

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



Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

## A message from Mrs Prigg



A warm welcome to our new term at St Michael's. It has been really lovely to see how well our children have settled back into school life, after the summer holidays. I have been meeting all the new year 3 children and congratulating our new House Captains and lots of the children who have already been sent to show me their fantastic work!

## Important dates for your diary

### Autumn Term:

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 26 <sup>th</sup> September | Year 6 residential trip to Norfolk                       |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> September | Year 3 open afternoon for Year 3 parents (2:30pm)        |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> September | Year 6 return from Norfolk                               |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> October    | 11+ meeting for Year 5 parents (6.30pm)                  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> October   | Parents' Evening (3:40pm-7pm)                            |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> October   | Parents' Evening (3:40pm-6pm)                            |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> October   | Harvest Festival at St Michael's Church (10am)           |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> October   | Times Tables Rock Star day                               |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> October   | Half-term  |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> October   | Children return to school                                |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> October   | Tempest photography – Years 3, 5 and 6                   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> November   | Tempest photography – year 4                             |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> November  | Remembrance Service                                      |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> November  | Anti-bullying week                                       |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> November  | Children in Need   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> November  | World Cup begins   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> November  | Year 5 parent meeting regarding 2023 Year 6 residential  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> November  | St Andrew's Day  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> December   | Year 4 Christmas Production 5pm                          |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> December   | Year 4 Christmas Production 2pm                          |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> December  | Christmas Lunch  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> December  | Wear a Christmas hat day in aid of Brain Tumour Research |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> December  | Christmas Carol Service at St Michael's Church (10am)    |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> December  | Last day of Autumn term                                  |

## **To all year 6 Parents**

### Secondary School applications – Year 7 – 2023-2024

Please note that the statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2022. Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions).

Please look out for the Secondary School Open Evenings which begin soon – please visit the Secondary School's website for this information.

## **SMASH – St Michael's PTA**

As many of you know, most of our successful SMASH committee members have decided to step down from their roles on the committee for a variety of reasons – we thank them for all of their efforts.

This means we are now looking for new members to join SMASH and continue to be involved in raising funds for the children of St Michael's. I am pleased to say that I have already had a few parents show an interest in joining the committee. If there are any other parents who feel they can give up some of their time to share ideas and help with events, please can you drop your contact details at the office for Mrs Prigg.

As it stands for now, I will communicate with parents about our plans and how we intend to spend the raised funds to benefit all of the children. These can be discussed at the first committee meeting but for now, we are already looking to spend a small amount of the raised funds on two more ipads and an interactive board for the music room – all of the children enjoy music lessons, fortnightly, taught by Mrs Maxwell. In addition, there are previous projects to discuss at the first meeting and the idea of purchasing a gigantic, interactive timeline for the playground fence which will tie in with our foundation subjects and the Learning Journeys that the children interact with in the classrooms. Other ideas to discuss may be additional playground equipment and the Woodland area.

I would like to say thank you in advance to all parents if you are considering joining the committee as I am aware that, as parents, you have work and family commitments that take up any spare time you may have! but I am hoping that we can build on the previous successes of SMASH and work together.

## **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/ilEmThI> .

## **Dinner Menu**

Next week's menu will be week 1.

## **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/>.

## **Safeguarding**

### **ZEPETO**

We would like to raise your awareness about a popular App called ZEPETO.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-the-zepeto-app-what-parents-need-to-know/>

It's an app where users can create an avatar, play games and post videos and messages that can be seen by friends and strangers. Users can also post photos. Unfortunately, there doesn't appear to be great security, safety procedures or parental controls that can be applied to stop anyone contacting the user.

There is a 'craze' on the app by where a user will post a photo of their face, body or both and create a 'face/body reveal' – they entice people to follow them by revealing small pieces of the photo when reaching certain amounts of likes. As you can imagine the photos need to be provocative to gain the likes.

## **Parent Voice**

We ran three successful Parent Voice sessions last year (one per term) which gave the parents an opportunity to visit school and talk to Mrs Prigg or hear from visitors and agencies that the school work with to build resilience in our children. This year I would like to invite a parent representative (1 from each class) to come to these sessions and share the voice of the parents. This may be a parent that has been instrumental in setting up a class WhatsApp group who would be happy to come along to these meetings and share the views of the parents. All other parents are of course also welcome. The first meeting will take place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 9.45am.

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Our Harvest Festival celebration is due to take place at the Church on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October - all parents are welcome.

This year, as in previous years, we would like to kindly ask the school community for any donations for the Food Bank. Please see below for the listed items, if we get an update of further items before the date.

If you are able to donate any item, please drop them at the front office or send them in with your child/children from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October where we will be displaying all of your wonderful donations in school and some of these will be taken to the Church and donated to the Food Bank soon after.

### **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**

Tinned Rice  
Long-life Milk  
Coffee - small and medium jars  
Instant mash potato (packets and medium boxes)  
Sponge puddings  
Sweets and chocolate bars

#### **NON-FOOD ITEMS**

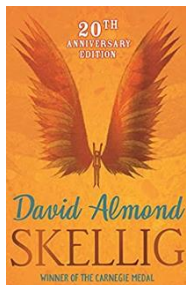
Shampoo – for men and women  
Shower gel – for men and women  
Deodorant –for women  
Larger size nappies (size 5 and larger)

### **Intergenerational Work – St Michael's as the hub for Galleywood's Dementia Friendly Community**

- Intergenerational Club is due to restart as soon as clubs begin – these children will be instrumental in our link with other members of our community.
- Mark from the Alzheimer's Society is joining the children in school for a Dementia Friends session on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October.
- Class 5J are about to embark on the start of the Archie Project – this is an intergenerational project between St Michael's pupils and residents at Manor Lodge Care Home. A letter is to follow further detailing this.

## All Things Reading!

### Year 6 Recommends...



'Skellig' by  
David  
Almond

When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain.

Then, one Sunday afternoon, he stumbles into the old, ramshackle garage of his new home, and finds something magical. A strange creature - part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael's help if he is to survive.

But Skellig is far more than he at first appears...

### Our new library is in use!

- Mrs Hanberger is going to paint a beautiful mural on the wall in our new library – we are very excited about this!
- Mrs Maxwell is in the process of organising parent volunteers to help maintain the library system in school. Please speak to her or Mrs Orton if you are interested in getting involved.

### Galleywood Library

The following regular activities on at Galleywood Library on Saturdays are:

**Saturday Crafts** – 10am-12pm – come and make a simple craft

**Block Builders** – 2-4pm – come and create something with Duplo or Lego

(Every first Saturday of the month) **Saturday Story Time** 10.30 – 11am – come and listen to some stories.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October (half term) – 2.30 – 4.30** – World Inside a Book – celebrating the stories of Julia Donaldson with a trail, crafts and story time. No need to book, free drop in session

### Our House Captains 2022-3

Congratulations to our brand new House Captains who were voted in by their peers last week in the annual House Captain Hustings.

|            |                                |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| St Patrick | Dion (6O) and Lily(6O)         |
| St David   | Ashton (6O) and Niamh (6O)     |
| St George  | Madeleine (6O) and Amelia (6S) |
| St Andrew  | Sadie (6S) and Lucy (6O)       |

A huge well done to all of our Year 6 pupils who wrote speeches, brushed up on their public speaking skills and generally went above and beyond to prepare for the event - we were all very proud of you indeed.

## Our Values Champions



**Congratulations to the following children who received a St Michael's Value Award over the last fortnight:**

These children have received a 'Love' Value Award:

Charlotte (5D), Izzy (5D), Giselle (5D), Isla (5D)

These children have received a 'Courage' Value Award:

Callum(6O), Roan(6O), Roxane(6O)

## Times Table Rockstar Results

Watch this space as this gets up and running this term!

Welcome back! Wow, it's great to be back in the swing of things and what a busy few weeks it has been so far. The children have settled back into school life beautifully and the Autumn term has certainly got off to a flying start with our Pupil Parliament members now all elected and raring to go and Year 6 about to embark on their five-day residential to Norfolk.

We were very grateful to Reverend David last week as he led us all in a thanksgiving service for the life and loyal service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Children and staff alike shared experiences, memories, artwork and prayer; it was important that we came together as a school community at this time.

I hope that you have a restful weekend – here's hoping for a last little bit of sunshine before the autumnal weather really sets in!

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs Orton*