

St. Michael's



Friday, 6th November 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back!

It was lovely to welcome the children back to school on Tuesday, looking refreshed after their half-term break. We hope you all enjoyed some of the beautiful weather we had; it is hard to think that we are in November with temperatures in the high teens! This is a very busy half-term, culminating in our Christmas celebrations which are all itemised in the 'dates for your diary' section. Can parents please ensure that their children arrive for school on time. The doors open at 8:40 am and are shut at 8:55 am. Many of our children are entering school by the front entrance because they are late. They are missing valuable early work and also a time to catch up with their friends. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Book Fair

Our annual travelling book fair arrives at school on **Thursday, 12th November** and will be open every night after school from 3:20 – 4:00 pm in the school hall. There are a wonderful selection of books which make great Christmas presents; I hear Father Christmas likes children to have books! The last evening for the Book Fair will be **Wednesday, 18th November**. Please feel free to come and browse with your children. The more books we purchase the more free books we will be given by the book company, so by buying books you will be helping to support our reading books in school.



Book Fair Competition!

We would like as many children as possible to enter our Design a Comic Villain competition. There will be prizes of some book tokens for the lucky winners and a chance for our school to have a comic wall mural painted at our school if we are lucky enough to win the national competition! We have some entry forms at the book fair on which to draw your ultimate meanie and we hope that the children will be as imaginative as ever! The closing date is officially 9th December, but we would like them in school by 20th November so that we can send off all our entries.

Music Quintet

On Tuesday, the musical quintet, 5Live came and performed for the children in assembly. The performers are all music teachers with Essex Music Services and have formed a small group to demonstrate the different wind instruments. They played the bassoon, French horn, trumpet, flute, clarinet, saxophone and oboe. They performed pieces of music in different styles and spoke about their instruments and how they worked. After assembly all the classes got an opportunity to try all the instruments and see if they could make a sound out of them. Some children were brilliant and have the potential to be future players! It was an excellent day which all the children thoroughly enjoyed!

11+ Club

Please remember that the 11+ club starts this **Tuesday, 10th November at 8.00 am** in the school hall. This is only for children who are currently in Year 5. It will run every Tuesday and Thursday until the children sit the 11+ (or not!) in September 2016. If you haven't filled in the reply slip, but would like your child to come along, they can turn up on Tuesday at 8.00 am. The children will need to come into school through the front entrance. They will be given a pack in a zip folder with a pencil and an exercise book for them to use. Please remember that this is a hard working club and they will receive extra homework which they must do. We also start promptly at 8.00 am and would ask

that the children are ready to start at that time. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions about this, please come and see me at any time.

Year 3/4 Christmas Show

We are already beginning rehearsals for our Christmas performance which is called The Magical Christmas Jigsaw. All the children in Year 4 will have a part and many in Year 3. The rest of the children will be the chorus and will be on the stage for the entire performance. Parents will receive ticket details nearer the time. It is all very exciting!

PE Bags and Kit

Can all parents please ensure that their child has the correct PE kit in school. As the weather gets colder, children can bring in dark coloured tracksuits to wear for outdoor games. It is the expectation that children bring their own PE bags into school and we would politely ask parents to enable their children to bring in their kit on the day required. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lunch Boxes

In the same way as PE kit, can parents please ensure that children who are having a packed lunch bring in their lunch boxes on the way into school. This is part of their progression to further independence and a sense of responsibility. It is good preparation for secondary school, even though this may seem a long way off for our younger children!!

School Photographs

All orders to be returned to the school office by Thursday 12th November.

Flu Immunisation

Reminder – If you completed the Immunisation Consent Form for your child to have the flu vaccination this is taking place next Wednesday 11th November.

Menu week 2 next week - new winter menus – on website.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 11th November – Year 5 Parent Lunch
Wednesday 25th November – Year 6 Parent Lunch – letter to follow
Friday, 11th December @ 1:30 pm – Formal Christmas Concert
Tuesday, 15th December @ 1:30 pm and Wednesday, 16th December @ 7:00 pm – Year 3/4 Christmas Performances
Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Lunch – letter to follow
Thursday, 17th December @ 10:00 am – School Carol Service at St. Michael's Church
Friday, 18th December – Break up for the Christmas holidays
Monday, 4th January 2016 – Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday, 5th January 2016 – Children return to school
Monday, 8th February @ 4:00 – 6:30 pm - Parent Consultation Evening
Wednesday, 10th February @ 4:00 – 6:30 pm - Parent Consultation Evening
Friday, 12th February – Break up for the half term holiday
Monday, 22nd February – Children return to school
Wednesday, 23rd March – The Easter service at St. Michael's Church @ 10:00 am
Thursday, 24th March – Break up for the Easter holiday
Monday, 11th April – Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday, 12th April – Children return to school
Week beginning 9th May – SATs exam week – Year 6
Friday 27th May – Break up for the half term holiday

Yours sincerely



Maria Rumsey
Headteacher

