

St. Michael's CE (VA) Junior School



Friday 4th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,



Merry SMASH-mas!

As we all know, this year's events have put a spanner in the works when it comes to running the usual Christmas events. But all is not lost! The SMASH team has been busily working behind the scenes putting together Christmas activity bags for your children which will be on sale outside the school at pick up on the front playground, next week, with social distancing being maintained and with no impact on the staggered times. We will be wearing masks too.

Years 4 and 5 will be able to buy their activity bags on Wednesday 9th December after school at 3.20pm and Years 3 and 6 will be able to buy theirs at 3.10pm on Thursday 10th December.

Bags are priced at £3 each, and will contain Christmas treats and games, a wooden decoration they can decorate themselves, entry into two different competitions to win prizes, and entry into a raffle to win a kids' goodie hamper.

Please look out for updates via the SMASH Facebook page, and email, for details of when your child's year group can purchase theirs. We look forward to seeing you on the playground next week.

And just a reminder that you can buy raffle tickets via Parent Pay to win a hamper of wine, Christmas food and treats. There are 3 hampers to be won and tickets are £2.50 each. Thank you all for your continued support.

The SMASH team x

Important dates for your diary Autumn Term:

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

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.

Snow Closures

As the weather gets colder and the season of snow approaches, please be aware that we will do everything possible to keep the School open. In extreme weather, a decision will be made as early as possible as to whether it is safe to keep the School open and information will be sent out via ParentPay and posted on the News section of the School Website and the Facebook page. You can also access the Essex Schools Emergency Closures page at:

<https://secureweb1.essex.gov.uk/SchoolClosures/SchoolClosuresDisplay> which is updated at 6pm every day.

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/> .

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.

O2 NSPCC Net Aware

The internet is full of exciting things. Apps and technology are changing quickly, and it can be hard for parents to keep up. But it's important they do. Because for kids, online life is real life. And just like real life, it comes with risks. That's why O2 has teamed up with the UK's leading children's charity, the NSPCC, to develop an award-winning partnership to help parents understand their kids' online world and how to keep them safe within it. Follow the link for more information.

<https://www.o2.co.uk/help/online-safety>

UK Safer Internet Practise

There has been a disturbing rise in the amount of child sexual abuse material which has been produced by children who have been tricked into filming themselves on webcams by online predators. 44% of content containing such images is self generated. The guidance from Uk Safer Internet Practise is 'Talk to children about their online life, check the age suitability of games and films, Use parental controls at all times.'

Is TikTok Safe

Panorama have aired a brilliant programme looking at TikTok. It's not suitable for children to watch but is essential for parents of children using the app. Follow the link below.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000p3p9>

Galleywood Youth Football Club – Thank You!

Wow! We have been extremely lucky to have been donated a huge amount of equipment for use in our PE lessons by Galleywood Youth Football Club.

26 Footballs with carry bag

150 marker Cones

50x Bibs

30 Large Marker Cones

2x Hurdle sets

2x Agility Ladders

12x training poles

A complete football kit.

2x First aid kits



A huge thank you to the club for their generosity.

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.



Times Tables Rockstar Leaderboard – Week ending 20th November 2020

	First	Second	Third
Year 3 most improved	Analia G	Chloe S	Ronni A
Year 3 most correct answers	Radinu W (7,451)	Tommy G	Giselle B
Year 4 most improved	Madeleine R	Freya T	Mia S
Year 4 most correct answers	Joseph N (8,379)	Louis S	Lucy W
Year 5 most improved	Sophie S	Abigail C	Amber B
Year 5 most correct answers	Isaac M	Max J	Tommy W
Year 6 most improved	Jessica Sh	Millie Si	Izabelle S
Year 6 most correct answers	Jack H	Summer-Rose L	Finn R

Times Tables Rockstar Leaderboard – Week ending 27th November 2020

	First	Second	Third
Year 3 most improved	Marleigh B	Alfie-Lee S	Louie C
Year 3 most correct answers	Radinu W	Tommy G	Giselle B
Year 4 most improved	Mya W	Fraiah P	Noah H
Year 4 most correct answers	Louis S (8,158!)	Joseph N	Billy H
Year 5 most improved	Georgie C	Abigail C	Ewan R-D
Year 5 most correct answers	Tommy W	Alessandro E	Isaac M
Year 6 most improved	Jack E	Summer-Rose L	Kassadi T
Year 6 most correct answers	Jack E	Summer-Rose L	Finn R

Showcasing Our Learning

It's Christmas Hoop time!

Our Christmas hoops are up in the hall so Christmas starts here! Our theme this year was the famous Yuletide poem: 'A Visit From St. Nicholas' ('Twas the night before Christmas) by Clement Clarke Moore. Here are our efforts:



Pictures of Year 3's festive contribution will follow in next fortnight's newsletter!

We are **so** proud of how hard your children are working and the resilience that they are showing in these times. Thank you for your continued support.

Christmas Cards

The School post box will be situated in the hall this year and will be ready for action on the 7th December. Children will post their cards in their class post box and once a day one child from each class will go to the main post box and deposit them.

The cut off day for cards to be posted will be Wednesday 16th December (before lunchtime). The cards will then be sorted, 48 hours later, by Mrs Prigg and Mrs Dines in the St Michael's Sorting Office and delivered to the class post boxes ready to be distributed on Friday 18th after lunchtime.

Please make sure that your children have written first names, surnames and most importantly class names on the front of their envelopes.



Amazon Wish List

Thank you to all our anonymous donors for our gifts this week. It really does help.

You can use the following link in your browser to access our wish list and then log in <http://amzn.eu/iIEmThI> .

Every gift is important to us no matter how large or small.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Orton