

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 17 – Spring Term
Tuesday 1st April 2014

News Highlights

1. **Sports Relief** raised an amazing £250 through voluntary contributions. The children had a fabulous day. Thank you for your contributions.
2. **National Science Week** – Reverend Vicky began the week with a science assembly and throughout the week different classes completed a range of investigations on dinosaur footprints and fossil excavation. Children made 'ears' and straw flutes and watched our chicks in Year 5 hatching!
3. **Audit** – We have just completed a successful financial audit but there are some things we need to address with parents as part of our 'action' process.
 - All monies sent into school, whether it be dinner money for the day, week or longer, sports and trip contributions, should be placed in a named envelope indicating the amount of money enclosed and what the payment relates to. With this instruction from the auditor, the office will no longer accept loose payments of cash.
4. **Uniform** – The price of uniform is going up to £8.75 for sweatshirts, £10.25 for cardigans, PE Shirts £2.75 and PE shorts £4.25. This slight increase has been necessary to cover increased costs. The fleeces remain at £13.

School Dinners

Since January 2014 the number of children eating school meals has risen from 68 to 130. We are delighted that the children are enjoying the food so much. From September 2014, the cost of a school meal will be £2.20, to cover rising food costs. The Governors and I have sought assurances that prices will be maintained at this level for the foreseeable future. This figure is in line with the government's contribution for infant free school meals which will come into our school budget from September 2014.

Now parents are more confident with Dolce's Service, we would be grateful if all parents would pay for meals by Direct Debit. Dolce send a list of meals taken, together with notification of the amount of money to be deducted by Direct Debit, 10-14 days before this is taken from a parents account. Meals ordered, but not taken due to illness or other absence, are not charged for. (This method of payment was also recommended by the Auditor as an 'action' consideration towards a more cash-free office.) Direct Debit forms are available from the school office.

Parent Governor

Martin Bennett's role as Parent Governor is due for renewal in May 2014. I hope I will have parents' full support in re-electing Martin in May to enable him to continue as our Chair of Governors.

Martin has almost completed training with NCSL on a Chair of Governors course and he has made a substantial contribution to developing the role of Governors as part of the Leadership and Management at St. Michaels. Martin has also taken an active role in engaging with school data and setting challenging targets with the Data Committee for excellent results. He also supports the finance committee in ensuring the school achieves good value for money. Martin would be a great loss to the Governing Body of St. Michael's. However, if you feel that you would like to have opportunity to stand for this role, please approach school for a pack of relevant information.

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday 5th April 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Entry cards are available from the School Office - £1.50 per participant. This promises to be a great event – please join us in this fund raising adventure!

Parental donations of cakes and biscuits towards this event would be gratefully received in school on Friday 4th April!

Alison Drayton
Headteacher