

St. Michael's CE (VA) Junior School



Friday 13th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

A message from Mrs Prigg



Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to the Spring term.



The children have settled back into school well and we had a really fantastic Science Day yesterday which the children enjoyed....I say lots of blue tongues from the taste test, drones being dropped, floating boats made from paper and a pre-recorded video from NASA! The children asked some fantastic questions when our guest speakers arrived in the afternoon too.

Important dates for your diary

Spring Term:

7th February	E-Safety Day
8th February	Parents' Evening (3:40-7pm)
9th February	Parents' Evening (3:40-6pm)
13th February	Half-term
20th February	INSET Day
21st February	Children return to school
22nd February	Ash Wednesday service in school (pupils and teachers only)
1st March	St David's Day
2nd March	World Book Day
16th March	Red Nose Day
17th March	St Patrick's Day
29th March	Year 4 parent meetings regarding Mersea residential (2pm and 5pm)
30th March	Easter Service at St Michael's Church (10am)
31st March	Last day of Spring term

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB – MINI MICHAELS

Please can parents support the school and the smooth running of the club by ensuring that they book their child in online, if possible, by 12pm on the day. Bookings can still be made by phoning the school in an emergency. If your account is not in credit, please note that the system will automatically cancel the booking at 12pm so please ensure that you pay for your child's sessions and that your account is in not in arrears.

Thank you for your support

Andrea Wolahan

Safeguarding

Tik Tok – Before Christmas Tik Tok raised the age for young people to live stream on their platform from 16 to 18. The age limit to have a Tik Tok account remains at **13**. This was in response to the inappropriate videos being live streamed and viewed by younger children. We know that many of the children in school use Tik Tok, be it their own account or their parents, and it is vital that they are not viewing inappropriate material. The NSPCC have guidelines for parents. The link below will take you directly to their Tik Tok page.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/child-safe-settings-tiktok/>

Food Bank Donations

Thank you for all of your food bank donations to date. For the month of January, the Food Bank has asked for donations to be paused as they take stock of the Christmas contributions.

Attendance

Well done to 5J and 6O who have had the highest attendance this week, 100%!

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

We were delighted to be involved with the Hampers of Hope initiative before Christmas this year and over thirty hampers were distributed to families in our school community.

New members are welcome as club sign-up time approaches. If your child is interested in being involved in their local community, please encourage them to join our lunchtime club.

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

The menu next week will be week 3 of the new Spring menu.

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: Keira (6S) Gabriela (6S) Roshni (6S) Sydney (3R), Noah (6O)

These children have received a 'Respect' Value Award: Evelyn (4MB) Bella (4MB) Jessica (4MB)

These children have received a 'Faith' Value Award: Freddy (6S) Amelia Grace Co (4MB)

These children have received a 'Courage' Value Award: Sadie (6S) Roman (6S)

Times Table Rockstar Results

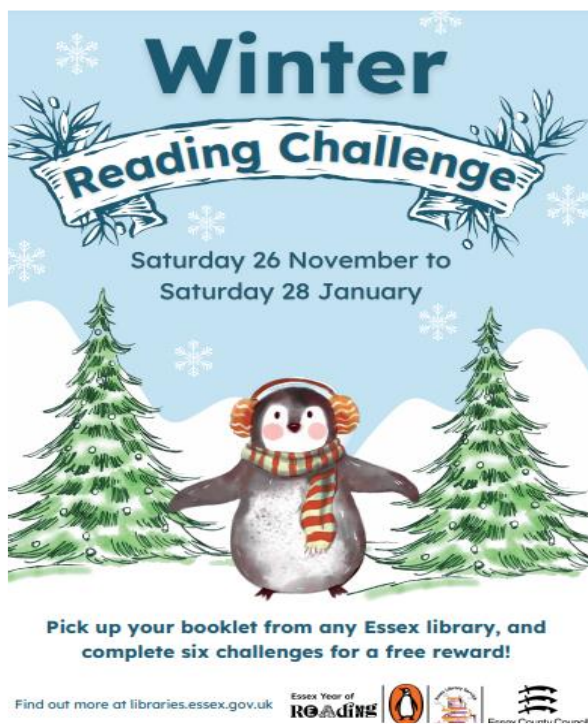
Times Tables Rockstar Leader board – Week ending 16.12.22

	First	Second	Third
Year 3 most improved	Freya WR	Jamie S	Aiden B
Year 3 most correct answers	Edward T	Sydney T	Edmund S
Year 4 most improved	Isabella A	Vilakshan T	Mason D
Year 4 most correct answers	Henry M	Isabella S	Vilakshan T
Year 5 most improved	Mia WR		
Year 5 most correct answers	Radinu W	Finley S	Grace B
Year 6 most improved	Dougie C	Amy F	Keira S
Year 6 most correct answers	Scarlet WN	Thomas L	Keira S

Year 4	90
Year 6	28
Year 3	22
Year 5	9

All Things Reading!

Winter Reading Challenge



Winter Reading Challenge

Saturday 26 November to Saturday 28 January

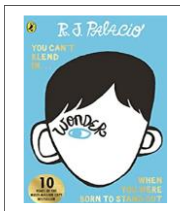
Pick up your booklet from any Essex library, and complete six challenges for a free reward!

Find out more at libraries.essex.gov.uk

Essex Year of **Reading**

Essex Parents' Partnership

Year 5 Recommends...



'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio

'My name is August. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.'

Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go.

Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?

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



Mrs Hanberger has been busy again! We now have a resident BFG in the library area too – we are delighted with him. A huge thank you to the St Michael's artist extraordinaire!



Mrs Bowcher

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Bowcher and her family the best of luck as they await their new arrival...we will keep you all updated with the baby news!

We would like to welcome Mrs Loates to the staffing team.

This fortnight's prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help us to smile throughout the day,
To appreciate the food given,
Help us to respect everyone and always be courageous.

Amen. (6S)

Happy New Year to you all! The children and staff have returned to school rejuvenated and raring to go after the Christmas break.

I hope you have a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Orton