

Friday 25th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,



A message from Mrs Prigg

Thank you to you all for your support with the themed days and fundraising events that have taken place recently. The school has been a very colourful place recently and full of excitement.

We are also pleased to let you know that we now have a canopy sail at the back of the school to provide shade in the summer months – the children have been very excited watching this going up!



I have enjoyed spending a lot of time in classes, with a focus on the Easter story across all the year groups, creating pieces of art work for our Easter service. I have also thoroughly enjoyed watching the year 4 children demonstrate their Bollywood dancing as well as year 5 children completing information pages about endangered species!

I hope that the sun continues to shine at the weekend for all of our families to enjoy!

Important dates for your diary

March 31st	Easter service at the Church
April 1st	Spring term ends
April 4th	Easter holidays
April 19th	Children return - summer term
April 22 nd	SMASH Easter disco
April 28 th	SMASH film night
May 9th	SATs week
May 18th	Year 6 to Bhaktivedanta Manor Temple (8.30am - 2.30pm) - details to follow
May 18 th	Year 5 to the Science Museum
May 27th	Inset day - teacher training day
May 30th	Half Term
June 6th	Inset day - teacher training day
June 7th	Children return to school
June 22 nd	Parent Voice
June 29th	Year 5 taster day to Great Baddow High School
July 1st	Reports to parents
July 6 th - 8th	Year 4 residential
July 13th	Sports Day
July 16 th	SMASH summer fayre
July 20th	Year 6 Leavers' service at the Church
July 21st	End of term - summer holidays

Our website

Remember that you can access lots of important information on our website which you may find useful. Please look on <http://st-michaels-jun.essex.sch.uk/>.

Dinner Menu

Next week's menu will be week 1. There will be a sticker on the plate competition on Friday 1st April – your child could win an Easter treat!

Amazon Wish List

If you would like to help the school, have a look at our Amazon wish-list – no gift is too small and every gift is important to us.

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

Parent Voice - 'Building resilience at home and school'

Thank you to all the parents that attended the Parent Voice last week, it was so lovely to see you all and I hope you found the session valuable. All the information, from the guest speakers, can be found below:

YMCA -Josephine Smith- contact josephine.smith@ymcachelmsford.org.uk for details on the coffee mornings she holds and questions you might have after hearing her speak. For YMCA support in school please call Catherine Cullen on the school number. For more information on the YMCA in general please visit <https://www.ymcaessex.org.uk/>

Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service - Deborah Smith - Deborah is a family support worker who helps children and families. More information about the service can be found at <https://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/> For help referring please speak to Catherine Cullen at school.

Sam Harris owns SJH Counselling which is a private self-referral Counselling practice based in Great Baddow. <http://sjhcounselling.co.uk/>

Young Carers - Josie supports children and young people who have a caring role within their family set up. This can involve practical or emotional support. Click here for further information. <https://youth.essex.gov.uk/young-people/young-carers/>

Family Innovation Fund - several of the speakers spoke about FIF. This is a government funded initiative that offers online 1:1 support to children and their families via various agencies in Essex. The fund is open to school or self-referral - for more information and to access an online referral form <https://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/2019/04/family-innovation-fund-fif-early-help-services/> For help referring please speak to Catherine Cullen at school.

We would like to run a follow up session to focus specifically on strategies and ideas to build resilience at home and we have invited Sam Harris (SJH counselling) and Carly (YMCA) to spend more time-sharing ideas to support parents. The date for this is Wednesday 22nd June 2022 at 9.45am. Refreshments and space for little ones will be available.

Food Bank Donations

Thank you for all of your food bank donations to date. We are continuing to collect via our boxes in the front foyer and the following items are currently required:

FOOD ITEMS

FRUIT SQUASH

TINNED RICE PUDDING

LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE

POWDERED POTATO SACHETS

POWDERED CUSTARD SACHETS

NON-FOOD ITEMS

MENS DEODORANT

MENS SHAMPOO

TOILET ROLLS

Holi Celebrations

We marked the Hindu festival of Holi by wearing our most colourful clothes to school last Wednesday. Every class had a taster session of Bollywood dancing too – it was huge amounts of fun!



TTRS results:

Times Tables Rockstar Leader board – Week ending 18.03.22

	First	Second	Third
Year 3 most improved	Bella Rose G	George M	Evie C
Year 3 most correct answers	Zoe I	Florence K	Ennis C
Year 4 most improved	Mia WR	Charlotte S	Emma W
Year 4 most correct answers	Radinu W	Giselle B	Analia G
Year 5 most improved	Amy F	Gabriela O	Finn WN
Year 5 most correct answers	Kenneth I	Joseph N	Scarlet WN
Year 6 most improved	Nora R	Isaac M	
Year 6 most correct answers	Isaac M	Nora R	Marley C

Year 5	261
Year 4	259
Year 3	119
Year 6	9

GBHS Concert

On Saturday 12th March I had the honour of watching 4 of our pupils compete in the first primary music competition at Great Baddow High School. One of our pupils, Caleb (5L), had the daunting task of being the first to perform - he did an amazing job and even kept his famous smile throughout. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to Ella M (6S) play clarinet and couldn't help but marvel at the progress she has made over the years. Annabella's (4R) performance of a rock classic had the audience tapping along and her powerful voice is going to be one to watch out for in the years to come. Amelia (5L) was the final performer and, although nervous, she should be as proud of her performance as I was. There were 14 competitors, a range of singers and instrumentalists and I was overjoyed when Annabella received a Highly Commended and Ella was awarded 3rd place. Mrs Maxwell



'Finding the Will' Shakespeare Workshops

Last week, each year group was lucky enough to have the story of William Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' told by fabulous actors, Jules and Richard, from the company: 'Finding the Will'. The session was an interactive one and the children played the main characters and charted the main events of the story. Following that, much work has been going on in English lessons in the form of writing sonnets, mind-mapping, mock court-cases, retelling and more! The children were very keen to share all of this in assembly on Wednesday with Mrs Orton. What a wonderful experience for all!

'Thank you so much to SMASH for all of the wonderful new Forest School resources, we have thoroughly enjoyed using them today'.



'Wear A Hat' Day – Remembering Mr Jonathan

Yesterday in school, children and staff were invited to wear a hat as a fundraiser to remember our much-loved Mr Jonathan. Wow – what an array of hats! Thank you so much for supporting this event and for your generous contributions. We made over £200, half of which will go to Mr Jonathan's bench fund and the other half to the charity 'Brain Tumour Research'.

Mrs Orton and Mrs Rodwell are running a 10K race in May to raise further funds for Mr Jonathan's commemorative bench. If you would like to sponsor them, please take a look at our JustGiving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kirstie-rhianna?utm_term=Ge6GaGvgw



Our Values Champions



Congratulations to the following children for receiving a St. Michael's Value Award during the last fortnight:

These children have received a 'Love' Value Award:

Freddie (5O), James (3W),

These children have received a 'Courage' Value Award:

Max H (6S)

Parents' evening survey

Thank you to all the parents that completed the survey. Here are the school responses to the two questions that parents wanted more information about:

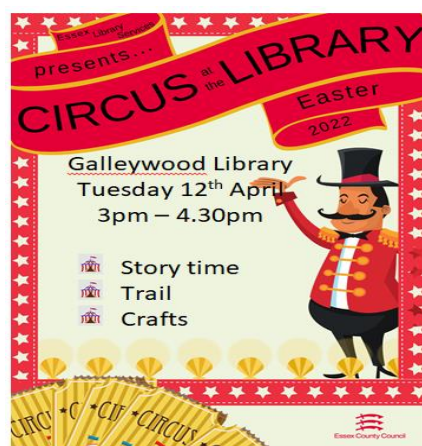
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.

Please have a look at our school website as there are comprehensive Curriculum plans, long term plans and medium-term plans on the website. Please have a look at these with your children and they can explain some of the activities they have been doing.

The school lets me know how my child is doing.

We offer two Parents' Evenings every academic year and SEND review meetings (if applicable) – these are the formal opportunities we offer for you to find out and understand how your child/children are doing. Each child also receives an annual Academic report in the summer term. We also have an open-door policy and you can phone the school office and leave a message for your child's class teacher to arrange an appointment to speak to them.

We are also considering trialling an Open afternoon termly, where you can come in straight after school to have a look at your child's/children's work – we will let you know the upcoming date for this in the summer term.



Another busy fortnight in school. Thank you so much for your continued support of our charity events – we very much appreciate it.

This week, I had the pleasure of talking to some children from each class about their learning in reading – they were enthusiastic, charismatic and utterly engaging. All those I spoke to were very keen to tell me about the range of texts they've read this year and how much they have enjoyed them.

Fingers crossed that the sunshine continues this weekend – enjoy it!

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Orton