
Starts 2 November

SCAN ME

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Friends of St Michael's School

WHAT'S ON

Nov — Spare Change Challenge

Thurs 23 Nov — Non Uniform Day in return for Chocolate

THURS 7 DEC — PANTO AT AYLESBURY THEATRE

FRI 8 DEC — CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Mon 11 Dec — Christmas Arrangement Workshop

WED 13 DEC — CHRISTMAS DISCO

For more information on any of the events please email pta-stmichaels@outlook.com or speak to a member of the committee

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
Join our Facebook Page - @friends&parentsofstmichaelsschoolstewkley

COULD YOU BE A CLASS REP???

THE FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL WOULD LIKE A CLASS REP FROM EACH YEAR TO COMMUNICATE INFORMATION AND BE A LINK BETWEEN THE PARENTS AND THE COMMITTEE.

YOU DON'T NEED TO COME TO MEETINGS BUT IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO YOU WOULD BE VERY WELCOME.

PLEASE SPEAK TO
KERRY TURNBULL/HELEN VALE OR EMAIL
PTA-STMICHAELS@OUTLOOK.COM

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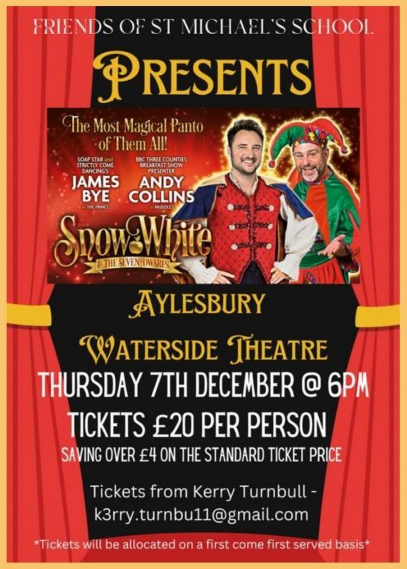
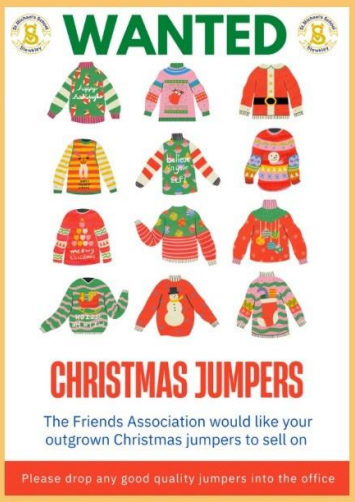
Friends of St Michael's School





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