



'Enjoying Learning Together'

15 January 2016

Dear Parent/Carer/Governors

We have started the new term with great energy and it is great to see that so many children are putting extra effort into all areas of their learning. A lot of children have been telling me about how they are doing even more reading at home and learning spellings and their times tables. This is so important as it really gives them more confidence in their lessons. Please ensure that they are heard read as often as possible and that you fill in their reading journals, as it is a great way to communicate what is happening at home.

I would like to welcome all the new children and their families to our school and hope that they have had a great start to their time at St Michael's. It is always lovely to see how supportive our children are to new members of the school community and how welcome they make them feel.

I would also like to welcome Robert to our staffing team. He is going to be the Year 4 teacher for the rest of this year.

As some of you may have noticed, Terry, our lovely caretaker has not been in school recently, he is currently off sick but hoping to return shortly. We would like to wish him a speedy recovery.

Thank you to everyone who gets their children here on time every day. It really does make a difference to them and their classes. Classes really want to win the punctuality award in Friday's assembly and to do so they need the whole class to be in on time.

Please make sure that if you change your phone numbers, or addresses, that you let the office know. It is vital that we are able to contact you should the need arise.

Have a great weekend.

Stuart

**R.** This week we have started to learn the story, 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. At the start of the week the children found enormous footprints in our classroom. Shortly after they heard loud banging upstairs and a voice saying, "Fe fi fo fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman". They suspected that it must have been the giant! The children have been enjoying acting out and retelling the story. On Wednesday they did some beautiful writing about the story.

In Mathematics some children have been consolidating their knowledge of one less, while others have been developing their ability to recognise and order numbers, as well as matching numeral and quantity to 10. Those children who have secure knowledge of one less began to look at estimation.

Please read the Term 3 parent letter, there is some important information in it.

**Y1.** This week we have been doing work around the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We have made a wanted poster for Jack because he stole from the giant. In Maths we have been thinking about grouping and multiplying. The children have been drawing pictures to solve multiplication problems.

**Y2.** This week in Year 2 we have been working hard on the use of nouns, verbs and prepositions in English.

In Maths we have been exploring arrays through a variety of media. We had a fun Topic lesson on Wednesday afternoon as we quizzed Sue de-G on her many interesting experiences as a nurse, where we asked her thoughtful and detailed questions. Have a relaxing weekend everyone!

**Y3.** Maple class have been doing some fantastic Maths this week; we've dived in at the deep end and are getting some proper practice at problem solving using multiplication facts. We've been dividing, multiplying and solving problems and making lots of progress. We've also learned all about volcanoes for our topic and can tell you what is inside a volcano's cone.

**Y4.** Firstly, a huge 'thanks' to all of you for being so welcoming, friendly and supportive. I hope to organise a time we can all meet properly very soon.

This term's Maths Topic is multiplication and division. Within this we're using the Singapore Bar Method as a tool to 'see' maths problems with deeper understanding. Please ask your children for an explanation!

In English we are learning 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin' (the children have been given story maps to practise this at home).

**Y5.** This week Year 5 have begun work on our new Topic: Space Explorers, which everybody was excited to get stuck in to. The children enjoyed discussing their current knowledge of the solar system in small groups and as a whole class. We gathered all of the ideas and we will be reflecting on them throughout the term as we learn new things.

The children have been working hard this week in their writing to explore the main character's feelings from our class book: 'There's a Boy in the Girls Bathroom' by Louis Sachar.

**Y6.** We have hit the ground running in Year 6! This week we have begun persuasive letter writing: constructing powerful arguments in response to a comment made by a (fictitious) disgruntled grown-up. They have been exploring the use of emotive language and using this in their own writing. We have begun our Fractions Topic in Maths and we will be continuing this throughout the term. It has been great to see all of the children come back to school with such brilliant enthusiasm!

### **Attendance Update**

**Data: Monday 11 – Friday 15 January 2016**

<b>Rocky the Attendance Dog</b>		<b>Punctuality Polar Bear</b>	
Awarded to <b>Y4 who recorded an impressive 99.18% attendance</b> 😊		Awarded to both <b>YR &amp; Y4 as both classes have recorded ZERO late marks for the week</b> 😊	
<b>Class</b>	<b>% Attendance</b>	Late marks recorded <b><u>Before</u></b> close of register <b>(L)</b>	Late marks recorded <b><u>After</u></b> close of register <b>(U)</b>

<b>R</b>	87.65%	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>1</b>	92.34%	5	4
<b>2</b>	94.05%	1	1
<b>3</b>	93.10%	3	0
<b>4</b>	<b>99.18%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>5</b>	91.19%	1	2
<b>6</b>	95.65%	0	1

**Total minutes of children late for school this week = 280 minutes which equals almost 5 hours of missed learning.**

### **Hello and Welcome**

We have had a busy start to the new term with quite a few arrivals! We would like to warmly welcome all our new children and their families to our school community.

### **Teacher Led After School Clubs**

A letter went home on Wednesday giving you all details of the free teacher led after school clubs. At the time of writing, both Drama and Adventure Clubs are full and there are limited spaces in a few other clubs, so do be quick with requests!

### **Winter Fair**

A big thank you to everyone who helped and attended the Winter Fair last month. Due to all your hard work and generosity the grand total of £387.19 was raised.

### **Envelopes**

A plea.....all of the donated envelopes in the main school hallway have all gone! If anyone has spare envelopes at home, please could you donate them? Everyone has mail, so you can always recycle the envelopes; alternatively paying for goods on line is the way forward!

EzPay is our secure online payment system. Access to EzPay is through the school website:

[www.stmichaelsonthemount.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.stmichaelsonthemount.bristol.sch.uk) Click on the Parent icon

A drop down menu will appear, then select the option marked 'Shop' Follow the instructions.

### **Dates for Your Diary**

Wed 20 Jan	<b>Y2:</b> Parent meeting in the Parish Lounge at 8:45am.
Thu 21 Jan	<b>YR:</b> Parent meeting in the School Hall at 8:45am re Bug Club.
Tues 26 Jan	<b>YR:</b> School Nurse in to weigh and measure Reception children.
Mon 1 Feb	Full Governing Body Meeting at 6:00pm
Fri 5 Feb	End of Term 3 – normal time: 3:15pm