



St. Michael's CE (VA) Junior School



Friday 16th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

A message from Mrs Prigg

This week has been really exciting in school as yesterday we were fortunate enough to have a yoga teacher in school who taught sessions all day. The children really enjoyed having their own yoga mat and learning new stretches and balanced movements in yoga. We will now be incorporating yoga into our curriculum so thank you to Mr Leeding for organising this event. I have also enjoyed watching the year 3 children complete an obstacle course in PE, celebrate two birthdays with the children, participate in a maths workstation and learn with the children the best way to sketch the very famous Titanic ship!

One of the most heart-warming and offers of kindness this week has come from many of the children in 50 who wrote me a thank you note for bringing back the hot meals; our record so far this term is 118 children choosing to eat a school meal...that is fantastic. I have to say my efforts as a waitress are improving but it is certainly not all down to me, I have had staff helping me every day to ensure that we can resume normal service in the hall. All the staff appreciated this act of kindness and the three-catering staff; Mrs Darvill, Mrs Stagg and Mrs Garnham were so surprised to receive a hand-made thank you card for preparing the meals. I was really proud of all the children who decided to do this with no prompting from anyone in school. Well done.

Important dates for your diary

Autumn Term:

Please note that the date for Year 5/6 photos has changed.

23 rd October	Inset day
26 th – 30 th October	Half term
4 th November	Year 5 and 6 Individual School Photos (no siblings)
17 th December	Christmas Carol service <i>provisional date</i>
18 th December	Last day of Autumn term
4 th January 2021	Spring term
4 th February	Parents' Evening form to parents
12 th February	End of term
15 th – 19 th February	Half term
22 nd February	Inset day
3 rd /4 th March	Parents' Evening
10 th / 11 th March	Parents' Evening
22 nd March	Aylmerton – year 6
26 th March	End of the spring term
29 th – 9 th April	Easter holidays
12 th April	Summer term
31 st May	Half term
10 th June	Year 2 transition meeting at 2pm and 6pm
16 th June	Year 2 handover with GIS HT
25 th June	Year 2 afternoon - tour and read
25 th June	Reports out to parents
30 th June	Year 5 taster day to GBHS (9.00 – 2.45pm)
5 th July	Class swap afternoon – years 3, 4 and 5 and parent meeting
6 th July	Sports Day
13 th July	Reserve Sports day
15 th July	Year 6 leavers at the Church
20 th July	Last day of term
21 st July	Inset day

Secondary School Applications for September 2021 – Reminder for Year 6 Parents:

As you may be aware, the statutory closing date for applications from parents of Year 6 children (for a secondary school place in Year 7 from September 2021) is **31st October 2020**.

Applications can be made via the website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions .

Our Website

Remember that you can access lots of important information on our website: key dates, school dinner menus, not to mention our class pages showcasing recent work. Please take a look on <http://st-michaels-jun.essex.sch.uk/>

Parents' Evening

Can we just say a huge thank you to all the parents that attended our face-to-face parents' evening appointments. We appreciate how different it all was but thank you for respecting the face mask messages and all the other guidelines we had to follow, we really did appreciate it. We hope you even managed to get used to the 10-minute bell!!

Year 5 and 6 entrance onto the front playground

We are still needing to use two entrances onto the school site owing to the Government guidelines however, I am aware that as the weather deteriorates this pathway is becoming muddy despite the matting. As I plan to continue to use this entrance/exit, after the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, I have generated a quotation to make this a more permanent pathway. I will keep you informed as to when this work can and will take place. In the meantime, we have ordered non-slip matting to cover the area.

P.E. Kits:



Could we please remind everyone to be wearing the school PE kit to school on their PE days.

Tempest Individual School Photos

Thank you to so many parents that ordered the individual photographs, they are to be treasured. Please can we remind you that orders need to be in by the **22nd October 2020**.

Our link with Manor Lodge:

Despite current restrictions, we are determined to maintain the link with Manor Lodge Care Home that we have developed over the last two years. Next week, pupils in 5O will take part in a video call in the classroom where they will be able to get to know residents virtually! Watch this space for news on how this goes.



Harvest and Thankfulness

Thank you so much for all the donations we have received for the Food Bank

TTRS Results Tables for this fortnight:

Week Ending 2nd October 2020

	First	Second	Third
Year 3 most improved	-	-	-
Year 3 most correct answers	Charlotte C (1,640 answers)	Radinu W	David O
Year 4 most improved	Alice B	Ben E	Laura M
Year 4 most correct answers	Louis S (7,034 answers)	Charlie F (5,132)	Ben E
Year 5 most improved	Marley C	Abigail C	Elizabeth R
Year 5 most correct answers	Isaac M	Tommy W	Alessandro E
Year 6 most improved	-	-	-
Year 6 most correct answers	Sam H (2,136 answers)	Jack H	Summer-Rose L

Well done to everyone who logged on to Times Tables Rock Stars this week, especially the children in Year 3 who have played for the first time! So many of our Year 3 children showed a 100% improvement: what an excellent effort! Some of our children in the other year groups have answered a huge amount of questions, particularly Louis S in Year 4 – wow!

Week Ending 9th October 2020

	First	Second	Third
Year 3 most improved	Mia W-R	Amaya K	Chloe G
Year 3 most correct answers	Radinu W	Amaya K	Jumana E
Year 4 most improved	Thomas L	Madeleine R	Billy H
Year 4 most correct answers	Charlie F	Lucy W	Louis S
Year 5 most improved	Abigail C	Nathan E	Casey S
Year 5 most correct answers	Isaac M	Tommy W	Ellie F
Year 6 most improved	Kologn B	Finn R	Jack H
Year 6 most correct answers	Sam H	Jack H	Finn R



House Captain News!

Normally, at the beginning of every year, the children get together in house groups to elect their new house captains. As you would expect, this year, we have had to do things a little differently! Each potential house captain recorded a short speech explaining why they would like to be considered for the position and what qualities they would bring to the role. As you can imagine, this was quite daunting! The clips were then shown to the rest of the children in school, who were able to vote for their choice. Well done to all of the children who put themselves forward for the role of house captain – you had all clearly put a lot of effort into your speeches.

The house captains that were elected this year are:

St Patrick:	Jessica and Adelaide
St David:	Mia and Millie
St Andrew:	Iris and Oliver
St George:	Freddie and Ethan

I hope you all have a fun and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Orton