
17th September 2018

Dear all,

Hello and welcome back to school for the start of another academic year. It was lovely to see so many parents and children on last Tuesday and I want to extend a huge warm welcome to the new families joining us throughout the school.

Welcome

I also want to congratulate all of the new children and parents that have started in the Nursery, Reception and a couple of children in other classes across the schools. I do hope you settle very quickly into school and make the most of your time with us by getting involved in school events, joining the Parent Teacher and Friend Association, and coming along to all the wonderful things we are busy planning for this year. The first meeting of the PTFA will take place on Wednesday 26th September at 9:00am. It would be fabulous if you could join. Last year, they organised such lovely events for the school and they are a supportive group of people who are a friendly face of the school.

Staffing

I want to extend a huge welcome to our new members of staff. We have Mr Stephen Gorman. He has made a great start to his teaching career, he is most welcome. I would like to congratulate Miss Murphy and Miss Clarke as they got married to John and Karl over the summer. They have returned to us Mrs Yeoman and Mrs Hillard. Congratulations to them.

First Communion

Children in Y4 have the opportunity to make their First Communion. If you would like your child to make their First Communion please complete the forms that will be sent home this week.

Your children make me proud

I regularly tell you that I have the best job in the world because I get to work with wonderful children, hard working staff and supportive parents. Each day, myself and the leadership team go into every class two or three times and I'm always looking at your children's work and judging the quality of it. It's been a privilege to visit the classes over the last few days, the children are all working hard on their presentation (their handwriting and the way their work looks) and I know that if they continue as we have started the term, the school will continue to excel and achieve the amazing results we have done for a number of years.

Uniform

Thank you all so much! Your children look wonderful for the start of term. The new uniform looks fantastic. All of the staff and visitors commented on how smart the children looked in our first assembly of the year on Tuesday. I am delighted with the support you have shown in ensuring the children have the correct uniform, equipment and sensible dark school shoes (no trainers!).

Earrings and Haircuts

Could I remind parents that children should not wear earrings. The only exception is if they have been recently pierced. If this is the case, we ask you to cover them up with a plaster. Where this has happened your child will be allowed to wear their earrings for a very limited period. Could I also

remind parents that we don't allow extreme haircuts. This means we do not expect patterns shaved onto pupils heads and hair dyed in colour. Where this has happened we will ask you to let it grow out and to not do it again during term time.

Good luck and Farewell to the new Year 7 pupils! (our old Year 6!!)

We had a fantastic end to the Summer term when our Year 6 pupils left. Our previous Year 6 had worked so hard all year and achieved some of the wonderful academic results. As national results are now starting to emerge, I can tell you all, we did fabulously well! We are at national averages in all aspects of Reading, Writing and Maths Combined at the end of KS2 and at the end of all key phases in school (end of Reception and end of Year 2) we have done really well. Overall, our results have improved over a three year period in most cases very significantly. For a full analysis of the results please check out our website under the performance section.

Attendance

To further raise the profile of attendance and punctuality at St Michael's, we are introducing a number of exciting rewards and incentives.

- Class reward – each week the class with the highest attendance receives the attendance trophy in assembly
- Class reward – each time a class has a weekly attendance of 96% and above they move closer toward getting a class treat such as an extra playtime
- Individual award – every day the children are in school they move closer toward receiving a reward

Every Friday the children who have 100% attendance for that week will have the chance to eat their lunch at a specially decorated golden table in the hall

Attendance Discos

Last term, we piloted an attendance disco, which rewarded those children who had 96% and above attendance from September 2017 to July 2018. It was a resounding success and feedback from the children and parents was superb! From September there will be an attendance disco at the end of every term – Autumn, Spring and Summer. Again, this will reward the children who have had 96% attendance for that time period.

At the end for the whole academic year 2018/19 for those children who have had 100% attendance, they will all be rewarded with a school trip. Information on this will be issued during Summer term 2019.

Punctuality

We would like to remind all parents that school gates open from 8.45am and that children are welcomed into school from that time. Children who are not in school by 9am are classed as late and will receive a 'late dinner'. Please note if your child(ren) are late for school, an adult must bring them to the School Office to be signed in. Morning registration closes at 9.30am. Children who arrive in school after 9.30am without a suitable explanation lose their morning mark and this can have a significant impact upon attendance over the whole school year. As always we actively encourage parents to discuss any difficulties with attendance and punctuality with us so that as a school, we can support you as best as we can.

Photograph Consent

As you know the school has a website (st-michaels.school) and a Facebook page ([StMichaelsRCPrimarySchool](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsRCPrimarySchool)). I am writing to you regarding consent for your child's photograph to be used within these. All photos are used sensitively, promoting the excellent work and experiences that your children partake in during their time in school.

Children's photos may be used on our website and Facebook pages, as well as the local press. When children attend residential trips or externally organised events you may be asked to sign a separate consent form for the company involved with that particular activity.

You will be receiving a revised photograph and visit consent form shortly. This will need to be handed back in to the School Office within seven days of receiving it. If we do not receive it, we will have to presume you do not give consent. You are entitled to change your mind anytime, simply inform the office.

Dates for your diary

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| Teacher Training Day (School Closed) | Monday 12th November |
| Start of Half term Holiday | Week beginning Monday 29th October |
| Return to school | Monday 5th November |

With my very best wishes to you all for another successful week and year ahead at St Michael's. If we can help in any way, please contact us.

Yours Sincerely



Mr N Conway
Executive Head Teacher