

St Michael's C of E VA Primary School

Current core Christian value:
PEACE



'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.

16 December 2016

Newsletter No 8

Snow closure

Even though we are currently experiencing mild temperatures for this time of year, we do need to be prepared for the event of snow causing the school to be closed.

Should we need to close the school, we will:

- Notify parents via Everbridge (the school notification system). Parents are able to register with Everbridge, in order to receive direct notification from them regarding the closure of St Michael's, as well as any other schools relating to their children by following the link:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489>

- Notify parents via BBC Three Counties Radio (103.8 FM / 95.5 FM or 630 MW / 1161 MW) so please tune in to hear regular bulletins.
- Use Parentmail to send a very short email message, informing you of the schools closure. Should anyone still need to sign up to Parentmail, please contact the school office.
- Put a message on the home page of the school website.

Should you have any queries regarding the Everbridge registration process, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

As our hot lunch service is delivered from another school, in the event of **severe snow** we will also be asking all children to come to school with a packed lunch as the hot lunch service may not be available. We did this last time and it worked a treat!

This newsletter covers:

- Snow closure
- Church choir
- End of term awards
- Lost glasses
- Breakfast club
- Club letters
- Staffing news
- Home Learning
- Christmas Fair
- Out of School Achievements

Merry Christmas

The staff of St Michael's would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a very merry Christmas and happy new year.

We hope you all have a wonderful time and look forward to seeing the children back in school at normal time on Monday 9 January 2017.

Lost Glasses

A pair of child's glasses were found in Cats class soon after the Christmas Fair.

The glasses are in a yellow and green plastic case and are tortoiseshell framed.

If you think these glasses belong to your child, please contact the school office.

Breakfast Club



It's been a really busy term at breakfast club! We are still very full most days, but can sometimes fit in an ad hoc booking (not on Tuesdays though) and we always have spaces on Fridays.

We are still looking for a new staff member for January, so if you know of anyone who might be interested, please ask them to contact denise.perchard@sky.com

Finally, a very happy Christmas to all at St Michael's School, from the breakfast club team!

School Choir

Mrs Rafferty and Mrs Groves took the school choir to the Parish Centre this week, so that the children could sing some carols to the parishioners, during their annual Christmas lunch.

Everybody enjoyed the event, especially as there was an opportunity for a joint carol singing session!



Staffing News

As you are aware, Mr Emeny kindly agreed to share the teaching in Cats Class with Mrs Webb until the end of the autumn term.

This means that we say a fond farewell to Mr Emeny next week and thank him most sincerely for his commitment to the children this term.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Carolyn Hatch who will be taking over from January. Mrs Hatch has already visited the children in Cats class and has been working closely with Mrs Webb, to ensure a smooth transition at the beginning of the new term.

I am sure you will all want to join us in welcoming Mrs Hatch to the St Michael's team.

Home Learning

Thank you to those parents who have kindly returned the questionnaire regarding home learning.

We will be taking your views into account when looking at our policy on the INSET day after Christmas.

Club Letters

The registration forms for next term's out of school clubs are now on the school website. If your child wants to join one of the clubs from January, please download the relevant form from the parent tab on the school website and bring it to the school office at the start of the new term.

Please note that the Friday dance club will be changing to a cheerleading club, from January. The children will have a taster session during Monday's assembly, next week.

Any queries regarding the clubs should be directed to the coaches directly, rather than the school office.

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair was another fantastic success!

The staff and I wish to extend our grateful thanks to the PTA who worked so hard to put the fair together and to everybody who came along on the day, to support the event. It was so lovely to see the children enjoying themselves and getting into the Christmas spirit.

I should also like to thank the staff of the school who worked hard preparing their class stalls and especially those who were able to come along and support their children on those stalls.

Mrs Rafferty

Super Stars

The children in Ants and Bees classes put on two excellent performances of Superstar this week.

Every child worked extremely hard to learn their individual lines and all the words to some fabulous songs.

Thank you to all the staff in Ants and Bees for working so hard to pull everything together. Watching the performance and seeing the children enjoy themselves so much has really got us all in the Christmas spirit!

Thank you also to those parents who have taken the time to write in, expressing their thanks.

Finally, the staff have asked us to pass on their thanks to those parents who provided the fabulous costumes.



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

Archie in Dolphins class was awarded the skills award by his football coach, to recognize Archie's goalkeeping contribution to his team's 1-1 draw.

Our swimmers have all done well: Florence in Ants class has been moved up to her Stage 4 swimming level, Megan in Cats class has achieved her Stage 5 Learn to Swim award, Bramley in Bees has achieved his Stage 3 and Flynn in Dolphins class has achieved his 100m distance award.

Bronwyn in Cats class has been very busy! She has received a certificate of participation for being an absolute star at her Glee club, achieved her level 7 gymnastics proficiency award and her Perform Silver Challenge certificate which she gained with Distinction.

Tabitha B in Cats class shared four rosettes that she has won through her gymnastics skills.

Benjamin in Dolphins class received the award for best Cub at Camp 2016 for the camp he attended with the cubs in the summer.

Finn in Dolphins class was runner up in a recent Under 9s county tennis tour.

James, Oliver and Ayrton, all in Bees class, received a medal after their end of term's club tournament.

Zenith recently took part in a judo competition and was awarded a gold medal for winning, beating both competitors.

End of Term Awards

Citizenship Award – Eva C and Alexandra R

The citizenship award goes to 2 children this term. They are exemplary members of St Michael's School, giving their own time to help the school to be an even better place. Their work with Mrs Rafferty on 'Keeping safe at St Michael's' has helped to raise awareness of how to keep safe and what to do if we ever feel unsafe. The citizenship award this term goes to Eva C and Alexandra R.

Performing Arts – Freddie B

Freddie worked hard to learn all his lines and delivered them with confidence and style. The audience found his performance as one of the Wise Men truly captivating. Whilst off stage he supported his friends and showed great commitment and enthusiasm, singing all the songs and applying the actions. Well done Freddie.

Swimming Award – Kyle

This year's swimming award goes to someone who has faced their fears and stepped out of their comfort zone. With encouragement and support from their peers they have made huge progress and have progressed from not being able to swim a width to being able to swim a length of the pool. They have also transferred this growth mindset into the classroom. You should be very proud of your achievements, Kyle.

Raxworthy Award – Marcos

Marcos is a cheerful child who approaches all challenges with a positive attitude. He really enjoys his learning and is especially good at making links between his learning and his experiences outside of school. He can find handwriting a challenge but he doesn't let this get in the way of writing his wonderful ideas down. Being new to the school he has become a valued member of the class. English is not his first language so he has adapted incredibly well to learning and speaking to adults and children in English.

Growth Mindset Award – Jude C

Jude C has an extremely positive approach to life and learning. He always tries his very best in all aspects of his work and is never afraid to take a risk. If he finds something difficult he knows that he is in his challenge zone and although he can't do it yet, with perseverance he will reach his goal. Well done Jude, your growth mindset attitude will prove to be invaluable in your learning for many years to come!

House Cup

2nd – Kingsbury: 100

2nd – Alban: 100

1st – Michael: 110

1st – Verulam: 110

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

Title	Class	Via
Acceptable Use Agreement reminders	Individual children	Paper copy
Home Learning	Whole school	Paper copy
Tennis club	Ants, Bees and Cats	Paper copy
Tag Rugby after school club	Cats, Dolphins and Eagles	Paper copy
Tag Rugby lunchtime club	Ants and Bees	Paper copy

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

Date of next newsletter: 13 January 2017

Diary Dates – Autumn Term 2016

Date	Event
Tuesday 20 December	Children's Christmas dinner in school
Wednesday 21 December 9.00am-10.00am	Christmas service in church
Wednesday 21 December 2.00pm	School Ends

- 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!