St. Michael's CE (VA) Junior School

Friday 9th December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

A message from Mrs Prigg

What an amazing week we have had at school! It has been an extremely busy one but with the year 4 Christmas Production, the Intergenerational Christmas sing along and Christmas card deliveries and the hall adorned with Christmas decorations, I think it is fair to say that Christmas at St Michael's is well underway!!

At the same time, hard work continues in the classrooms and I have been inundated with children sharing their excellent work with me which always makes me smile!

Merry Christmas everyone

Important dates for your diary

Autumn Term:

14th December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day.
14th December	'Wear a Hat Day' in aid of Brain Tumour Research
15th December	Christmas Carol Service at St Michael's Church (10am)
19th December	SMASH Christmas Santa Run
20th December	Last day of Autumn Term

Spring Term:

5th January	First Day of Term

Dinner Menu

The menu next week will be week 1 of the new winter menu

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/ .

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.

Safeguarding

Warm Spaces Winter 22

There are several places in and around Chelmsford where families can visit that are warm and welcoming. The list will be sent out separately with this newsletter. The link below will take you to a website where all warm places nationwide are listed.

www.warmwelcome.co.uk

Online Safety at Christmas

Social Media portrays Christmas as the perfect family time and unfortunately this is not the reality for a lot of children. They can then compare their experience to the 'perfect' and it will often fall short and can affect their mental health. The ESCB are running a Christmas online safety campaign to help families and children who are struggling.

https://www.escb.co.uk/about/campaigns/online-safety/

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

Our Intergenerational Singalong was a huge success!

Our Community Clubbers have been busy wrapping boxes for the Galleywood Hampers of Hope initiative. Developing our wrapping skills was definitely a learning curve but we were delighted with the end result!

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

COFFEE - SMALL AND MEDIUM JARS
TEA BAGS 40S AND 80S
LONG LIFE MILK
LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE
BOTTLE OF SQUASH
TINNED MEAT E.G. CHICKEN IN SAUCE, CURRY, SPAGHETTI BOLOGNAISE, HOT DOGS
TINNED MEAT HAM/COLD MEAT
TINNED SALMON
FOOD THAT CAN BE MICROWAVED (I.E. NOT OVEN COOKED)
TINNED VEG
TINNED POTATOES
INSTANT MASHED POTATOES
GRAVY / STUFFING
TINNED FRUIT
SPONGE PUDDINGS (NOT REFIGERATED)
CUSTARD - TINNED AND INSTANT SACHETS
CHOCOLATE LOG
ICED CHRISTMAS CAKE
CHRISTMAS PUDDING
SAVOURY SNACKS
BOX OF BISCUITS
SWEETS / TREATS
CHOCOLATE SELECTION PACK

MINCE PIES (NON-ALCOHOLIC)

NON-FOOD ITEMS

TOILET ROLLS

CLEANING MATERIALS

Attendance Awards

In the Spring term (first full week back – 9th January) we will be starting to celebrate weekly attendance by awarding an 'Attendance Award' to the class who, that week, has the highest attendance percentage.

The award will be shared with the children, during the Celebration Worship on Friday morning, similarly to the 'Cleanest Classroom' award.

Christmas Cards

The school post box and will be ready for action on Monday 5th December. It will be situated at the bottom of the year 6 stairs. Children will post their cards in the post box and during the week, the year 6 children will go to the main post box and deliver them to the classes.

The cut off day for cards to be posted will be Thursday 15th December.

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

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:
Edward T, 3R, Ronni 5J, Keira 6S, Gabriela 6S, Roshni 6S

These children have received a 'Respect' Value Award:

These children have received a 'Faith' Value Award:
Evelyn 4MB, Bobby 4MB, Freddie 6S, Amelia 6S, Callum 6O

These children have received a 'Courage' Value Award:
Abigail 4MB , Betsy 4MB , Sadie 6S, Roman 6S, Rose 6O

Our website

Please find our updated RSHE curriculum which can be found under the tab 'Our Curriculum', 'Long Term Curriculum Plans'.

Times Table Rockstar Results

Times Tables Rockstar Leader board – Week ending 25.11.22

	First	Second	Third
Year 3 most improved	Jack F	Lily K	Bradley S
Year 3 most correct answers	Zakariya H	Lilly T	Evy J
Year 4 most improved	Mason D	Matilda O'C	Rhea P
Year 4 most correct answers	Benjamin M	Isabella S	Nyren I
Year 5 most improved	Harrison L	Daisy C	Lilly-Rose D
Year 5 most correct answers	Radinu W	Analia G	Finley S
Year 6 most improved	Scarlet WN		
Year 6 most correct answers	Scarlet WN	Dougie C	

Year 3	75
Year 4	64
Year 5	52
Year 6	6

Times Tables Rockstar Leader board – Week ending 02.12.22

	First	Second	Third
Year 3 most improved	Nevaeh M	Roo B	Sophia C
Year 3 most correct answers	Evy J	Edward T	George F
Year 4 most improved	Joshua S	James S	Zoe I
Year 4 most correct answers	Isabella S	Zoe I	Florence K
Year 5 most improved	Jacob S	David O	Harrison L
Year 5 most correct answers	David O	Analia G	Daisy C
Year 6 most improved	Maria M	Lucy W	Thomas L
Year 6 most correct answers	Thomas L	Caleb O	Lucy W

Year 5	53
Year 4	58
Year 3	34
Year 6	20

Christmas Hoop Fever!

Year 5 Learning:

Masterminds Event at Great Baddow High School

In late November, we sent a team of four Year 5 children to Great Baddow High School to take part in a Mastermind Competition against teams from other local primary schools. We knew that the competition would consist of a number of rounds, among them general knowledge, Marvel/Disney, News 2022 and a specialist round, where the team had to agree on a book that they were all familiar with and would be quizzed on. The children who took part were amazing: they were well-prepared, asking adults both at home and in school to test them on the different categories. 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl was their chosen specialist book and they all took a copy home and read it from cover to cover in a short space of time. Our team came second overall (and were beaten by just one point!) but had an amazing experience. We are all very proud of the effort that they put into preparing for the event and of the exemplary way in which they represented St Michael's. Thank you to Mrs Bensusan, who accompanied the children and also to Mr McAdam who was able to transport them to and from GBHS in our school mini-but. Well done team St Michael's!

Visit from Teledyne e2v

Last week, Year 5 took part in an engineering challenge set by a local company, Teledyne e2v. Teledyne sent a team of their apprentices into school who explained to the children what their company does (makes really cool hi-tech equipment, like the camera that is on the Mars rover!) and how the apprentice scheme works there. After answering a lot of questions about the products they manufacture, they set the children a challenge: in teams, and using exactly the same resources as each other, the children had to build a structure that would enable 'Egg the astronaut' to travel safely into space. There were specific design criteria that the children had to work within and they only had a limited amount of time to complete their spacecraft. Once the time was up, they were able to test their structure in a specially made machine that simulated the pressure and movement of a real space rocket. The rules were simple: if your egg remained in the structure when the machine reached 100, you received a certificate to say that you had designed an excellent spacecraft. The Teledyne apprentices also appraised each structure for good design (as well as stability); two of the structures were judged to be excellent and the children in these teams will be invited to Teledyne's headquarters after Christmas to take part in another challenge. It was such an exciting morning: all of the children were engaged and loved making their space rockets (they also learnt a lot about strong design shapes, forces, teamwork and perseverance!). Thank you to Teledyne e2v.

Events in our local community:

Manor Lodge Christmas Visit

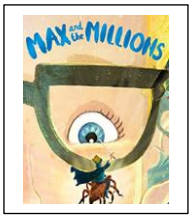
The children in 5J went to visit Manor Lodge residents this week – they sang together, exchanged Christmas cards and had a festive catch-up!

This fortnight's prayer:

Dear Gracious Lord,
We pray and give thanks for the day of learning that is now behind us and that we now know more than we did at the start of the day.
We thank you that we can go home to a loving family.
Let us have safe and happy journeys home to spend time with our families.
We pray for those in Ukraine, who are living in times of struggle and conflict.
Let us also take the time to consider how lucky we are to have our school.
In Jesus' name,
Amen

All Things Reading!

Year 3 Recommends…



'Max And The Millions' by Ross Montgomery

Max is used to spending time alone - it's difficult to make friends in a big, chaotic school when you're deaf. He prefers to give his attention to the little things in life . . . like making awesome, detailed replica models.

Then Mr Darrow, the school caretaker and fellow modeller, goes missing. Max must follow his parting instruction: 'Go to my room. You'll know what to do.'

There on the floor he finds a pile of sand . . . and in the sand is Mr Darrow's latest creation . . . a tiny boy, no bigger than a raisin, Luke, Prince of the Blues. And behind the tiny boy . . . millions of others - a thriving, bustling, sprawling civilization!

Winter Reading Challenge

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.

Book List

The reading book list that we use in school has been emailed to all parents this week – it may be useful when making Christmas gift choices!

Thank you very much to Mrs Maxwell for all that she has done to get our new library space up and running this term. We also have a dedicated team of volunteers who give up their time to help too – we have an efficient system up and running because of them and we are very grateful.

YEAR 2 TRANSITION TO JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 2- 3 admissions for September 2023

Parents of current Year 2 children at an infant school need to make a formal application to the Council for a junior school (Year 3 place).

The statutory national closing date for applications is 15 January 2023. From 7 November 2022, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Elf On The Shelf:

A visitor arrived in the kitchen this week, he started off being helpful but…….

What a wonderful term it has been! As the festivities draw nearer, the excitement levels are definitely rising in school!

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a most wonderful Christmas time and a happy new year. Thank you for your continued support throughout 2022 – it is so appreciated by all the staff at St Michael's.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Orton