

Friday 22nd April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,



A message from Mrs Prigg

Welcome back to a fun filled, jam packed term! I hope that all of our families had a lovely Easter and we were so lucky to have a glorious Bank Holiday.

Please have a look at the dates below with regards to the events that are taking place this term, there are lots of them!

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Important dates for your diary

Summer Term:

22 nd April	SMASH disco
28 th April	SMASH film night
2 nd May	Bank Holiday
9 th May	SATs Week
18 th May	Year 6 trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor
18 th May	Year 5 trip to the Science Museum
27 th May	INSET day
30 th May	Half-term
6 th June	INSET day
22 nd June	Parent Voice 3
29 th June	Year 5 taster day at GBHS (9am – 2.45pm)
1 st July	Reports out to parents
4 th July	Year 6 production (afternoon)
5 th July	Year 6 evening production performance (7pm)
5 th July	GBHS transition (more details to follow)
6 th July	GBHS transition (more details to follow)
6 th July	Year 4 residential
7 th July	GBHS transition (more details to follow)
7 th July	Year 6 evening production performance (7pm)
8 th July	Sandon induction
8 th July	Year 4 back from residential
13 th July	Sports day
15 th July	Year 6 leaving festival (organised by parents)
16 th July	SMASH Summer Fayre
18 th July	Open afternoon/meet the teacher (3:30pm-4:30pm) (more details to follow)
20 th July	Year 6 Leaver's service at the church
21 st July	Last day of term.

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/>.

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>.

Safeguarding

Online Grooming

There have been several cases this week reported by Essex Police regarding primary school age girls being groomed online and persuaded to pose provocatively and/or perform sexual acts on themselves which are recorded and shared by the perpetrator via platforms such as Facetime & TikTok. Online grooming is real and happens to boys as well! Use the link below to find out more to help you protect your children

https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/online-grooming/?gclid=EA1aIQobChMI1q2UmKyn9wIVlWDmCh3L5g2SEAAAYASAAEgIIMvD_BwE

TikTok – Fake Accounts

It is extremely easy to set up a TikTok account using anyone's name therefore very easy to set up a Fake Account. This is one of the reasons that the minimum age to have an account is 13.

We have added links below that parents can use to gain information on the app itself, but also general advice on keeping their children safe online. Can I please request that you talk to your children about this issue..

<https://esafetytraining.org/resources/parents-carers-area/>

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/articles/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok#How%20safe%20is%20TikTok>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/#is-tiktok-safe>

Sally Bangs – Retirement

At the end of the spring term, Mrs Bangs retired after working at St Michael's for 26 years! In all the time she has worked at our school she will have had an enormous impact on all of the children she has worked with and this was clear to see up to her very last day. She will be greatly missed by all the staff and children and we wish her all the best in her new venture.

We are extremely lucky that Mrs Bangs would like to still come and volunteer at school, in year 3, once a week.

Miss Erin Wolahan

We would like to thank Miss Wolahan for all the support she gave in her time at St Michaels. Miss Wolahan worked as an LSA, MDA and supported at our Wrap Around provision and was an extremely committed member of staff. We thank her for all the work she did with the children, who will miss her and all the staff wish her every success in her future career.

We would like to warmly welcome Mr Richard McAdam, who will be the site manager at St Michael's. Please give him a wave as you see him around the school.

Dinner Menu

Next week's menu will be week 2.

Commonwealth Games Athlete Visit – Friday 1st April



On Friday 1st April, we were excited to welcome Jess Tappin and Dan Putnam, England ambassadors for the Commonwealth Games, to St Michael's. Jess and Dan led an assembly for the whole school, answering questions about their journeys to get to represent England. They then joined each year group in turn for their Daily Mile run (whilst signing autographs and being challenged to more than one race!) in true April weather: rain, wind, snow and a little sunshine too! Jess and Dan finished their morning by working with a small group of children, creating their own exercises and games. A fun and inspiring morning for all at St Michael's and a massive thank you must go to Jess and Dan for giving up their time to visit us.

Easter Service

On the Thursday before the Easter holidays, we walked to St Michael's Church as a whole school for our Easter Service. Led beautifully by our Worship Leaders, we shared music and artwork to tell the Easter story. It was a very special morning for all. Huge thanks to Mrs Stevens and Mrs Maxwell for their efforts in coordinating this event.



Easter Prayer by Jessica V (6S)

Our Father,

We thank you for Jesus' sacrifices

And for the eternal love he shows us.

We thank you that he lived and died

to make our world a better place.

Give us courage to be brave and strong

Like Jesus.

Lead us away from temptation. Let us show Jesus' love and spread it to our neighbours.

Keep everyone here today in your safe hands Lord and lift us high.

Please help those who are experiencing conflict and let world leaders make the right decisions.

In Jesus words, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do."

Keep our faith strong Lord.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen

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

- **CRISPS**
- **SPONGE PUDDINGS**
- **CUPPA SOUPS**
- **POWDERED CUSTARD SACHETS**
- **TEA BAGS (40 PACKS)**
- **LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE**
- **LONG LIFE MILK (FULL/SEMI)**
- **SACHETS POWDERED POTATO**

Remembering Mr Jonathan – An Update

Thank you all so much for supporting our 'Wear A Hat' day before Easter. We managed to raise a brilliant total of over £200! Half of this went towards the deposit for the memorial bench and the other half has been donated to the charity: 'Brain Tumour Research'.

Mrs Rodwell and Mrs Orton continue to train for their 10km run in May and have raised over £500 in sponsorship money already! Any money raised in addition to that needed for the bench will be donated to the above charity. Thank you so much to the parents who have supported us with this and made generous donations – we are so very appreciative. If you would like to sponsor us, you can find the JustGiving page at: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kirstie-rhianna>

The wood for our memorial bench has now been sourced and is currently drying out before work can begin. Photos of the process will be shared when they are received!

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:

Lilly-Rose (4R)

These children have received a 'Respect' Value Award:

Freddie (3J), Zak (4R)

These children have received a 'Courage' Value Award:

Rhea (3J), Bobby (3J)

All Things Reading!

Year 5 Recommends...

In Year 5 last term, we focused on two books by the author Shaun Tan. Through reading 'The Lost Thing' and 'Cicada', we were able to explore many complex themes such as liberty, escape, belonging, inequality and more! We loved these texts so much that we asked Mrs Prigg if we could buy more books by the same author!



Sponsored Read for World Book Day

As a result of the sponsorship money collected by you all on World Book Day, we managed to raise a whopping £1174 to spend on books to update our main and classroom libraries! Thank you so very much – it was like Christmas again for Mrs O with the book catalogue!

Book Reviews Wanted!

If your child has read a book that they have really enjoyed recently, we would love them to write a review to be shared in the newsletter! Please send reviews to the office by email marked for the attention of Mrs Orton.

Our Link with Galleywood Library

Our link with Galleywood Library is very important to us at St Michael's. This term, we plan to:

- Display our work there
- Get involved in the pre-school Rhyme Time sessions
- Organise class visits to the library
- Set up book/writing groups to be held at the library

The summer term is always a busy one and there are many exciting times ahead for all year groups. Following the Easter break, the children have returned with a spring in their step and are raring to go!

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Orton