



St. Michael's Woolmer Green C of E Primary School

September Newsletter



5th September 2016

Dear Parent/carer,

Our value for the month of September is "Honesty".
"Better to have little and be fair than to have too much and be dishonest".

Proverb: 16:8

A warm welcome back to the Autumn term and to all our new children and to our new staff members: Ms Prentice, Year 4 Class teacher and our new Deputy Head. Mrs Dean, Year 1 Class teacher and Mrs Baxter, TA in Year 3 class.

We hope you have had a wonderful Summer break. We have lots of good news to report:

Congratulations to St. Michael's Pre-school who received "Outstanding" in their recent Ofsted conducted last term. This is a fantastic achievement for Debbie May and her team. Well done.

During the holidays we had new internal doors replaced throughout, and the school looks like new. It has made a real difference. In addition the Ladies Cloakroom has been refurbished.

Parents may have noticed the superb Astro-turf surface laid outside Year 3 classroom. This will provide a safe environment for play and sport and our very grateful thanks go to Mr Corke who spent many hours of hard labour fitting this for us. Thank you also to the Friends for the funding of this. We hope it is admired and appreciated by all.

Access to school

Please remember to use the pedestrian gate ONLY at the end of the car park. PLEASE DO NOT ENTER VIA THE STAFF CAR PARK. I will be on the playground each day if you have any concerns or questions.

Walk to School

Don't forget our Walking Bus.

Meet at

Woolmer Green Village Hall at 8.40am each day.

Thank you for your support.

PARKING - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please do not park in the staff car park to drop off children or to collect unless you are a member of staff. This includes collecting at after school clubs.

The Staff Car Park is a very busy area with constant deliveries and visitors to school.

Pedestrians also need to take extra care when crossing the staff car park exit and children need to be supervised at all times. PLEASE DO NOT WALK THROUGH THIS AREA.

Nick and Marion from the Chequers Pub are our good neighbours. They would like us to inform parents that they MAY park in their car park in the mornings ONLY to drop off.

In the afternoons they MUST ONLY PARK IN THE FRONT SPACES.

DO NOT PARK ALONG THE HEDGE AND DO NOT PARK IN THE EVENINGS.

Please do not drop off or park on the busy main road which is very dangerous.

We want to prevent serious accidents outside our school.

School Clubs and Activities

Clubs for our After school activities including details of lunchtime choir will be distributed shortly. CLUBS start w/c 12th September.

DON'T FORGET ENERGY KIDZ After Care runs Monday to Thursday 3.15-6pm. and operates from school. Contact 0333 577 1533 to book in advance please.

Breakfast Club

This runs from 7.50 am until 8.50 am in order to accommodate needs of families. The cost is £2.50 per session. Again, it is helpful to pre-book by contacting the school office. We prefer payment weekly to Mrs Pearce. Cheques payable to St. Michael's Woolmer Green school.

School Office open hours

The school office is open at the following times for those wishing to purchase items of uniform or school shop stationery.

8.45-9.15am 12.00-12.30pm 3.15-4.00pm

Letters or slips for the office must be handed in to the class teacher to avoid unnecessary congestion outside the office. **Please avoid coming in to school before 3.15pm** as our Collective Worship takes place in our school hall at this time.

Attendance procedures for Years 1 to 6

Children are allowed into classes from 8.50am with class teachers in class.

Lessons will begin at 9.00am prompt so as to maximise your child's learning and protect curriculum time.

In order to encourage your child to be more independent parents are strongly discouraged from coming in to class in the morning.

Any notes are to be handed in by your child to the class teacher or emailed to the school admin address. Any items that need to be delivered to your child must be handed in at the school office only, to avoid disruption to the class.

The safety of your child is paramount as is the smooth operation of the start of the day for teaching staff, so there will be no need to line up on the playground. I will be available from 8.45am to 9.15am each day should any issues or concerns arise.

In addition, lateness both to school and to lessons is strongly discouraged so that valuable time is not wasted. We do appreciate that in certain circumstances lateness cannot be avoided. If your child is going to be late (**after 9.00am**) please telephone the school office. This will enable us to keep our attendance registers accurate. Upon arrival, your child must be signed in the visitors book in Reception foyer **if this is later than 9.00am**, so that there is a record of his/her presence in the building. Your child needs to go straight to class.

If we do not receive any reason for absence we will telephone you after the register closes.

Thank you for your support in maximising your child's learning and supporting these new routines.

Music Lessons

Tuition will commence as follows for those who have signed up.

Monday: Recorder/Flute/Clarinet -No teacher has been assigned yet by the Music Service. TBC

Tuesday & Wednesday: Piano - Yrs 2-6 with Mrs Preece.

Swimming Lessons

Lessons for Oak class will commence on **Friday 9th September**. Please ensure your child brings their clearly labelled swimming kit in to school. Children will return at approximately 3.30pm.

School Meals

Our Pupil Choice menu will continue until **OCTOBER** half term. New Menus will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Good health begins with good hygiene

Sickness

We would like to remind parents that children who have been sick or have had diarrhoea must stay off school for at least 48 hours to avoid spreading illness.

Headlice

It is important to check your child's hair regularly. If you are unsure of the symptoms and treatment of this condition please ask at the school office to obtain an information sheet. **Pupils with long hair need it tied back.**

Asthma

If your child has asthma, it is vital that their inhalers are up to date and clearly labelled in the event of an emergency. **It is also important that your child's medical record held in school is correct which should include any allergies.**

Allergies

We have a few children in school with Nut allergies. As a result we need to inform parents that anything containing nuts CANNOT be brought in to school, particularly in packed lunch boxes.

PARENTMAIL

This is our main communication to you. New parents will shortly receive a link to register.

A Welcome Back from your Governing Body!

On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to welcome you all, Parents/carers, Pupils and Staff to the start of the new term.

Many of our children will be returning to school after the summer break to a new teacher and a new classroom. For others, they will be starting school for the very first time. Our teachers and teaching assistants will have a new group of children to nurture and to guide in their learning. The Governors will be reconsidering their roles and responsibilities and planning to support the school in every way they can over the coming year. A new and exciting time for us all.

The Governors have a dedicated section on the school website that clearly defines who we are, our roles and responsibilities and how we aim to support the school. Every year we send out to parents a questionnaire to find out what you are thinking about how well the school is doing. This is always a very positive exercise regarding the educational opportunities that are on offer at St Michaels and it helps us to plan for the future. In addition, I have listed below when our Governing Body Meetings are planned for the coming year. As Governors, we welcome input from parents/carers so please do feel that you can contact the Governors with suggestions and comment.

Finance, Resources Committee	Review Monthly Reports	Full Governing Body	Learning, Pupil Progress
19 September 14 November	July/August + H&S Audit req'd Sept/October	26 September 5 December	3 October 28 November
16 January 13 March	November/December January/February	30 January 27 March	23 January 20 March
8 May 3 July	March/April (Yr End & Draft Budget) May/June	15 May (Approve Budget) 12 July (SATs results)	3 May 10 July (due to SATs results)

Governors attend the Parent Consultation Evenings and would like to meet as many of you on these occasions as possible. Please do make yourself known to us on these evenings.

Wishing you and your children a very successful and enjoyable year at St Michaels. Sue Gray - Chair

NEWS FROM CLASSES

Sycamore class

A very warm welcome to all our new children in Reception and we hope you have all had a lovely Summer. We look forward to the next few weeks helping your children to settle into school life.

We plan for the children's learning on a weekly basis and will be emailing you an overview of planning each week so that you know what we are learning in school. We base our planning on the children's interests therefore our themes can change frequently. However, there is an overview of topics on the website that we are likely to cover this year. We will send more information regarding our first theme in due course.

If you have not yet sent in a family photo for our 'Family Album' display then please could you do so by the end of this week if possible. Thank you.

May we also remind you that the children's labelled PE kit stays in school, as do a pair of named wellies. Please send these into school this week also.

Please feel free to speak to one of us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Miss Tobin

Willow class

Welcome back to an exciting new school year in Year 1.

I hope you all had a lovely Summer break and have lots of energy ready for the exciting activities planned for this half term.

We will be learning about growing and changing in our topic 'All about me'. We will be looking at baby photos and talking about how we change and the importance of healthy eating. We will also learn about our emotions and our senses. There will also be lots of fun Maths and English learning too.

Children should bring a water bottle and sunhat to school each day as we will still be enjoying learning outside as long as the sunshine stays with us. A pair of named wellies that can be kept at school will also allow us to explore outside on not so bright days.

I am really looking forward to our year together. I was lucky to meet most parents at the end of last term but if you would like to speak to me please come and see me after school or make an appointment with the school office.

Thank you.

Mrs Dean

Cherry class

We hope you had a lovely Summer break. This half term, our topic is Home and Away and we will be comparing the United Kingdom to China. We will also explore work by some famous abstract artists and learn about how we belong to a family, to a class and a community.

During English lessons we will explore stories with familiar settings, poetry and postcards and letters, while our maths lessons will focus on key skills such as counting and place value, adding and subtracting and money and time.

Please can your child have a named PE kit left in school every day. We also encourage our children to bring their own water bottle which they can then access when need.

We welcome parent helpers and if you have any time to help with reading or to change reading books, please let us know (You will need a full DBS check first).

We look forward to working with you and your children and to an exciting year in Cherry Class. If you have any questions, please come and see us.

Mrs Bokmans

Redwood class

We hope that you have all had a wonderful Summer break, and welcome you to Redwood Class.

We are looking forward to teaching your child this year and have some fantastic topics, starting this half term with our history topic covering The Stone Age to Iron Age. In Science we will be looking at the human body, animals and nutrition. English will start with traditional tales, with a focus on fables. Mrs Gloyn will be teaching Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Wadey will be teaching on Thursday and Friday.

We will be giving spelling and mental maths homework and really encourage children to learn their times tables each week. Details to follow soon.

PE: Please can children have their indoor and outdoor PE kit in school AT ALL TIMES. Thank you!

We always appreciate any help with changing reading books and listening to readers.

Please let us know if you are able to help in any way. However a full DBS check is required.

We hope that your child really enjoys their time in year 3, and that the transition into Key Stage 2 goes smoothly.

Mrs Gloyn and Mrs Wadey

Elm class

A happy new academic year to all pupils (and their families) who are joining Elm class.

We will be developing a love of literacy through the study of *fables, myths and legends*, as well as many opportunities for creative writing and the shared reading of texts. Pupils should also gain confidence in the use of a fluent and joined handwriting style and the correct use of grammar within spoken and written English.

Maths sessions will focus on mathematical enquiry and problem solving as well as mental and written calculation. Telling the time and reading timetables will be covered early in the term and it is always useful if the children have been practising this at home.

Our History topic for this term is *Ancient Greece: life, achievements and its legacy*. The children will use a range of sources to find about the life and achievements of the Ancient Greeks. Through their investigations they will find out about the city states of Athens and Sparta, warfare and seamanship, everyday life, beliefs, culture, and through Greek mythology, some of the key events and individuals from this period.

We are starting with a very 'hands-on' Science topic and so the children will be working scientifically to understand *States of Matter*. The pupils will plan, carry out and observe their own investigations and, hopefully, draw insightful conclusions from these experiments!

Homework / Spellings will be sent out on a Wednesday and should be handed in by the following Monday please (or as soon as they are completed!). Mental maths tests will be on a Tuesday and times tables tests on a Thursday. Reading record books should be signed by a parent please and comments are always useful so we can follow up any tricky vocabulary or unfamiliar concepts in class. Reading record books and PE kits need to be in school every day please.

We look forward to a successful and happy year and please do not hesitate to call in if you have any queries or news to share.

Miss Prentice and Mrs Cox

Beech class

We hope that you all had a fantastic summer and that the children are ready for a busy and action packed term.

Our main topic this term for art and history will be the Ancient Egyptians. If you have any artefacts or books that we could use we would be very grateful.

- RE: we will be investigating the bible and looking at the importance of prayer for Christians
- English: We will be studying the text of War Horse by Michael Morpurgo, each pair of children will have a copy of the book to share in class.
- Science-Properties of materials; Reversible and irreversible changes
- PE: Please can children have their indoor and outdoor PE kit in school at all times.

Homework:

Maths will be handed out on a Monday and will be due in on Wednesday.

English will be handed out on a Tuesday and will be due in on a Thursday.

Reading: Please read daily and a note made by a parent / adult in the reading record.

X tables: the children will know which x table to learn and they will be tested every Friday.

Spelling: the children will be expected to learn their spellings for a test on a Friday.

I will also occasionally send home one other piece of homework usually on a Friday which will consolidate current learning.

We hope that the children have a successful and happy term and if you have any queries please feel free to pop in after school.

Mrs Woods

Oak class

A warm welcome to Oak Class. We hope you had an enjoyable and restful Summer and are ready to meet the challenges of Year 6.

Here is a taster of some of our studies for this half term:

R.E. : prayers, St Michael, Harvest and Buddhism

History : WW2 and the Battle of Britain

Science : Evolution and Inheritance

English : Our class text is *Carrie's War* by Nina Baldwin

P.E : Swimming (starts this Friday) and circuit training. (Please have both indoor and outdoor named kit in school at all times.)

Homework Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reading Spelling Times Tables Maths - Topic	Reading Spelling Times Tables	Reading Spelling Times Tables Maths - Mental Maths	Reading Spelling Times Tables	Reading - next chapter of <i>Carries War</i> English - SPAG Spelling Times Tables

There may be additional homework set from time to time and any unfinished work from the day may be sent home for completion. If there any concerns over homework please put a note into your child's homework diary.

We look forward to a busy, hardworking but fun term ahead. Should you have any concerns , or questions, please pop in to talk to us as the end of the day.

Mrs Leake and Mrs Harry

Christian After School Club – Wednesday until 4.15pm

This weekly after school club was started by Rev'd Lucy Dallas who left part way through last year.

We have a replacement – Dominic – coming next year but in the meantime the Rector, the Rev'd David Munchin, with a small group of volunteers are running this club.

We hope to have something of a revamp and relaunch this September. All children are welcome (from primary school) and we have games, craft activities, videos, refreshments, songs, etc – all based around a bible story theme. It is completely free and it would be lovely to see your children there.

We begin this term on September 14th – we meet in the school hall and then go over to Woolmer Green church from where children should be collected.

Do come along.

David.

EVENTS AND DATES

5 th September	Start of Autumn Term
13 th September	9.15am. Welcome service at St. Michael's Church for all children. Parents welcome
29 th Sept - 6 th Oct	Book Fair in Library until 5 th October
11 th October	Harvest at St. Michael's Church for all children. Parents welcome.
4 th October	Harvest Choir at St. Albans Cathedral am
7 th October	Tempest Photos (individual and siblings at school)
19 th October	Parent consultations: 4.30-7.30pm Details will follow in due course
20 th October	Parent consultations: 3.30-5.30pm Details will follow in due course
24th -28th October	Half Term
w/c 14 th November	Assessment Week
15 th December	9.30am Dress Rehearsal at Woolmer Green Village Hall for Reception, Yr 1 & 2 children
16 th December	2pm Nativity Service at Woolmer Green Village Hall for R, Yr 1 & 2 parents
20 th December	Carol Service at St. Michael's church 6.00pm for Yrs 3-6
21 st December	Christmas lunch all years End of Autumn Term School finishes at 2.15pm
9th January	Start of Spring Term
7 th February	Candlemas Service at St. Michael's Church for all children. Parents welcome.
13-20 February	Half Term
2 nd March	World Book Day
w/c 6 th March	Assessment Week
22 nd March	Parent consultations: 4.30-7.30pm
23 rd March	Parent consultations: 3.30-5.30pm
30 th March	Easter Service at St. Michael's Church - whole school 9.15am
31 st March	Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Egg Competition Assembly END OF TERM 2.15pm
1-17th April	Easter Holidays - School Closed
18th April	Start of Summer Term
1st May	Bank Holiday - school closed
w/c 15 th May	SATS week
7 th June	Pentecost Service at St. Michael's Woolmer Green school
24-26 th May	Year 6 Residential to PGL at Caythorpe Court, Lincs. Confirmed
29th May - 2nd June	Half Term
w/c 12 th June	Year 6 cycling proficiency course
21 st June	Sports Day 1.30pm
22 nd June	Reserve Sports Day
14 th and 17 th July	Year 6 School Performance Dress Rehearsal
18 th July	Year 6 End of Year School Performance 1.30pm Village Hall
19 th July	Year 6 End of Year School Performance 6pm Village Hall
13 th July	Transition Day - all children spend the day in their new class for Sept.
20 th July	6-7.30pm Year 6 Leavers Disco and Yr 6 Parents Buffet Village hall 5-6pm
21 st July	Leavers Assembly 9.15am End of Term - finishes 2.15pm
24th July	INSET Day - Staff Training