



St. Michael's R.C. Primary School

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4th April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

We've thoroughly enjoyed a great Spring term here at St Michael's because so many lovely things have happened. Our Nursery and Reception classes had a wonderful trip to the farm on Tuesday, our brilliant Mini Winnies have continued to visit St Joseph's Residential Home where they have read with the residents and our Year 1 class this week have been investigating weight and measure in Maths using baked beans! Last week Year 3 class enjoyed a coastal walk at Seaton Sluice in the sunshine as part of their Literacy and Science topics and our Shakespeare club have been rehearsing their scene from Romeo and Juliet. Not forgetting our fabulous Year 4 becoming champion skippers and our girls football team coming second in the league. I am so proud of our brilliant children and love seeing them succeed in all areas of school life.

In other news, St Michael's will soon have its own school mini bus. This will make taking groups and classes out on educational visits much easier, especially in wet and windy weather.

Thank you to those children and parents who decorated an egg or bonnet as part of our annual Easter competition. It was great to see so many people taking part and coming in to school to view the entries. Our super kitchen staff had a very difficult job in deciding on the winners. Thank you also for supporting the Spring Spectacle in Early Years, it was a great evening of Easter activities.

As a school community this half term, we have celebrated many class liturgies and assemblies. The turnout has been exceptional. Staff have enjoyed welcoming you in to their classes for the Reading Cafes too. The encouragement and support you show means a lot to our school.

Congratulations to Mrs Yeoman and Miss Consterdine!

Last Thursday, Mrs Yeoman was appointed as Deputy Headteacher and Miss Consterdine was appointed as Assistant Headteacher. Both are highly committed to St Michael's and have a clear vision for the school. We are very lucky at St Michael's because we have an excellent staff team who work together to ensure the school is the best that it can possibly be. Our fantastic pupils are a pleasure to teach and we love to work with you, the parents, in ensuring our children thrive.

Friends of St. Michael's – Parents and School Association

Before Christmas we relaunched our Parent and School Association. Thank you to those of you who have joined, the group has made such a difference already. The PTSA has lots of events planned including the film nights and sponsored runs in the summer term. All money raised from the PTSA goes directly back to the pupils. Last year the PTSA bought the Year 6 leavers hoodies. This year they have purchased prizes for the Easter Egg Competition plan to purchase more equipment for the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 yards. If you would like to join the PTSA then ask the school office for more information.

First Communion

Well done to our children, staff and parents for the way they have prepared themselves for the First Communion Celebrations. The next First Holy Communion session with Deacon Peter is on Wednesday 24th April 3.15-4.15. The children will then participate at the mass at St Michael's on Sunday 28th April 2019 at 11am. All children making their First Holy Communion are expected to attend the mass, the parishioners love seeing our children there, they are a great asset to our local community. The children will make their communion during mass on 16th June 2019 at 11am. The school choir will be there. It would be great if you could support the children during this special time. It'll be a lovely mass.

Achievement Assembly

Every Friday afternoon we have an assembly in the school hall where children are awarded for their

excellent attendance, attitude, effort and achievements. It's a highlight of the week and a lovely way to celebrate our amazing pupils. In the summer term, we are opening our doors for parents to come to the assembly. The assembly will start at 2.40pm. The dates are as follows:

Reception	Friday 26 th April
Year 1	Friday 3 rd May
Year 2	Friday 10 th May
Year 3	Friday 17 th May
Year 4	Friday 24 th May
Year 5	Friday 7 th June
Year 6	Friday 14 th June

It would be great to see you at our assemblies. Please stick to your child's date as room in the hall is limited.

Uniform

The pupils of St Michael's always look smart and visitors to the school regularly comment on how beautifully presented they are. To ensure we continue to look the best that we can, I ask that the uniform policy is followed at all times. Can I stress that pupils should not wear earrings for school. Wearing earrings can pose a significant health and safety risk so we ask that all jewellery, including earrings, are removed. I also ask that children wear school shoes for school. Over the winter months we allowed boots however now that Spring is here, we ask that black school shoes are worn. Children can come to school in trainers or boots and change in to school shoes if they so wish. Thank you for your understanding.

Holidays during term time

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 £60 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.

Parking

Parking around St Michael's is still very problematic due to the building work. I understand that there is limited parking facilities around school, so please park (if you need to drive) on Brunel Terrace so avoid congestion on Clumber Street North. It is our children who are regularly put at risk, so please support us.

Mrs McSherry

On Friday we say goodbye to Mrs McSherry. Mrs McSherry has worked at St Michael's for 13 years and will be missed by pupils, staff and parents very much. We continue to pray for Mrs Mc Sherry as she begins her next adventure. We wish her all the best in her new role.

Thank you for all you do for our children, we love what we do and really appreciate your excellent support. Enjoy the holidays! I hope you are able to look forward to a lovely family break. We return to school on Tuesday 23rd April. Happy Easter to you all!

Yours Sincerely



Mrs C Chapman
Head of School