

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.

20 October 2017

Newsletter No 4

Lower School Opening Ceremony

We are looking forward to being able to open our new dining room at Lower School. To mark the occasion, we will be holding an Opening Ceremony on the Lower School playground on Wednesday 1 November at 9.00am.

We have put the following plans in place, to ensure we can all enjoy the ceremony safely.

- All children (including Cats, Dolphins and Eagles) are to be dropped at Lower School at the start of the day on Wednesday 1 November.
- Ants and Bees will register in their classrooms in the usual way before being brought onto the playground to join in the ceremony.
- Teachers will be on the playground to register Cats, Dolphins and Eagles. They will need to keep their bags with them.
- Lunch choices will have been made the previous day to save time.
- Staff will be on the gate to guide the children.
- Any parents attending the ceremony are requested to stand on the pavement on the other side of the wall as there will only be enough room on the playground for the children and staff.
- Once the ceremony is concluded, Ants and Bees will return to their classrooms first.
- We would be grateful if parents could then move from the pavement, to allow Cats, Dolphins and Eagles to make their way safely to Top School.

Viewing the New Build

Children from Top School will be given the opportunity to see the new build over the next week or so. Mrs Rafferty will be at Lower School to show anyone who would like to see the dining hall on the afternoons of Thursday 2 November, Monday 6 November and Friday 10 November from 1.30pm-2.00pm. Please contact the school office if you would like to attend on any of these afternoons as we need to keep numbers manageable. It will not be possible to see the dining hall at the beginning or end of a regular school day.

At the end of the half-terms in October, February and May, school finishes at normal time.

We only finish at 2.00pm at the end of a full term, ie Christmas, Easter and Summer.

This newsletter covers:

- Lower School Opening Ceremony
- Playing on the Snug outside School Hours
- Dressing up Days
- Poppies
- Out of School Achievements
- Breakfast Club
- Building Works Update
- Art Club
- Apple Juice Label Winner
- St Albans Football Club Membership

Playing on the Snug outside School Hours

We are aware that children are playing on the snug playground equipment at Top School at the end of the school day, whilst waiting for their older siblings to come out of school.

There have been accidents in the past when children have been playing on the equipment without supervision. For this reason, our policy is that no child should be on this equipment outside of school hours. Please ensure that your children stay with you whilst you wait for your older children to come out of school so that accidents can be avoided.

Building Works – Update

With the completion of our Lower School development, our attentions move towards the Top School project.

It is our intention to keep parents up to date with developments via the fortnightly newsletters in the first instance with more detailed explanations being communicated on an as-and-when basis.

Therefore, to confirm the current situation, planning permission has now been granted for the two new classrooms to be built at the Top School site.

We are not in a position to give any indications of time scales as all building work has to be preceded by archaeological investigations and we will not know how long that will take until we see what is under the ground!

In the meantime, we intend to display the plans in the Reception area at Top School after half term for any parents who wish to have a look and further information will be given, once we have more news.

Poppies

We will be selling poppies after the half term.

If your child would like to purchase a poppy, please send your donation in with your child and they can purchase their poppy in school.

Parents of children in Ants and Bees classes, please send your donations in a named envelope and hand these to the member of staff on the door at Lower School. We will then ensure that a poppy is put in your child's book bag to bring home.

All donations will be sent to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Thank you for your support.

St Albans Football Club Membership

Further to our parentmail of 13 October, St Albans City Football Club are currently trying to build upon their partnership with local primary schools and have approached us with an offer of a reduced membership for this season's Young Saints Supporters Club.

For a £5.00 membership fee, your child would be entitled to attend five home league matches of their choice free of charge, with an accompanying adult being admitted for half price. This membership fee is for the entire season and includes many benefits aside from free entry.

If you are interested in purchasing this reduced membership for your child, please contact the school office. You will then be given an information flyer and a membership application form. Your completed application form and £5.00 cash or cheque (made payable to 'St Albans City Football Club') should then be returned to the school office who will then issue you with your child's membership card.

Dressing up Days

The School Council would like to support two national charities during the next half term.

Children in Need – Friday 17 November: children can come to school in non-uniform, adding something spotty (hair band, socks etc) in exchange for a donation towards the charity.

Save the Children – Friday 15 December: children can come to school wearing a Christmas jumper instead of their school sweatshirt or cardigan in exchange for a donation towards the charity.

Please send your donation in a named envelope on the relevant days (as above) and hand these to the member of staff on the door of each school.

Thank you for your support.

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

Theo S in Eagles class completed 39 laps of the go-kart track in his first tournament.

Tippi in Dolphins earned a rosette from her gymnastics club for executing a handspring over the vault. She also earned a rosette for executing a hurdle step round-off on the mat; her first for intermediate level.

Archie in Dolphins was made 'Man of the Match' by his local football club for his valiant defending in goal and keeping a clean sheet this season. He also attended an open evening at Marlborough Science Academy and won a book voucher for a headline competition he entered.

George in Eagles class was awarded a trophy and two medals for taking part in a recent rugby tour.

St Michael's Apple Juice Label Winner

Congratulations go to Charlotte in Cats class who designed this year's winning label for the St Michael's Apple Juice.

We had some lovely designs from the children and every entrant was awarded a small prize. Charlotte's design will appear on the bottles of juice once they have been produced.

Breakfast Club



The children have enjoyed a lovely half term at breakfast club and are looking forward to their break next week.

Moving forward, 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.

Art Club

Mrs Biggar has set up a new, privately run after school art club for children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Those children have brought home an introductory letter and application form today for your attention.

If your child wishes to join Mrs Biggar's club, please complete the application form and return this, together with your payment to the school office no later than Wednesday 1 November.

Please contact Mrs Biggar directly on smudge.artclub@gmail.com should you have any queries at this stage.

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

Title	Class	Via
Smudge Art Club introduction letter and form	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	Paper copy
Trip to Verulamium Museum, the Abbey and the Amphitheatre	Cats	Paper copy

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

Date of next newsletter: 3 November 2017

Diary Dates – Autumn Term 2017

Date	Event
Monday 23 October-Friday 27 October	Half term break
Monday 30 October	Staff INSET day – No children in school
Wednesday 1 November 9.00am	Opening ceremony at Lower School
Friday 3 November 9.00am	Eagles parent sharing assembly
Friday 10 November 9.00am	Ants parent sharing assembly
Friday 17 November	Children in Need: wear something spotty
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
Friday 15 December	Save the Children: wear Christmas jumpers over school uniform
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 – PLEASE NOTE 2.00PM END TIME

- 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.**