

St. Michael's Newsletter



Friday, 13th May 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

E-Safety Evening

A brilliant and informative talk took place on Monday evening. Just over 20 parents came to hear one of the Johns, John Staines, talking about how to keep children safe on line. At times, it was quite shocking, looking at an excerpt from Grand Theft Auto, which some of our children watch and play regularly. We also listened to an uncut music track which children as young as 4 are able to download. The language was truly disgusting, being both racist and sexist in equal measure. All parents went away knowing more than they did when they arrived, even if the content was shocking and uncomfortable to watch. We would urge parents who did not attend to think very carefully about their child's use of on line gaming, posting pictures and messages and downloading music. It is so easy to suddenly be caught up in chat rooms with 'friends' they don't even know. Parents were very keen that John (or John and John) should come and talk to the children in an age appropriate way and we will organise this as soon as their diaries are free. John's main message is not to ban the use of the internet, but inform the children of the dangers of the 'Dark Web' and work with them. Most children said they would never tell their parents because they would turn the internet off; the children then just find another way to access various apps. Education seems to be the key here. The internet won't go away, so we have to educate our children in how to deal with all the nasty things that are out there. They can then talk to you knowing that it will be OK. Much food for thought. Many, many thanks to all the parents who turned up.

Congratulations

Our Year 6 children have been sitting their SATs examinations this week. They finished on Thursday with their final maths, reasoning paper. The children have been wonderful and a credit to their teachers and parents. They worked very hard and we hope have been really successful. There will be a party to finish the week off on Friday – we hope you enjoy yourselves children, you really deserve it. Enormous thanks to the teachers and learning support assistants who have supported the children so brilliantly; you have all been amazing! The results are available on July 5th and parents will be informed as soon after that as possible.

Front Playground

It has been brought to my attention that children are arriving on the playground as early as 8:20 am. As the doors do not open until 8:40 am no children should be on the playground before that time as they are not being supervised. The footpath gate will always be open so that children are not on the narrow footpath, but please ensure that your child is not on the school site before 8:40 am unless they are at Early Bird Learning, gymnastics or 11+. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Mini Tennis Competition

On Monday the 9th May Years 3 and 4 took part in a Tennis competition at The Marconi Tennis Centre. St. Michaels Junior School came third out of 8 schools and every one played 4 tennis games. We had to do short shots for our points, and that was tricky as we are used to the school playground so at the start we were doing long shots and over arm serves. But after the first rally we were not doing as many over arm serves. Massive thanks to Mr Sturton our P.E coach and Mr Leeding for organising this tennis competition and helping us get there. We all had a fantastic time!
By Alice Dunn and Rebecca Samuels



Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal

Thanks to everyone who bought a daffodil for this charity who helps families in the most difficult of circumstances. We raised **£25.30**. Your kindness is much appreciated.

PE Kit

If children attend sports clubs, they must wear the correct PE kit or another agreed kit. This applies to both lunchtime and after school activities. If children have not got a change of clothes for PE they will not be allowed to be part of that club. They do not have to wear cricket whites for example, as long as they have their white t shirts and black shorts.

Cake Sale

Congratulations to Alfie England and his family for raising an amazing **£125.00** for the Sick Children's Trust. Thank you to all the parents who contributed cakes and for all those who supported this worthwhile cause. Don't forget the cake sale this Friday, 13th May, to raise money for the AA Dog Rescue. This is organised by Olivia Davanzo in Year 5, so let's all support her efforts. Thank you.

Class Photographs

On **Friday, 27th May**, Tempest Photography will be in school taking all the children in their classes. This year, we are having a traditional style of photo being taken. We try to alternate the styles so that we have contemporary and more formal styles of photographs. We hope you will be pleased with the results! There is no pressure to buy the photographs.

Science Week

We were due to have Science Week after the SATS exams, but due to so many sporting/swimming/trips going on, we have decided to postpone the event until the Autumn Term. This will ensure we give it the full focus of our attention that it deserves. Thank you.

Lark in the Park! - Community Event

Don't forget to support this fun, late spring event to be held at Jubilee Park on **Saturday, 21st May**. There will be a walk around the village starting at the junior and infant schools. Parents will be able

to use the junior playground as a car park. The children will carry their homemade Olympic torches around the route and finish at Jubilee Park where they can meet with their parents and have a picnic (weather permitting!). Leaflets have already been sent out, but do get your children to make an Olympic torch; all designs are welcome!

After School Walk – Community Event

On Monday, 23rd May from 3:45 – 5:00 pm there will be an after school walk around Galleywood. It is all part of the Galleywood Festival Week and should be great fun! The walk will start at Chelmsford Star Coop and finish at the junior and infant schools. We hope as many children and their parents will take part in this fun activity. Leaflets have been sent out this week.

Choir Singing

On Wednesday, 25th May, the school choir will be singing at St. Michael's Church at 7:00 pm. Please come along and hear a beautiful concert of choral music from both adults and children.

Change to Menus

With effect from next week, Tuesdays, Week 2, the menu will be: Southern Fried Drumstick, Garlic Bread and Salad Sticks. The Grab and Go option is still available each day.

w/c 16th May - Menu week 2 new Summer menus – on website.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday, 18th May 1:00 – 3:00 pm – Music Festival Rehearsal at Springfield Primary School

Saturday, 21st May – Lark in the Park (community organised event).

Monday, 23rd May @ 3:45 pm – After School Walk (community organised event)

Wednesday, 25th May @ 7:00 pm – School Choir singing at St. Michael's Church

Friday 27th May - Break up for the half term holiday

Monday, 6th June - Children return to school

Wednesday, 22nd June – Junior Music Festival – Civic Theatre @ 7:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday, 25th/26th June – Camp-over

Friday, 1st July – School Sports Day

Saturday, 9th July – Joint Summer Fete with GIS – 12:00 midday – 3:00 pm

Friday, 22nd July - School closes for the summer holidays

Thursday, 1st September 2016 - Non-pupil day

Friday, 2nd September 2016 - Non-pupil day

Monday, 5th September 2016 - Children return to school after the summer break

Yours sincerely



Maria Rumsey
Headteacher