



Newsletter 5

26 March, 2021

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DATES COMING UP

APRIL

THUR 1ST

DRESSING UP DAY

LAST DAY OF TERM

MON 19TH TERM 5
STARTS

Please try to avoid dropping things off in the office, unless it is absolutely essential (we can provide children with water during the day if they forget their water bottle.

Thank you!

CONTACT:

TEL: 01454 866781/2

EMAIL:
admin@stmichaelssg.org.uk

WEBSITE:
www.stmichaelssg.co.uk

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of term 4, it's hard to remember that exactly a year ago we were two weeks in to the first lockdown. So much has happened over the past year: a lot of hardship and sadness for many families in our community; a lot of change including three lockdown periods; all sorts of changes to our everyday lives. At last the signs of renewal are much more positive, and this fits in well with our celebration of Easter, which is all about the promise of hope and new life.

The last few weeks have gone really well for most of the children, and we have got various support packages in place for children who have found the restart more of a challenge. The parent evenings that are currently under way will have given parents the chance to talk to your child's teacher about how your child has settled back in, and identify any social, emotional or learning needs.

During the summer term we will be looking to address any issues that have been identified, including any significant leaning gaps. We have increased staffing across the school, partly financed by the 'Covid Premium Grant', as well as providing extra mentoring support where needed.

We are ending the term with a dressing up day on Thursday 1st to celebrate our term of reading: any book character is welcome!

Best wishes to everyone for a lovely Easter break

Mark Freeman, Headteacher

Year 6: transition to Secondary School

Over the next two terms there will be a range of things taking place to ensure a positive transition to secondary school. As usual we will be providing the secondary school with a range of information about your child, and children will also be working on a 'pupil passport' to take with them. We will be having direct meetings with staff from the main feeder schools in the area, and arranging some extra transition opportunities for certain pupils.

The Olympus Schools will also be providing some additional activities for pupils going to those schools (Abbeywood, BSCS, Patchway & Winterbourne). We have not yet had sight of these, but expect them to be supportive and not overly onerous.

End of Year Celebration

I have been talking to some of the Y6 parents about an end of year celebration, and it is likely there will be an outdoors event at the school, including food (BBQ? Pizza?), inflatables and possibly other fun activities or entertainment. All ideas welcome!

Red Nose Day

We had a super day last Friday, with children taking part in a range of challenges.

These included:

- Build the highest tower from materials you can find in the classroom
- Draw a picture blindfolded
- Tell a funny joke

Below are a few pictures from around the school. It was great to relax and have fun – and all in a good cause. So far we have raised £874: our target is £1500. If you would like to donate it's not too late! <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-michaels-primary-school-rednoseday21-7866fcb6-6ded-46f2-a461-15c589f95d49>



Staff News

Mr Dawson will be returning to class 4.3 next term: many thanks to Mr Woodford for filling in this term.

Mrs Brooks is leaving at the end of term after 10 fantastic years at St Michael's: we wish her every success in her new job.

Mrs Leonard will continue jobsharing with Mrs Barclay in 2.1, as Mrs Cross will shortly be going on maternity leave.

Mrs Murray has now returned to work, and we are hopeful that Mrs Gould and Ms Frost (both Reception) will be back with us after Easter.

We are beginning to plan staffing for September with a few potential changes in the pipeline: look out for more details in future updates.

Looking Ahead

We are still awaiting advice regarding what sort of events and activities will be allowed in the summer term. We know that outdoor clubs can restart, and hopefully indoor clubs will follow soon after. Other events such as sport days will take place, but we will have to see what sort of parental participation is allowed. We will certainly make the most of our lovely school grounds, and plans are being drawn up to make further play improvements to our outside areas.

Uniform Reminders

School Cardigans and sweatshirts

Please ensure your child comes in to school with the correct school sweatshirt or cardigan. Definitely NO hoodies or other sweatshirts unless it's an emergency. School PE tops are ONLY to be worn as part of the PE uniform. They are not a substitute for the school sweatshirt.

Hair

Children's hair should be suitable for school. You are asked not to colour it, or to send children in with big bows or other headgear.

Jewellery

Earrings must be plain studs, and only one per ear. This is for safety reasons: also, school is not a place for fashion competitions.

Children with inappropriate jewellery will be asked to remove the items. NO bracelets, necklaces etc are to be worn.

Parents in the school grounds

Almost everyone is wearing a mask, which is very reassuring, and most people are observing the one-way systems. We have 3 senior members of staff on duty every morning, but it would be nice if we didn't have to be doing a policing role, as there are often conversations we need to have with parents at that time.

PLEASE observe the one-way systems and remember: No dogs! Thank you!