



# St. Michael's R.C. Primary School

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15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

We've had an excellent few weeks at school including: a creative writing session at the Live Theatre for Year 5, really well attended Parental Workshops for Y6, Y2 and Year 1 as well a wedding ceremony in Nursery and Reception! We have also had a Section 48 Diocesan inspection which was very positive. We will share the report of that RE inspection as soon as it has been validated.

### **Whole school Mass**

Fr Simon Lerche from St Michael's Church celebrated a whole school mass with us two weeks ago. The theme of the mass was 'The Presentation of the Lord'. Children from Key Stage 2 danced beautifully and the children who read did so with great confidence. Fr Simon spoke highly of our pupils and their excellent behaviour and attitude. It was a lovely occasion.

### **Attendance**

Overall school attendance is currently is 96.1%. From Summer term 2019, a penalty notice will be given to any parent who takes term time holiday. The cost of this penalty charge will be £120 per child per parent. Whilst we do understand that holidays are typically much cheaper during term time and I am sympathetic to this, the impact upon children's education is large.

Two weeks term time holiday results in sixty hours of lost learning. A child who is persistently absent misses on average one day every two weeks, this means out of a possible 190 school days, children with 90% attendance attend 171 days at school. They miss 114 hours of learning. We are now focusing on those children who we consider at risk of becoming persistently absent. We are reviewing every child's attendance. School matters so much to future life success, we want your children to enjoy a successful life beyond St Michael's and to do this we ask you to ensure your child attends each day.

### **Safer Internet Day**

Last week Mr Frankland delivered a Safer Internet Day assembly and in class children have completed activities linked to the assembly. The theme of the day was Understanding Consent in a Digital World. This focused on how consent works in an online context and asked young people to explore how they ask, give, and receive consent online. This could be in their friendships or relationships, how they take and share images and videos, or how they manage their privacy and data.

I regularly ask you to be vigilant with your children in their online world. Many of our young children have internet enabled devices which they use at home. Whilst the internet is a brilliant resource and we would find it hard to be without, it also has some significant risks. In our Maths workshops which all classes are having this term, there will be a short internet safety information presentation which we will share with you. The main messages are:

- The average 9 year old child posts 26 times a day on social media but only 6 out of 10 followers are real friends.
- 48% of parents believe their children know more about the Internet than they do.
- Young children tormented by online trolls has increased by 88% in 5 years.

- 78% of children from infancy have a tablet.
- 41% of Primary School children have communicated with people they don't know.
- 1 in 4 children have received something upsetting/hate messages online.

A very good online resources for adults is: [www.bbc.com/ownit](http://www.bbc.com/ownit) - how to stay safe and use the Internet in a positive way for children.

### **Uniform Reminder**

Thank you for making sure our children look smart in their correct school uniform. This helps to make our school look smart when we get together as a community or represent St Michael's at an external event. Please can we ensure that black school shoes are worn, no trainers. Alongside this, our uniform policy does not allow our children to wear earrings. Thank you for all your support. We are happy to support any parent who requests financial assistance with the cost of school uniform.

### **Sporting Success**

A huge well done to our Year 5 and 6 basketball team who won the cup at the basketball tournament last week. Staff were extremely impressed with the skills you displayed on the court but the excellent team spirit you show towards each other. Well done to our football teams and hockey teams who have also represented the school in recent weeks- we are very proud of you all! Well done also to Christina from Year 5. Christina has been selected to represent the county in an athletics competition next month. She thoroughly deserves the recognition and I know she will do herself, her family and St Michael's proud.

### **World book day and book fair**

As part of our World Book Day celebrations on the 7th March we will be hosting a 'Bedtime Book Theme' in school. We are inviting children to come to school dressed in their pyjamas and we will celebrate as a school community by listening to our favourite bedtime stories with a variety of fun activities planned throughout the day. In addition, we will be having hot chocolate with marshmallows to ensure we have a cosy day. We have chosen this theme in an attempt to keep costs down for parents but please do let us know if you require an assistance. We are all looking forward to an exciting day!

### **Volunteer Parent Readers**

We are looking for volunteers to listen to our children read next term. Your skills would be very much appreciated. There are so many reasons to volunteer, not only do you support our school, but volunteering provides the opportunity to develop your skills and experience too. If you feel you could support the school in this way, please leave your details at the school office.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs C Chapman  
Head of School