

St. Michael's CE (VA) Junior School



Friday 20th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

A message from Mrs Prigg

I have enjoyed seeing all the odd socks today, well done to everyone for supporting this campaign. Thank you



Important dates for your diary Autumn Term:

16th December	Christmas jumper and dinner day
18th December	Last day of Autumn term

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/>.

Healthy snack

As per our recently updated Healthy School policy, we politely request that your child brings a healthy snack to school for break-time. This policy can be found on our website or can be emailed directly to you if you contact the office. Please no items containing nuts.

Bike and scooter reminder

At the present time, children are not allowed scooters or bikes in school because of the bubble restrictions.

Safeguarding

We will be including a safeguarding section in our newsletter's from now on to keep you up to date.

This week:

The Two Johns (<https://esafetytraining.org/>)

The Two Johns are ex police professionals who are experts at helping parents & carers keep their children safe online. Their website has a huge amount of information and advice and there are links to other useful organisations. For ease, they have various social media set ups including Facebook and Twitter that you can follow to be sure you have the latest advice.

Among Us

This is the new 'favourite' amongst the children at school. The Year 6's have even invented a playground version. It's a safe game with age appropriate content for junior age children however it's becoming clear via information from internet safety forums that many users are seeing explicit chat. Also, worryingly, children are joining strangers on third party apps like What's App and Discord as the game becomes easier to play. It might be an idea to check in to see how your children are accessing the game.

The Ever Popular Fortnite

Fortnite continues to be very popular with lots of young people. It is rated PEGI 12 for frequent mild violence which means it is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age. It is also important to bear in mind that when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the chat features of a game which Fortnite does include.

Chatting to strangers and inappropriate language:

Fortnite contains voice and text chat. Due to the nature of the game, your child may be chatting to strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure your child knows how to report players for any inappropriate behaviour: <https://www.epicgames.com/help/en-US/fortnite-c75/battle-royale-c93/how-do-i-report-bad-player-behavior-in-fortnite-a3276>.

Parental Controls

Fortnite includes a number of parental controls to help you make it a safer environment for your child including disabling voice chat, filtering language and setting privacy settings. Find out more about parental controls here: <https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/parental-controls>. Also, remember to set up age appropriate parental controls on the device your child is playing on as well.

We always recommend playing the game with your child so you can see what they are playing and monitor the sort of chat that they are listening to/contributing to. Remind your child that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns.

Lunchtime Points

Every Thursday, Mrs Prigg will collect the lunch points and during our streamed assembly that day, she will draw out three children. Each of these children will be able to bring one friend for hot chocolate and marshmallows with Mrs Prigg on a Friday morning during Achievers' Assembly. This will take place in the hall and will be staggered due to Covid regulations.

Our pupils can be awarded a lunchtime point for good behaviour in the hall or on the playground, healthy eating and displaying social graces and table manners.



SMASH welcomes two new additions to the team this term - Suzie Sherborne (mum to Keira, 4MC) and Kate Holmes (mum to Sam, 4M). They join Vicki Cable, who's been on the team since 2016.

More than ever SMASH needs the support of its school community as Covid has limited our fundraising opportunities this year. So we've put our heads together (from a safe distance!) to come up with some exciting ways for us all to raise funds for the school. We've been working together with staff on a wish list and will let you know details very soon of the exciting projects we hope to raise money for and how the school and its pupils will benefit. Watch this space!

In the meantime...Christmas! The children have been working hard this week to design their Christmas cards. Order details and when to order by will be included in the pack. 20% of your money goes directly to SMASH. This has always been a great fundraiser for the school, so please look out for their design and order information coming home with them very soon!

NON-UNIFORM DAY - Friday 27th November

We're inviting all pupils to come to school on this day in non-uniform with a £1 donation (or more if you'd like!). Please ensure that your child's clothes are appropriate and are suitable to do PE in if your child normally does PE on a Friday.

We'd love to hear from you if you have any fundraising ideas you'd like to share with us, or if you'd like to be part of the SMASH team - contributions big and small are always extremely welcome. We're currently a very small team so new members would be very welcome. We are also on the look out for someone to take over the role of treasurer. If you have any experience in this department and think you can help, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact us via the SMASH facebook page (search for SMASH, then groups, and you'll see the SMASH logo come up), or the school office if you're interested. Look out for SMASH updates on our facebook page, and thank you for your continuing support.

Office desks suitable for class teachers in the classroom environment

Please can we ask you to consider the school if you hear of offices that may be replacing office furniture in the future or who are getting rid of any desks. We are looking specifically for office desks for the teachers. Thank you in advance.

Marking Remembrance Day 2020 in school

In keeping with their 'Britain At War' topic this term, Year 5 led us in our Remembrance Day commemorations once again this year. With the absence of a live audience, our mark of respect to the fallen was pre-recorded and shared in classes at the same time, culminating in the whole school participating in the two minute silence. The service featured poetry, solo singing, use of sign language and was also a showcase of the wonderful work produced by Year 5 this term. A huge well done to all of our Year 5 pupils for their efforts and for displaying empathy beyond their young years – myself, Mr Leeding and Mrs Prigg were exceptionally proud of them all for displaying our four Christian values so superbly. Children across the school were also able to identify our four values displayed by those serving in the armed forces past and present.



Children In Need

This was very low key this year as we appreciate how difficult things are for parents at the moment and didn't want to exacerbate this with requests for spotty/stripy clothing this year when that could have proven difficult with non-essential shops closed. However, we did bring it to the attention of the children on Friday and classes recognised it in different ways.

TTRS Results Tables for this fortnight:

	First	Second	Third
Year 3 most improved	Ethan S	Lottie H	Isabel-Rose C
Year 3 most correct answers	Radinu W	Giselle B	Isaac H
Year 4 most improved	Martha A	Teddy J	Keria S
Year 4 most correct answers	Louis S (8,690!)	Joseph N (5,137!)	Scarlet W-N
Year 5 most improved	Finn F	Advika A	Casey S
Year 5 most correct answers	Isaac M	Max H	Megan S
Year 6 most improved	Kologn B	Alice O	Jessica Sh
Year 6 most correct answers	Jack H	Finn R	Alice O

Showcasing Our Learning

Year 6

A Science investigation to find out which of the three Galapagos finch beaks (peg, cocktail stick or bulldog clip) was better adapted for collecting seeds, nuts or insects (rice, chickpeas and raisins!).



Showcasing Our Learning

Year 3

Making fossils and marking Diwali by making paper balls to represent lights in Year 3 classes this fortnight.



Another fun-packed fortnight in school! I do hope that you have a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Orton