ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 8
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 7th November 2025

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

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back after the October half term break. I hope you all had a restful time and enjoyed the extra day on Monday.

We certainly hit the ground running this week with our Beauty and the Beast day. The school was awash with Belles, Princes, clocks, candlesticks and every other character you could possibly associate with the story. The children looked fabulous and a great deal of effort had gone into the costumes. Please see below for a wee snapshot of the day.
Next year's performance has already been booked and I'm delighted to announce the pantomime in 2026 is going to be…. Cinderella! So many great characters spring to mind! Start your planning now!

Next week is Children In Need on Friday 14th November. It will be a normal uniform day, but children are invited to bring a spotty bear to school if they wish (bears to be no bigger than your child's head please!) for a donation to Children In Need. Donations are available to make via Parentpay so please use that platform and do not send cash in with your child.

Wishing you all a great weekend as always,

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Thurs 13th Nov – Year 1 Cake Sale
Friday 14th Nov – Children In Need day – bring a spotty bear to school. School uniform please.
Wed 19th Nov – Year 6 boys Handball at AGS
Friday 21st Nov – Year 5 - 9.30am Chinese Dragon Craft – parents welcome
Friday 21st Nov – Non-uniform day for Christmas Tombola donation
Wed 26th Nov – Foundation & Year 6 Height & Weight Screening
Friday 28th Nov – Year 6 Class Assembly
Mon 1st Dec – Thurs 4th Dec – Bikeability Level 2
Friday 5th Dec – Bikeability Level 1
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 5th Jan 2026
Fri 27th March 2026
Fri 22nd May 2026

MESSAGE FROM MRS HANN

On Monday, we welcomed Ms Norlien to our school. She is the new violin teacher from Bucks Music Trust. We were treated to an incredible recital by her at the end of the afternoon- the children were enthralled.

If your child has come home keen to learn the violin, please let me know by emailing or texting the office. I can then contact you about the next steps.

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	**Remi, Arthur, Jesse**
Year 2	**Freya, Lucy, Aryan**
Year 3	**Claudia, Marni, Oliver**
Year 4	**Malak, Alex, Oscar**
Year 5	**Archie, Oliver, Noah**
Year 6	**Samuel, Lewis, Amelie**

CHRISTMAS CARDS

****DEADLINE APPROACHING** Please be reminded that orders for the Christmas Card project need to be placed before 10th November. Order now at www.apfsorders.co.uk (you will need the unique order code on the back of each piece of artwork)**

Bellringers#together

#together

Two are better than one...
If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
Once upon a time

Pick a pair
Choose from these numbers.
3
5
4
7
1. Pick a pair of numbers.
Add them together.
How can we solve this problem?
Which numbers should we add together first?
+ =
5 + 7 = 12

#together

#together

WARWICK CASTLE

together
Two are better than one...
If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
Montgomery Sarah Warburton
TEN

#together

#together

ST MICHAEL'S CELEBRATIONS

This Year 3 galloping superstar and his pony, Pumpkin, were awarded first place in a recent horse jumping competition. Well done! What a great achievement.

PUMPKINS

There were a lot of pumpkins out in the village last week. Please do follow the advice below to avoid our little spiky friend, the hedgehog become unwell if they have a nibble at a pumpkin.

#together

St.Michael's School
Stewkley
Cake Sale Challenge
The Foundation Cake Sale raised an amazing £168.98
Well done to all involved
This money will be made available to Mrs Fraser to spend on the class

#together

WANTED

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

The Friends Association would like your outgrown Christmas jumpers to sell at the Christmas Fayre

Please drop any good quality jumpers into the office

NON UNIFORM DAY

Friday 21st November

PLEASE BRING IN A DONATION FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREAT TOMBOLA AT THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Suggested donations:

Candy Canes Christmas Biscuits
Sweets Baubles Mince Pies
Christmas Crackers Christmas Cake
Hot Chocolate Panattone

- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Chances to win up to £25,000
- Win a gaming bundle or take the cash!
- PLUS £500 for our school!

BUY TICKETS

The Friends of St. Michael's School Stocksfield

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

18+ GambleAware

See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 29/11/25.

#together

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

#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.

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