

ST. MICHAEL'S C.E. (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL
"I have come that everyone may have life and have it to the full (John10:10)



Newsletter 1 – Autumn Term 2014
Wednesday 3rd September

Welcome back after the summer break. The children have all arrived back smartly dressed, with smiling faces ready to learn.

2014 Curriculum

Commencing this Autumn Term, we will be delivering the new 2014 curriculum. Staff look forward to meeting you at the class parents' meetings on the following dates:

Monday	8 th September	Year 6	Thursday	11 th September	Year 3
Tuesday	9 th September	Year 2	Friday	12 th September	Year 4
Wednesday	10 th September	Year 1	Wednesday	17 th September	Year 5

During these meetings staff will share the homework timetable and general class routines. In addition they will explain the 2014 curriculum topics which your child will study in Geography and History. Y3 – Y6 will continue to learn French. PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment time) will continue to be covered by specialists in PE (Mrs. Willshire) and Music (Mrs. Lucas).

There will be a chance to ask questions and clarify any issues at that meeting and we would encourage all parents to attend.

Website/Policies/Procedures

Most of you will have used the school website. May I remind you that there is a regular twitter feed showing you various highlights and activities from the school day, Nursery to Year 6. The website contains information about the Core and Foundation Curriculum and year group expectations in English and Mathematics. There is also an overview explaining year group topics for each year group and the Foundation Curriculum.

The new homework policy approved by Staff and Governors is also located on the website.

From this September, we have adopted a new handwriting scheme called "cursive" which encourages the development of handwriting by beginning each letter on the line. This is supportive for younger children who struggle to know where to start letters to join and is noted as being dyslexic friendly. I have attached a sheet to this letter with the illustrated joins.

Children in Upper KS2 who already write neatly in a joined hand will not be expected to alter their hand but we will ask them to practice this style in handwriting sessions, as a challenge in pencil control. There is a website called www.cursivewriting.org which gives more information, which you may find useful.

Presentation and Tests

I have invested in new exercise books to support high quality presentation and pride in school work. I look forward to sharing them with you at the November Parents' Evening along with evidence of the impact of our focus on handwriting. Staff will also have the October test results to share with you.

Other Information

Bell Times/Morning Procedures

- 8.30 a.m. Gate Opened
- 8.50 a.m. First Bell – Parents say goodbye to children
- 8.55 a.m. Lessons begin

Any Reception/Nursery parents with older children should wait in the main playground and after 8.50 a.m. bell rings, take their Reception child to Reception playground or to Nursery.

Lost Property

This is now located in the School front reception area to enable parents to easily search in the morning/afternoon for lost items without the need to come into the main school building.

Church Links

Michaelmas Fair will be held between 11.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. on Saturday 27th September.

Reverend Vicky warmly invites you to attend “Back to School Sunday” on 14th September at 4.00 p.m. in St. Michael’s Church. I will be speaking at that Service.

Dates

I have attached a whole year overview of key school events with this letter. I hope this will enable you to forward plan the year more easily.

Dolce

We welcome Tanitiah Gibson to our school. Tanitiah is employed by Dolce as a permanent cook who has had previous experience cooking for Nursery schools. She will work alongside Julie Burgess and Jane Jarvis in the school kitchen.

Where possible, we now expect families to order dinners on-line at home. If you have not already submitted your e-mail address to the office to enable Dolce to generate a password for you please do this at your earliest convenience. If, for any reason, you are not able to access Dolce Live Kitchen from your home facilities we will ensure your child is able to order their chosen meal via the computer in their classroom. Parents no longer need to come into school to do this. Please inform the office if your child needs to log in and order at school.

Family Contact Details Update

Please inform the school office of any changes to your contact details or any other information we need to be aware of regarding your child. As your mobile contact number will be stored on our TextTank facility, accurate details are required please.

Internet Permission

Most parents agreed to permission for children’s un-named faces to appear on twitter or the website. If you DO NOT wish to give permission please sign the pro forma below.

Alison Drayton
Headteacher

.....
INTERNET PERMISSION

Name of Child Class

I do not wish my son/daughter to have their un-named photograph appear on any website or twitter feed.

Signed Date

ST. MICHAEL'S C.E. (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL
"I have come that everyone may have life and have it to the full (John10:10)



NOTABLE DATES FOR PARENTS THIS ACADEMIC YEAR 2014 – 2015

Sunday	14 th September	Back to School Sunday 4.00 p.m. in Church
Saturday	27 th September	Michaelmas Fair 11.00 – 1.00 p.m. PTA and Church
Monday	29 th September	Bags to School – Fund Raising Children will bring a collection bag home this week.
Thursday	2 nd October	Kinetic Light Science Show In school for all classes
Friday	10 th October	Harvest Festival in School 2.30 p.m. (Collection for Booth Centre)
Monday Friday	13 th October to 17 th October	Test Week for Maths/Reading/Writing
Monday Tuesday	20 th October 21 st October	Castleton Residential Visit Year 6
Wednesday Wednesday	5 th November 12 th November	Parents' Evening - choice of evening for pupil progress report Parents' Evening - choice of evening for pupil progress report
Friday	7 th November	Remembrance Centenary Service World War 1 2.45 p.m. Parents welcome to attend this Service in school which will illustrate the childrens' studies.
Wednesday	17 th December	KS2 Carols 2.00 p.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Monday	9 th February	E Safety and Anti-bullying week Y1 – Y6
Wednesday Wednesday	4 th March 11 th March	Parents' Evening - choice of evening for pupil progress report Parents' Evening - choice of evening for pupil progress report
Friday	6 th March	World Book Day
Wednesday	25 th March	Easter Service Details will be communicated
Monday	11 th May	SATS week Year 6 and Year 2 – External Testing all week Internal tests this week for all other year groups – completing the following week
Monday	18 th May	Y6 Bikeability – Monday to Thursday 21 st May
Monday	15 th June	Phonics Test Year 1
Friday	26 th June	Sports Day
Friday	10 th July	Records of Achievement home with children
Thursday	23 rd July	Leavers Service Details will be communicated