

St. Michael's Newsletter



Friday, 22nd July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Review of the Year

As we come to the end of yet another school year, it seems only yesterday that we were welcoming the children back to school for the start of the new school year. It has been another successful year for St. Michael's with many wonderful things to celebrate, whilst continuing to evolve our practice and improving outcomes for all our children. When the going gets tough, it is always good to remember that the children are at the heart of everything we do, and whilst we don't always get things right, our decisions are always based on the safety and well-being of our children. With a very volatile political climate, education has been on a stormy ride. There have been many changes, U turns and changes of personnel. The new curriculum is an excellent change, ensuring that our children are working at the highest standard possible. Our SATs results were excellent, all well above the national and Essex averages; the full set of results will be posted on our website in September when the marking reviews will be completed.

In sport, we have once again excelled. We are champions of Chelmsford and District in rounders, cricket and cheerleading and represented Chelmsford in the all Essex finals. Our footballers finished third in the league and many other sports enjoyed St. Michael's participants. Well done to all our sportsmen and to you the parents for giving up your time to transport the children all over Essex! We are constantly indebted to you.

Our music has gone from strength to strength with more children than ever learning cornet, clarinet, saxophone, flute, keyboards, recorders, ukuleles, oboes and guitars; nearly enough for a full symphony orchestra! Our choirs have represented the school at many community events and concerts, and have been very well received wherever we have been.

SMASH has been very successful this year raising large amounts of money to purchase items for school. To all the parents who give up their time so willingly, we thank you.

In Achievers' we thanked all our volunteer helpers who give their time so willingly for the benefit of the children.

Finally, I would like to thank all my wonderful staff who are so passionate about their children and their achievements. They work tirelessly in all departments in the school and ensure that the children are happy, safe, challenged and of course, well fed! Also, thank you to you our wonderful parents who support us in so many ways. When we have an equitable partnership between school and home, children thrive and for that we are so grateful.

I would like to wish you all a very happy summer holiday and hope that you manage to spend some quality time with your families. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday, 5th September 2016 on the front playground.

Staff Leaving

We say goodbye to two teaching assistants this term. Mrs. Torr has been an exceptional TA who has supported and cared for many children. Her passion and commitment to her children has been amazing and we will miss her bubbly personality and innovative ideas. We wish her every success in her new job which is a promotion for her and one she thoroughly deserves.

We also say goodbye to Sieuan Withey who has been a TA for 2 years at St. Michael's. She has been an excellent member of the team and we will miss her calm nature and dedication to the children. She is taking up a new post at a school nearer her home.

Mrs. O'Leary will be leaving us today after many years of loyal and dedicated service to St. Michael's. She has wrestled with ever diminishing budgets, somehow always managing to keep us in the black! She has nursed sick children and dealt with thousands of queries from concerned or anxious parents. Denise, we will really miss you as you swan off into a well - deserved retirement. Enjoy your beautiful grand - children and find time to talk to your husband! Good luck in all you do!

Mr. Leeding

We would all like to send our congratulations to Chris Leeding and his fiancée, Steph, who are getting married during the summer holidays. We wish them every happiness and a long life together.

Mrs. Orton

We say goodbye to Mrs. Orton today as she temporarily leaves St. Michael's to go on maternity leave. We will all miss her, but will eagerly await news of the birth of her baby. We wish her and her husband Andy every happiness as they embark on the journey of parenthood! We will let parents know as soon as we hear the good news.

Welcome to New Staff

We welcome Mrs. Andrea Wolahan (Business Manager), Louise Wilson and Elizabeth Berner (LSAs) and Theresa Kneller (Year 5 class teacher to cover maternity leave). We hope they will all be very happy at St. Michael's.

Lights, Camera, Memories

Year 6 gave us two excellent evenings of their end of year production. They spoke about all their memories from Year 6 involving extracts from Romeo and Juliet, West Side Story, tales from Aylmerton, philosophising about life in general and "female body hair"!! There were several solo performances from our many talented instrumentalists and singers. There was also an excellent Gangnam style dance routine with all the members of staff showing off their dance moves! Apparently, nobody moves like Mr. Foreman. Parents really enjoyed the show and showed their appreciation by writing lovely comments on the pieces of paper left on chairs. I would like to thank Kirstie Orton and Hannah Walker for their marvellous efforts in writing, choreographing and training the children to produce this wonderful show.

Music Concert

On Monday afternoon, there was a beautiful concert of different styles of music, both instrumental and vocal. The choir sang, recorder and ukulele groups played and many solo performers performed some lovely music. Thank you to all the families who supported the children so well on an exceptionally hot afternoon.

Work Experience Students

We have welcomed two ex- students from St. Michael's, Meg Franklin and Maisie Smith, who are currently pupils at Great Baddow High School to spend 2 weeks on work experience. They have visited most classes and become very much part of the school. We wish both the girls every success for the future, it has been a delight to have them here.

Next Term

We look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday, 5th September** from **8:40 am** on the front playground. The holiday dates for the new academic year are attached to this news letter.

Achievers' Assembly Survey

We have conducted a survey with our children about possibly revamping Achievers' Assembly. These are our interesting results. Watch this space for further developments!

Achievers' Assembly Survey Results.

	I really like this.	It's ok but could be improved.	I don't really like this.
Q1	Cleanest Classroom / Golden Bin.		
Votes	86	73	33
%	45%	38%	17%
Q2	Cycle Track / Kevin the Bear.		
Votes	112	64	19
%	57%	33%	10%
Q3	Star Of The Week.		
Votes	141	29	8
%	79%	16%	4%
Q4	Birthdays.		
Votes	87	58	35
%	48%	32%	19%
Q5	Outside of School Achievements.		
Votes	95	54	33
%	52%	30%	18%
Q6	Lunch Points.		
Votes	100	51	19
%	59%	30%	11%
Q7	House Points.		
Votes	133	30	18
%	73%	17%	10%

Thank you to all the children for sharing their views about the items included in our weekly Achievers' Assemblies.

Alongside this data, children also gave their comments and ideas which will help us to develop and improve assemblies from the Autumn Term such as adding a House Point value to Lunch Points - watch this space!

Thank you also to the Year 5 children who helped to collate this data.

Mr Foster.

- Please note: some decimal numbers rounded to form percentages so they may not add up exactly to 100%.
- Notable results in **bold type**.

Evacuation Day

On 7th July, the pupils of Year 5 at St Michael's Junior School were evacuated to the countryside. Firstly, we were checked in by billeting officers Stevens and Foster. Then we had a walk around the street in our 1940s clothes. After that, we went on the train in the demountable. For the first part of the morning, the boys were to clean up the woodland garden. We all worked our socks off and worked very well as a team. In the end, all the teacher were telling us how good the woodland garden looks now.

For the second part of the morning, the boys were to make parachutes with bin liners, sellotape and string. The task was to transport two toy soldiers with a two pence coin in a plastic cup attached to the parachute. Some plummeted to the ground whereas some fell rather gracefully.

As for the girls, for the first part of the morning they baked their cakes for the VE (victory in Europe) Day. For the second part of the morning, the girls made sandwiches and iced the cakes for the party.

We rounded off the day by having a lovely party full of fun, games and food. Finally, I'd like to than Mrs Stevens and Mr Foster and all the TAs who helped out on this wonderful day.
Report by Christopher Daly.

The Famous 55 Make Dens on Galleywood Common



"Guardians Of Ancora" HOLIDAY CLUB

Dates : Tuesday 26th July - Thursday 28th July

Time : 10am until 12:30pm

Where : St. Michael's Junior School, Barnard Road

Cost : This is a free club run by St Michael's Church

To register : Please complete the Registration Form sent home this week or available on the school website <http://www.st-michaels-jun.essex.sch.uk/whole-school-letters> and e-mail it to carolinejessiespeed@hotmail.co.uk or post it/drop it off at 4 Chelmerston Avenue, Great Baddow, CM2 9RE

Please be aware that places are limited and registration must be submitted by the 18th July.
You will be sent a confirmation e-mail within a week of registration. Please call Caroline on 01245
473472 / 07879452804 for more info.

Dinner menu - first week back in September will be week 3

Dates for your Diary

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