

St Michael's C of E VA Primary School

Current core Christian value:
LOVE



'Do unto others as you
would have them do to you'
(Luke 6:31)

'We believe we can achieve'

As a Church School we seek to ensure that the ethos and principles of Christianity underpin the experiences of the children in our care.

22 September 2017

Newsletter No 2

Message from St Michael's PTA

We should like to wish a warm welcome to all new families who have joined the school this September. We are all so lucky to be part of the St Michael's School family. St Michael's C of E Primary School is a uniquely small and close knit school, run exceptionally well and made so special by the community spirit of St Michael's parents.

The PTA plays an intrinsic role, providing vital funds for the school to supply our children with learning and activity resources as well as funding the annual transport for each class trip.

The money that we have raised over the years is now helping to fund the building expansion work at Lower school. Last year we raised a massive £11,000 through fundraising events. £6,000 was spent on various supportive projects throughout the school including new maths resources, class trips, rucksacks and book bags, football goals and theatre group visits. We rely heavily on parent volunteers - with your support we can make a huge difference to the school lives of our children.

Being part of the PTA is a fun way to get involved with your child's school and the perfect opportunity to get to know other families. Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 12 October at 7.30pm in the hall at Top School. Please come along and get involved. The positions available this year are:

Chair /Joint chair
Secretary/Joint secretary
Class reps: Two parents from Ants, Bees and Dolphins

Unfortunately the PTA said 'goodbye' to several families last year who had been part of our back bone and several more will sadly be leaving us at the end of this academic year. For this invaluable part of St Michael's School to continue, we need you so please do come along on 12 October.

This newsletter covers:

- Message from St Michael's PTA
- New Admissions
- Universal Free School Meals
- Out of School Achievements
- Head Lice
- Nuts in School
- Breakfast Club
- Healthy Eating in School

New Admissions

Could I please remind any parents who will be applying for Reception places for September 2018 under the sibling rule (criteria 2) to complete our Supplementary Information Form and return to the school as soon as possible. These forms can be downloaded from the school website. If it is not clear that your application is for a sibling, you run the risk of not getting the offer of a place.

We will be holding some tours of the school for prospective parents and these will be held in the second half of this term, as follows:

Thursday 16 November 9.15am-10.15am
Monday 27 November 10.45am-11.45am
Monday 4 December 10.45am-11.45am

These dates will also appear on the school website for future reference.

Universal Free School Meals

Whilst the introduction of the Universal Infant Free School Meal initiative has been a success since its introduction in September 2014, it has had a negative impact on the amount of additional funding schools have been able to claim from the Government for low-income families.

In an attempt to rectify this problem, Hertfordshire County Council ask that every child in the school up to and including Year 2 should be registered each year, irrespective of the family income or whether the child has a packed lunch from home.

A letter has gone home to every child in Years 1 and 2 (Reception children were registered when they joined us), asking that all parents either register their child from home or provide the school with the parent's name, date of birth and NI number, so that the school can register the child directly.

We obviously do not want to miss out on the funding available to the school so we need to get every child registered as a matter of urgency, so that any children from low income families can be supported.

If you have received one of these registration letters, please return it to the school office by Wednesday 27 September as all registrations have to be completed by the end of September.

Out of School Achievements (required by end of school day on Thursdays)

Tabby B in Dolphins class won a silver medal in a gymnastics competition over the summer holidays.

A number of children throughout the school took part in the Animal Agents summer reading challenge and received certificates and medals to celebrate. Well done to Kaitlyn and Mia in Cats class, Loukas and Oscar in Ants class and Laura in Dolphins class.

Finn in Eagles class has received a medal as the winner of the age 10+ under Grade 4 tennis competition and a cup for coming runner up in the Radlett Open 10 and under singles tennis competition. He also came 3rd in the county cup.

William in Dolphins class was awarded a trophy for being the best cub at camp for 2017.

Head Lice

We have been advised that head lice has been detected on two children in two separate classes.

Please check children's hair this weekend.

Nuts in School

We have been informed that another of our children has been diagnosed with a nut allergy.

Therefore, could we politely request that all parents read the Healthy Eating in School information below, paying particular attention to the fact that we must be a nut free school.

Breakfast Club

We have now settled into the new school year after welcoming our reception children who all seem quite happy!



We can sometimes accept ad hoc bookings on most days except Tuesdays when we are full. Ad hoc bookings cost £6.50 per child per session. Please contact denise.perchard@sky.com if you need further information.

Checklist of Letters sent home over the last two weeks - **PLEASE CHECK BOOKBAGS**

Title	Class	Via
Moving On leaflet	Year 6	Paper copy
School meal invoices	School meal children in years 3-6	Paper copy
Flu Vaccination Information	R, Years 1-4	Paper copy
Universal Free School Meals	Years 1 and 2	Paper copy

Please contact the school office if you did not receive one of the above letters.

Date of next newsletter: 6 October 2017

Healthy Eating in School

We have received a series of enquiries recently concerning snacks in school and, therefore, we thought it might be useful to set out the guidelines and suggestions we have received from the NHS.

Ideas for a healthy packed lunch:



- A good portion of starchy food, eg wholegrain roll, tortilla wrap, chapatti, pitta pocket, pasta or rice salad.
- A portion of lean meat, fish or alternative, eg chicken, ham, beef, tuna, egg, beans or hummus.
- Plenty of fruit and vegetables, eg an apple, Satsuma, handful of cherry tomatoes or carrot sticks, small tub of salad or small box of raisins.
- A portion of dairy food, eg cheese, yoghurt or fromage frais.
- A drink, eg fruit juice (not squash), small semi-skimmed milk carton, yoghurt drink or water.
- Healthier dessert option, eg plain biscuit, cookie, muffin, small tub of jelly, small flapjack or cereal bar (in line with those desserts offered by our school meal service).

Please do not include the following in packed lunches or morning snacks:



- Nuts or nut products (please read labels carefully).
- Sweets of any kind (if you are happy for your child to have sweets, please let them eat them at home).
- Fizzy drinks
- Chocolate bars.
- Crisps.

Ideas for a healthy morning snack:



- Piece of fresh fruit
- Dried fruit
- Small cheese portion
- Fruit smoothy drink (no added sugar)
- Cereal bar (less than 10g added sugar)
- Rice cake
- Oat cake
- Plain popcorn
- Plain or fruit scone
- Teacake or fruit bun

I am sure you will all appreciate how difficult it is for children to understand why a child sitting next to them has something in their lunchbox which they consider more interesting. Hopefully, if everybody follows these healthy food guidelines, the children will all be eating the same sort of foods, thereby eliminating their confusion.

Diary Dates – Autumn Term 2017

Date	Event
Monday 11 September 3.00pm	Meet the Teacher – Ants and Bees classes
Monday 11 September 1.45pm	Eagles class begin swimming lessons
Tuesday 12 September 3.15pm	Meet the Teacher – Cats class
Wednesday 13 September 3.15pm	Meet the Teacher – Dolphins class
Thursday 14 September 3.15pm	Meet the Teacher – Eagles class
Saturday 23 September	Butterfly World fair in the school hall
Friday 29 September 9.00am	Cats parent sharing assembly
Wednesday 4 October 9.30am	School photographer in for class photographs
Wednesday 11 October 9.00am	Harvest celebration in church
Thursday 12 October 7.30pm	PTA AGM in hall at Top School
Friday 13 October 9.00am	Bees parent sharing assembly
Week commencing 16 October	Parent consultation evenings (exact dates to be confirmed)
Monday 23 October-Friday 27 October	Half term break
Monday 30 October	Staff INSET day – No children in school
Friday 3 November 9.00am	Eagles parent sharing assembly
Friday 10 November 9.00am	Ants parent sharing assembly
Friday 24 November 9.00am	Dolphins parent sharing assembly
Wednesday 29 November	Flu vaccination programme (Reception-Year 4)
Tuesday 12 December 9.30am	Ants and Bees production
Thursday 14 December 2.30pm	Ants and Bees production
Monday 18 December	Children's Christmas lunch
Monday 18 December	Children's Theatre company in school – Treasure Island
Tuesday 19 December 9.00am	Christmas church service
Tuesday 19 December 2.00pm	End of term

- Further details regarding each event will be sent out nearer the time.
- Unless stated otherwise, all events are held at Top School.
- **Events annotated in red involve Ants and Bees children being collected from Top School.**



Please write these dates in your diary or stick them on your fridge. School life is very busy and we don't want anybody missing out on the fun!