

# St. Michael's CE (VA) Junior School



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## A message from Mrs Prigg



There have been so many exciting activities around the school this week.....The Nativity Journey at St Michael's on Monday was fantastic, although a little muddy! The children and staff trudged around the school on their journey through the nativity, listening to the story unfold, outside in the fresh, chilly air with Christmas carols and cupcakes! I have made Santas with 3W, which was thoroughly enjoyable, congratulated year 5 children on their written work, watched Archery on the playground with years 5 and 6 and joined staff in serving all of the delicious Christmas meals whilst Mrs Maxwell and some of the children played Christmas Carols on the hall piano. Although different, it has been special this year and the children have ended this term full of excitement for the Christmas holidays.

The staff, Governors and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, safe and well.

## Important dates for your diary Spring Term:

<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Remote learning day (see information in red box below)
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	First day back at school

### Remote Learning Day

Letters were sent from the office on the 14.12.20 about a change to the Spring start date and to inform parents that the remote learning work will have been set by the teachers this week for **Monday 4th January** as this will now be a remote learning day. Children and staff will not be returning to school until **Tuesday 5th January**.

### **Letter from Hollie Pearne-Webb MBE**

In Year 5, a homework task was set recently for the children to write to someone that they admire to ask them about how Covid restrictions and lockdown have impacted on them. Ellie in 5O wrote a wonderful letter to Hollie Pearne-Webb, an Olympic standard hockey player. To her delight, Hollie replied with a comprehensive letter and commented on how well Ellie writes! She said: *'I will keep an eye out for you in the next few years in the England and GB Team.'* Well done, Ellie – what a super reward for your homework efforts!

### **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/>.

### **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.



Thank you from SMASH!

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your amazing support over the last two months – we have raised an incredible £1,225 through the non-uniform day, Christmas cards, Christmas raffle and the Merry SMASH-mas bags. Thank you for supporting these activities so generously.

Angela Lavery and Nicky Aylett joined the team and along with Kate put so much time and effort into creating the activity bags and prizes – thank you ladies! We'd also all like to say thank you to the staff of St Michael's for their brilliant support and again for their generous donations to the adults' raffle.

We'll be back in 2021 with plans for more great activities and will announce what we plan to use the money for. We will also have a treasurer on board when Chelsea Dunbar (a mum at the Infants) joins the team in January.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and stay safe and well – see you in the New Year!

The SMASH team

## Safeguarding:

Looking around the safeguarding websites, the experts are all in agreement – keeping children safe online over Christmas. Here are a selection of the brilliant websites to look at:

### E-safety The Two Johns

We hope everyone has a safe and happy Christmas. Children may be receiving new devices and will certainly be having lots of opportunities to be online. Remember the new 'Stranger Danger' is your children talking and messaging with strangers online - strangers who they start to believe are their friends. Please use our website to find out more about this.

<https://esafetytraining.org/>

### UK Safer Internet Centre

With technology gifts being high on wish lists each year it is important to ensure that you and your children are safe when playing with new devices. To help you over the holidays, we've set out a few top tips to help keep your household safe online.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/staying-safe-online-christmas>

### National Online Safety

A free online safety guide on the 12 online safety tips of Christmas for children with new devices.

Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/12-tips-for-christmas>

## *Smart School Uniform at St Michael's*

I appreciate that this term you have tried incredibly hard to ensure you send your child/children in to school in the correct uniform and thank you for your support with this. At times, this has proven difficult for families, as a direct impact of Covid-19; as families have been unable to access the shops or have ordered uniform which has taken much longer than usual to arrive. We completely understand that this has been out of your hands and that is why we have made allowances. As a school, we have also introduced the daily mile and the option to wear trainers and the Government guidelines have meant that children have had to come to school in their PE kit.

With all of this considered, I feel that, with the start of a new term, we would like to reiterate our expectations and the response you will receive if incorrect uniform is worn,

From the first week back in the spring term, if incorrect PE kit is worn, your child/children will receive a note from the class teacher, Sport's coach or Mrs Cullen and we will expect correct kit to be in place for the next PE lesson. Your child will not be able to participate, in the PE lesson, without the correct PE kit and your child will have to complete work in the other year group class.

## PE kit

We ask that pupils are provided with black/navy shorts (not cycling shorts) and a plain white PE top. During cold weather, children must wear a plain sweatshirt/tracksuit in black/navy or dark grey for outdoor PE.

Long hair must be tied back.

Whilst most PE work in the hall is undertaken in bare feet, children will need a change of footwear for PE lessons taken outside or for games lessons and either plimsolls or lightweight trainers are suitable for this purpose.

Earrings, if worn (one plain stud per ear lobe) **must be removed for PE**. This is in line with current Health and Safety Guidance. Since children can find it difficult to remove and replace earrings themselves, the best arrangement is for them not to be worn on PE days. It is not permissible for earrings to be covered with Micropore tape.

Please let us know if your child is unable to do PE for any reason.

## Uniform

Long or short grey trousers.

Grey skirt or pinafore dress (blue and white gingham or striped dresses in the summer).

White shirts/blouses, polo tops to be tucked in (with or without the school logo).

Grey, white or dark-coloured socks or tights

Royal blue pullovers/cardigans or the school sweatshirt.

School fleeces are available for outdoor wear.

It should be noted that it is not acceptable for children to have extreme haircuts for school.

Hair should not be coloured and long hair must be tied up with plain blue or black hair ties/scrunchies or headbands. We do keep a clean stock of plain, brown/black hairbands that your child will need to use if they do not come to school with their hair tied up or if they wear hair accessories not in line with the school uniform policy (see website).

Please note that long hair, that is not tied up, can be a distraction to other children.

With the exception of stud earrings, jewellery is not permissible during the school day and children should not wear nail varnish to school.

At no time are clothes with pictures, slogans, or logos other than the school badge acceptable.

High fashion items should not be worn in school. Please speak to Mrs. Cullen or Mrs. Prigg if you are unsure what to provide for your child.

## Footwear

We ask that all children wear sensible, black shoes. In the summer term, sandals which have a back strap (not plastic jelly shoes or flip flops), may be worn. These should be in black, white, brown or navy. Please do not send your child to school in fashion shoes or boots, especially with high heels, as these can be a danger in the playground. Boots are defined as shoes covering the ankle bone. Trainers, baseball boots and light-weight canvas shoes of any colour are also unacceptable. Black trainers are not suitable school shoes.

We encourage children to bring in trainers to run/walk the daily mile, but these are not to be worn all day and children should arrive in school in school shoes and change back into their school shoes after the mile is completed. These trainers can be kept in your child's school bag.

Wellington Boots may be worn in wet weather, but please ensure that your child has another pair of shoes to change into on arrival at school.

For whatever reason, if your child does not attend school in his/her school shoes then we would need a note from home explaining the reason. This note is to be handed to your child's class teacher. You will receive a phone call from school asking for an explanation if a note is not sent in.

Uniform with the school logo, is available exclusively from One Stop School Gear, conveniently located in Beehive Lane, Great Baddow. One Stop can be contacted on 0845 466 7208. Other items of the school uniform can be purchased from the supermarket chains too.

**TTRS Results Tables for this fortnight:**

**Times Tables Rockstar Leaderboard – Week ending 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>
<b>Year 3 most improved</b>	Gruffydd L	Harrison L	Isaac H
<b>Year 3 most correct answers</b>	Radinu W	Noah L	Tommy G
<b>Year 4 most improved</b>	Roxanna W	Fraiah P	Billy H
<b>Year 4 most correct answers</b>	Louis S	Joseph N	Scarlet WN
<b>Year 5 most improved</b>	Sophie S	Frankey A	Kayce-Lee C
<b>Year 5 most correct answers</b>	Tyler V	Isaac M	Alessandro E
<b>Year 6 most improved</b>	Jess S	Molly S	Alice S
<b>Year 6 most correct answers</b>	Jack H	Finn R	Kologn B

**Times Tables Rockstar Leaderboard – Week ending 11.12.20**

	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>
<b>Year 3 most improved</b>	Benjamin W	Leo H	Emma W
<b>Year 3 most correct answers</b>	<u>Radinu W</u>	Isaac H	Emma W
<b>Year 4 most improved</b>	Keira S	Sophie B	Thomas L
<b>Year 4 most correct answers</b>	Louis S	Joseph N	Dylan TW
<b>Year 5 most improved</b>	Ollie S	Tyler V	Ella M
<b>Year 5 most correct answers</b>	Tyler V	Tommy W	Ella S
<b>Year 6 most improved</b>	Aimee S	Evan G	Summer Rose L
<b>Year 6 most correct answers</b>	Jack H	Finn R	Summer Rose L

**Showcasing Our Learning**

***Year 3 Christmas hoops – produced in record time due to two weeks isolation!***



## Nativity Day

*'On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December we did a nativity day, we went to five different stations. The first station was in the woodland area and we had to follow the feathers to the bible reading about Mary who received the message that she would have a baby boy and name him Jesus. Next, we went into the hall with Reverend David and Ellen. Their station was about how Joseph felt and how he was quietly going to divorce Mary but then in a dream, Angel Gabriel explained it all to him. Afterwards we went to the hut and read the next bible reading about why Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Before lunch we did the station that was about the shepherds and the angels who came to them and told them the good news that the Son of God was born. In the apple trees was the King's area. On the trees were stars and on some stars were questions and on the others were the answers. When we found a pair that went with each other, we went to tell our teachers. Then the worship leaders took the star and the class followed. Then in the afternoon, all the classes did the activities that went with all the stations.'*

*By Milly and Trinity – year 6*



What a term! So much learning has gone on and it has been great to be back together as a school community again. Your children have shown adaptability, kindness and such enthusiasm for learning. I wish you all a very festive and restful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all raring to go in the Spring term!

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs Orton*