

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 24 - Summer Term 2017  
 Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

Dear Parents,

The children have continued to work extremely hard this term and I've seen some fantastic artwork and DT and RE alongside the core subjects in the celebration assembly.

We are delighted with the SATs results. They are not validated yet but provisionally are as follows.

Year 2	Reading	Writing	Maths	Grammar/Spelling
At	82%	75%	82%	70%
Above	29%	21%	25%	
Year 6	Reading	Writing	Maths	Grammar/Spelling
At	78% National 71%	72% National 76%	78% National 75%	78% National 77%
Above	23%	19%	25%	

We are above National in overall performance - 61% Primary children achieved age related expectations across all subjects and St Michael's achieved 66%.

We are aware of the dedicated parental support of the children here at St. Michael's and thank you for your continued effort and encouragement of their learning. We are proud of our children and delight in their unique personalities which contribute to the school community.

### **SURVEY**

36/243 parents responded

These parents celebrated the fact we are a safe, nurturing environment which is kind and supportive. The surveys show a recognition that school offers increased support for individual children when it is needed. They state children are well taught and well supported by teaching assistants and are pleased with the wide range of activities, particularly in sport and music which are offered here. 89 % of the questions were graded at 'agree' or 'strongly agree'. I am delighted parents feel so positive and acknowledge it is only through parent partnership that we can ensure we continue to achieve this.

It is always helpful to reflect on things that the school could do better.

Below is a response to some of the questions which were marked 2 (strongly disagree) or 3 (disagree)

- 6/29 recorded disagreement with question 11- My child receives appropriate homework.

During my 29 years in education, I can say that homework is something every school struggles to get right.

It is a real challenge to:

- get the differentiation right and assess the child's ability to work independently
- check children understand the input for the set task and accommodate the different paces of learning
- give the right amount of homework in consideration of personal circumstances and taking account of outside tutors.

It is also a challenge for staff to give in depth feedback as they mark an average of 90 books each day after school, as well as tailoring lessons to meet learning needs for the following day. Of notable interest is that current research by the Sutton Trust has found that the majority of homework at Primary Stage has no significant impact on educational outcomes! The Curriculum and Pupil Progress Committee and the Steering Committee have both discussed homework over the past year. Feedback on this and a recent reading survey indicated Active Learn maths and Bug Club based homework are well received.

The best basis for progress is for a child to be supported in a secure, loving home so they are emotionally ready to learn. In addition, support in practising basic number bonds and times tables, bedtime stories, and trips and experiences to a wide range of environments will enrich and prepare your child for the taught curriculum in school. Finally, conversation around the table at home, discussing a wide range of topics will help develop your child's understanding of vocabulary and support the development of their sentence structures. This ultimately has an impact on their writing skills. Please see the class teacher in September with any individual concerns in the context of the above.

- 8/29 recorded disagreement with question 20 – I know who the school governors are

I have an excellent and skilled governing body. Their profiles, and information about the governing body can be found on the website. A summer newsletter goes out annually and should enable you to feel informed of their actions his year. In addition, there will be a board in the entrance hall with photographs of governors from September 2017.

- 3/29 recorded disagreement with question 21 – The school seeks my views and listens to my concerns.

This helpful comment was followed up with a face to face conversation. I hadn't realised for some parents the Main School Story Do Jo messages fail to flag up on their phones in the same way as the Teacher Do Jo messages. I have contacted the company and enquired why this happens. They are looking into this hoping to resolve the issue. Apologies for those who missed Sports Day or 'brief news' as a result. If I look at the hits on the Whole School Story the average is 195, it might be something to do with the phone brand?

#### Areas to address:

Puddings- Dolce's flyer shows the pudding options for the term. In addition, there is an orange button on the corner of the order screen which enables parents to see dessert choices. The choices include fruit, yoghurt and cake or biscuits. However, there is no pre-order facility. The cook knows the popular choices and bakes accordingly within the Dolce guidelines. If you do not wish your child to eat a cake/biscuit at lunch please let the kitchen know by letter and they will happily restrict the choice for individual children.

The suggestion to have school caps is problematic as it can aggravate the spread of nits and children don't keep them on. By sticking to a basic uniform which only specifies embroidered sweatshirts and cardigans and a badged PE shirt, all other uniform items can be purchased at supermarkets or chainstores enabling parents to buy uniform within their set budget.

#### *School Development Priorities requests have been noted:*

- *Enhancing outdoor activities- staff have 2 INSET days on this during 2017/2018*
- *All round education with focus on golden rules and Christian values – this will continue*
- *Focus on emotional well- being – two TA's trained last year and certain children will receive external support next year as appropriate to their needs. A school development priority will also be on Growth Mindset including resilience.*

#### **St. Michael's WRAP club**

I am indebted to Miss Mathers who set up the club last April. She has worked tirelessly to make it the success it is today. The children have been well cared for in a very exciting before and after school environment. It is with great sadness and understanding that as Miss Mathers' daughter leaves St. Michael's to begin Y7 at her secondary school, Nina has decided to step down from the Manager's role in order to redress a work/ life balance. I can only offer my heartfelt thanks to her for the last year.

#### **Wrap Club in September**

Evenings: Lisa Daly – Wrap Manager with support from Nina Mathers, Deputy Alex Charlton; Mariana Timmis; Emily Wright as play workers.

Mornings: Heather Elliott – Breakfast Manager, Yasmeen – play worker, and Amber Lynch nursery TA at 8.30 a.m. to support crossing back to school and accompanying the nursery children to cross the road to school with a familiar adult. Nina Mathers will also support from 8.30am.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Vicky Siddell Y5 class teacher and thank her for the time she has spent here at St. Michael's. We wish her a happy wedding in August and best wishes for the future in her new school.

We also wish Emily Wright well for the birth of her baby in November. Emily will finish her role as Teaching Assistant in Year 2 but will support our after school WRAP facility in September.

We wish our Year 6 leavers a very happy and successful future in their new schools and look forward to a smooth transition for all children as they progress to their new year groups at St. Michael's.

We also welcome children who are new to St. Michael's.

We are fortunate here at St. Michael's in having a solid, dedicated staff who, without exception, have the very best interests of your children at the heart of their teaching and learning. I thank them all for their enthusiasm and support.

Please have a safe and happy Summer break.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Alison Drayton  
Headteacher

# 2017/2018 – Notable Dates

## INTRODUCTORY WHOLE CLASS MEETINGS FOR PARENTS at 3pm – 3.30pm

**Year 1:** Wednesday 6th **September** **Year 2:** Thursday 7th **September** **Year 3:** Friday 8th **September** **Year 4**  
**: Monday 11th September** **Year 5/6 ;Tuesday 12th September**

- **Friday October 6th** – Macmillan Coffee Morning
- **Tuesday September 26th** – French Day. Add red to your school uniform and Mrs Drayton will provide croissants for breakfast and Miss Livert to do MFL assembly.
- **Monday October 9th** – Harvest Service. 9am School Hall
- **Monday 9th to Friday 13th - Internal NFER test week**
- **Monday 20th October to Friday 27th School closed for half term.**
- **Monday 6th 3.45pm till 7.00pm and Thursday 9th November 3.45pm till 5.30pm** – Parents Evenings
- **Monday 11th December** – EYFS Nativity 9.15am and 2.15pm school hall
- **Friday 16th December** – PTA Movie Night
- **Monday 18th December** – KS1 Nativity 9.15am school hall
- **Tuesday 19th December** – KS2 Carol Service 2.15pm and 6.30pm in Church
- **Friday 22nd December** – School Closes

## 2018

- **Tuesday 6th February** – 9am E Safety Assembly for Safer Internet Week
- **HALF TERM 9th Feb to 16th February 2017**
- **Parents Evening: Thursday 1st March 3.45pm to 7.30pm Monday 5th March 3.45pm – 5.00pm**
- **Thursday 1st March** – World Book Day and Book Fair
- **Monday 26th March** – Easter Service 9.15am and 1.30pm Church
- **SCHOOL CLOSES Thursday 29th March for Easter and returns Monday 16th April.**
- **Monday 14th – Friday 18th May** – Y6 SATs Week **NO ABSENCE GRANTED**
- **Monday 11th June** – Y1 phonics national test
- **Monday 25th June National Sports week with Friday 29rd June** – Sports Day
- KS1 AM KS2 pm
- **Thursday 28th June 6.30pm** New Nursery Parents meeting
- **Thursday 6th July 2.45pm** New Reception Parents meeting.
- **Friday 6th July** – Reports Out
- **Thursday 13th July** – Open afternoon 3-5pm for parents to see books.
- **Friday 20st July** – Leavers Disco
- **Monday 23rd July** – Leavers Service