



18 January 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)/Governor(s)

Happy New Year. Christmas seems such a long time ago and we are well and truly back in the swing of things.

It's been a busy start as we have shown several visitors around our lovely school who we hope will be interested in the headship of the St. Michael and St. George Federation. What a pleasure it has been to show us off. It's thrilling to be able speak from the heart and present this opportunity as a very special, unique and rewarding position that someone will be blessed to secure.

We have started the year with a new theme for our worship: Peace. After the hectic lead up to Christmas, it's good to be able to explore peace in all its many facets. As well as enjoying peace, we will reflect on those who are unable to live in peace through no fault of their own. Despite the chaos of our politics, we are mindful of the huge privileges we have as a democracy, the freedoms we have and the choices we can make.

To help get us focussed for our work, on two mornings each week we will start the day with 'Wake 'n' Shake'. Jack (PE Jack) and our very own Jack will lead the sessions on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30 am. We have had a couple of sessions this week and it's been great fun. We have really enjoyed ourselves and it energises us for the day. Even with my old knees (one of which is not even real!), I've managed to do a bit. I'm very grateful to the children who got partnered with me; they were very kind and supportive (literally). So **'Be there or be square'**. Do come along and enjoy the fun!

Wake 'n' Shake with Jacks
Wednesday and Thursday morning at 8.30 am

One thing I'd like to bring to your attention that needs us all to pull together is uniform. One of our recent visitors asked me to confirm that uniform was 'voluntary'!! Several visitors commented on the different coloured sweatshirts and wondered why the children didn't all wear something that made them look as if they belonged to our school.

I found myself looking through the eyes of the visitor(s) and I was stunned to realise that it really does look like it's either voluntary or just rough guidance. It's not. We have a very clear uniform but several children in every class do not wear it. It is a very clear expectation that all children will wear the school uniform as per the website, click on Parents and then Shop when the drop down menu appears.

Please can we all present ourselves as 'fully paid up' members of St. Michael's on the Mount Church of England Primary School and wear the complete uniform? I think this will make a huge difference to how we project ourselves and how we feel. Let's be proud and smart.

Since September our attendance stands at a much improved 94.55% which is very encouraging indeed. I know it's the 'cold and cough' season but I was disappointed to see that it had plummeted to a horrible 89.53% last week. Obviously, this will negatively impact on our whole year percentage and undermine the fantastic gains we have achieved. We can do better than this and please remember that the expectation nationally is 96%.

Many thanks for your support.

Margaret Gwynne
Interim Head teacher

Forest Class:

This week in Forest Class we have carried on learning our story 'Owl Babies'. We have ordered the story and Hazel learners have written it. We loved our trip to Royal Fort Gardens where we made animal shelters, come and see the photos of them.

In maths, we have thought about the language of whole and parts. The children have a good understanding of this which will really help them when they start doing more addition and subtraction.

We have launched our new topic of 'Seasonal Changes', thank you for those children who completed their homework.

Chestnut Class:

Chestnut Class have made a running jump into this term, throwing themselves whole-heartedly into all of their learning.

In science, we have begun the topic of 'Everyday Materials', where the children have to identify key materials used in everyday items. Last week we did an investigation into which type of dishcloth is the most absorbent - we concluded that a thick cotton towel is the best and probably the most environmentally friendly! Hopefully you will have some willing kitchen assistants now!

In maths, we have consolidated our learning of division and multiplication. I have seen wonderful resilience from the children with their learning and they have made big strides in their progress.

Finally, in literacy we are doing a non-fiction topic on nocturnal animals. The children learnt the first text - 'All about Owls' - off by heart and innovated it to be about hedgehogs using their super hedgehog knowledge from our previous learning before Christmas. Well done Chestnuts!

Maple Class:

In Year 3, we have been enjoying our Power of Reading book 'The Pebble in my Pocket' and linked our topic of 'Rocks' into our literacy lessons with lots of outstanding work being produced, including writing limericks based on the pebble and fish within the story. We have also written about the journey of the pebble using key terminology from our topic to extend our vocabulary.

Maple class have also taken their understanding of volcanoes and painted some magnificent volcanic art which can be seen in our classroom on display. We even performed some drama around the journey of a pebble through a river, the children will be happy to show the journey at home!

In maths, we have been learning about the concept of money. We have created shopping lists and been shopkeepers giving change and adding different amounts. This has been really tricky, but our attitude has been excellent.

Our RE focus this term is Hinduism. We have begun to understand key terminology relating to Hinduism, this has been demonstrated in a letter to a Hindu God of the children's choice, that matched their values and own reflection on their personality.

Willow Class:

The beginning of term 3 has seen Willow class revising our formal maths methods: column addition, subtraction and multiplication. We have also brought some maths into our art beginning to create shapes of pursuit.

Our new text is 'The Ice Palace' by Robert Swindells and we have been thinking about what it is like to live in a cold climate. We were extremely lucky to have Rowena speak to us about her visits to the Arctic and Antarctica including building an igloo and encounters with penguins!

Our new topic is 'States of Matter' and we have been thinking about atoms (that make up everything, even that thing you are wondering about) and how they move in solids liquids and gases. Finally we've been asking ourselves the question: can you really see steam?

Cedar Class:

This week has seen us working hard at our multiplication skills, brushing up on the chunking method for checking our answers, solving multiplication puzzles, and polishing our vertical method of calculation.

In literacy, we have been amazed at determination of the crew members of Ernest Shackleton's endurance expedition to Antarctica, as we have learnt of the youngest expedition member who didn't take 'no' for an answer at the recruitment line-up, and stowed away aboard the ship to ensure his place on the expedition. We have wondered if he regretted his boldness as the adventure unfolded...

Birch Class:

Birch Class have been learning about 'Smok the Dragon of Wawel', a Polish folk tale. We have focused on using cohesive devices in our writing such as repetition and adverbial phrases. We have now begun to innovate a new version of the story based on 'Cerberus the Three-Headed Dog'. In maths, we have begun learning about decimals and are multiplying and dividing using decimals. In our science topic we are learning about evolution and adaptation and have even seen some fossils.

Attendance Update

Our whole school attendance goal is **97%**. Please help us reach our goal by ensuring your child is in school regularly and on time.

Data: Monday 14 – Friday 18 January 2019

Rocky the Attendance Dog		Punctuality Polar Bear	
Awarded to: Birch Class with 97.88% attendance recorded for the week 😊		Awarded to: NOT AWARDED ☹️	
Class	% Attendance	Late marks recorded Before close of register (L)	Late marks recorded After close of register (U)
Forest Oak Learners:	88.89%	3	1

Hazel Learners:	95.06%	1	0
Chestnut	95.37%	5	2
Maple	98.41%	1	2
Willow	95.06%	3	2
Cedar	97.08%	1	2
Birch	97.88%	6	0

354 minutes late have been recorded this week. That's very nearly 6 hours of missed learning due solely to lateness.

By being continually late, you run the risk of being issued with a Penalty Notice. Please be on time. School starts promptly at **08:45am** – no later.

Hello and Welcome

We would like to say a big St. Michael's "Hello and welcome" to Xu, Tianna, Mimi, Dmitry, Tyreese and a warm welcome back to Jeanne, who have all started with us either at the very end of T2 or beginning of T3. A very warm welcome to you all and you families.

Term 3

A few reminders for you all now we are now firmly in Term 3:

- All children require a P.E. kit on their peg. All kits should have been freshly laundered during the holiday and returned to school, where they should remain until the end of the term. If, however, you wish to take the kits home for cleaning before this time, please ensure there is a replacement on your child's peg.
- Music payments are now due. Please go ahead and log on to your account on our secure online payment system, 'ParentPay' to settle this term's bill. Big thank you to those of you who have already done so.
- Dinners are £2.10 per day per child, which is £10.50 per week. The preferred method of paying for dinners (After School Club, music tuition, school trips etc) is via our secure online payment system 'ParentPay'. Payments due to school are **not** payable in arrears; please ensure all monies are received in a timely fashion.
- St. Michael's does have a school uniform! Everyone should be wearing school uniform daily, please ensure your child is sent to school in the correct school uniform. Thank you.
- The **STAFF** car park is not for parental or extended family use **at any time**. We encourage you to walk to and from school wherever possible
- There should not be any sweets, chocolate bars, nuts or fizzy drinks of any kind in school. Please ensure snacks for break time and packed lunches do not contain any of these items, thank you for your help with this.

Communication

As promised, we will shortly be withdrawing from 'Teachers2Parents', instead, all communication via text and email will originate through 'ParentPay', this will happen by the **end of January 2019**.

News Hot off the Press! We are introducing **all** After School Club bookings through 'ParentPay'. This new system will be available from Monday 21 January 2019 and will be so much easier! We will, however, process the booking forms that have been received for the current term (T3).

All online bookings will now need to be made **at least 24 hours in advance**, as the list will close so the play leaders know exactly who should be attending the club.

If places are available, we will be able to take last minute bookings to the club, this will accommodate the following: meetings that have overrun, stuck in traffic etc. In this instance, please email the school – st.michael.p@bristol-schools.uk to request a place at your earliest possible convenience. If places are required after 3:00pm on the day you can telephone 0117 903 0434, however, email is **always** preferred.

Children who are collected late from school will be sent to After School Club, places permitting, **this will incur a charge of £8.50. There is no exception to this.** School ends at **3:15pm**.

Teachers plan meetings, and clubs of their own, so cannot be delayed due to late collection from school.

For ease, we will accept booking via the school website until the end of this term.

To reiterate:

www.stmichaelsonthemount.bristol.sch.uk is the current way to book After School Club (payable) although the quicker you swap to the new system 'ParentPay' the better. If you wish to book via the current system on the school web site:

Locate and click on the 'Parent' icon, once the drop down menu appears, select 'After School Club' where you will see the current term's (T3) booking form. Complete it and email it to:

st.michael.p@bristol-schools.uk

<https://stmichaelsonthemount.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/> is the link to book our Teacher Led After School Clubs (free) and Parents evenings.

In the interest of fairness, when there are clubs and parent evening slots available, you will be given plenty of notice so you can book online when the system goes live at 6:30pm on the relevant night. Please keep these links handy

Whole School Places of Worship

Following last week's letter please see the details below where the classes will be visiting this term as part of our RE focus 'Respect for All'. The children will also be looking at how each faith brings 'Unity' to their communities.

Some classes will be walking to their chosen venues, therefore, consent is not necessary.

Other classes will be using a coach, therefore, **consent is necessary**.

Please email consent to: st.michael.p@bristol-schools.uk as soon as possible. It is not necessary to wait for the deadline (which is always 3:30pm the day before a trip takes place). If you get in the habit of reading the information and replying straight away, it much easier for everyone!

A mammoth thank you to those of you who replied straight away or has done so before reading this newsletter, it's always a guessing game in the office to whom we think will reply first as there are a few of you who reply almost straight away!

Class	Religion & Place of Worship	Date	Mode of Travel
Forest (YR & Y1)	Christianity/Church of England St Stephen's (our link Church)	Wednesday 6 February Arrive at 10:00am	Walk
Forest (YR & Y1)	Christianity/Church of England Bristol Cathedral	Thursday 24 January Arrive at 10:00am	Walk

Chestnut (Y2)	Judaism Synagogue Bannerman Road	Thursday 31 January Arrive at 10:30am	Coach
Maple (Y3)	Hinduism Hindu Temple	Tuesday 29 January Arrive at 9:30am	Coach
Willow (Y4)	Sikhism Sikh Gurdwara	Monday 21 January Arrive at 10:00am	Coach
Cedar (Y5)	Christianity/Methodism Wesley New Rooms	Tuesday 29 January Arrive at 10:00am	Walk
Birch (Y6)	Islam Shah Jalal Jame Mosque	Wednesday 23 January Arrive at 10:00am	Coach

Willow Class (Y4) have their RE trip on Monday, at the time of writing this newsletter, there are still 6 consents outstanding.....

The absolute deadline to receive consents is Friday 18 January 2019 (today) at 3:30pm.

Dates for Your Diary

	RE Trips: please see table above
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Links:

T: 0117 903 0434

E: st.michael.p@bristol-schools.uk

W: www.stmichaelsonthemount.bristol.sch.uk

<https://stmichaelsonthemount.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>

Does a child or young person in Bristol need support or safeguarding?

FIRST RESPONSE

0117 903 6444

The right help, in the right place, at the right time

When you call we will ask you some questions to work out the best route for helping the child, young person and/or family.

If it is not a child protection issue, you will need to have spoken to the parent/carer or young person to get their consent before calling.

We'll also ask you if the parent/carer has agreed to us safely sharing information between children's services and other agencies.

Please have as much information as possible when you ring.

Your phone call may result in:

- Information, advice and guidance being given about services to help families.
- A referral to the Early Help team who can provide support to children, young people and families.
- A safeguarding referral to a social work team.




Prevent Referrals & Advice



01278 647 466

channelsw@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

For support and advice on the Prevent Duty please contact 017 9222444 or email su.coombes@bristol.gov.uk


