

St Michael's School



24 September, 2014

Newsletter No: 3

Welcome to our new children

It is lovely to see our new Reception children starting their first full week at school. They have been very grown up in the dining room ... quite possibly, the most mature bunch in my memory – which, of course is a credit to their parents. In our assemblies, we have also welcomed a couple of new children to the older classes. We hope they will all be very happy here.

A Message from the Infant Teachers



From Monday, we will be changing the order we line up in the mornings. This is to ensure that we can get into class quickly and efficiently without getting our lines tangled on the way in. The picture shows the order in which we will line up from Monday 29th September. Teachers and teaching assistants will be out a little earlier to ensure children know where they need to be.

Parent Consultation Meeting: Follow Up

Thank you to those of you that attended our Strengths and Weaknesses meeting last term. A few issues were raised but, unfortunately, we did not get to complete the prioritising and 'problem solving' bit of the evening.

Issues raised were:

- The management of the school has no vision
- The school does not provide childcare throughout the school holidays
- Children do not do enough competitive sport
- Children do not do enough PE
- The school does not communicate with parents
- Some parents behave badly e.g. swearing in the playground and inconsiderate parking.

Attached to this newsletter, you should find a response sheet. On it, against each point, you will be asked to say if you agree that the issue is a concern. If you think all or some of them are, then you will be asked to put them in priority order. The meeting on 30th September will look at practical ways these things can be resolved. Last year, the Parent Working Group did amazing things and helped us to get some major developments off the ground. If you could be part of the solution, please come along. Please do fill in the sheet whether or not you want to be involved and whether or not you think the concerns are valid.

A Message from Mrs Cordaro

Would you be willing to share your talents with other parents? Mrs Cordaro is working on a system to facilitate parents sharing their skills and interests with others. To start it all off, Mrs Cordaro, as a parent of the school, is looking for potential members for a St. Michael's Parents' Choir! Visit our PSA web-site page to find out more.

*PARENTS WAITING
behind the 'magic' line*

2R 2M 1G 1D

*Path School
 Office
 Main Building*

Milk
(UHT or powdered)
Sugar (500g)
Fruit juice (carton)
Soup
Pasta sauces
Sponge pudding (tinned)
Tomatoes (tinned)
Cereals
Rice pudding (tinned)
Tea Bags/instant coffee
Instant mash potato
Rice/pasta
Tinned meat/Fish
Tinned vegetables
Tinned fruit
Jam
Biscuits or snack bars

Harvest Service

Year Four are gearing up to tell us all about harvest and why, in this day and age, it is as essential to remember and give thanks for the harvest as it was in the days when Enfield was covered in fields and fruit orchards. Join us at our Harvest Thanksgiving service this Friday, 26th September at 2pm at St Michael's Church. Harvest gifts will be donated to the North Enfield Foodbank. We would be very grateful for a small harvest gift (see list); please send any gifts in on Friday morning with the children; if they cannot manage to carry it themselves, gifts can be left in the hall on the stage, many thanks.

Once a Week Peek

Its Wednesday ... its HEAD CHECK DAY!

Learn about...how we keep your children safe at school (part 1)

Quite rightly, schools are bound by very strict legislation regarding children's safety. Here at St. Michael's we take Safeguarding very seriously.

Staff

Everybody employed by the school has to have the relevant checks by the Disclosure and Barring Service. This is an agency that can look into a person's criminal record to see if there are any reasons why a person may not be suitable to work with children. Even conviction that for other jobs would be considered 'spent' have to be declared by anyone wanting to work with children. We also contact previous employers to check whether or not there has been even a minor concern.

Regular volunteers also undergo these checks because, by the nature of their volunteering, children come to trust them and view them as a friend. Occasional volunteers (i.e. walking classes to church) do not build up the same rapport and, as they are never left alone with children, they do not need to complete the DBS checks.

Regular volunteers also attend an induction session which includes Child Protection procedures as well as signing a volunteer agreement.

Premises

Because our main gate is so far away from the office, we have CCTV watching over the main gate. When a visitor arrives, they identify themselves via intercom and office staff buzz them in and then watch as they make their way directly to the main office. No person whether tradesmen, visitors, parents or even Local Authority official is ever allowed to walk directly into the classroom blocks before, during or after the school day.

Delivery vans drive directly to the car park and use a video intercom to identify themselves and their purpose and then a member of staff goes out to meet them.

Next week: Learn about lunchtimes

Church News

Harvest & Patronal Festival - Sunday 28 September

Come and join us at 10am for everyone's favourite Autumn festival! Our Uniformed Organisations will be 'on parade', and there will be great joy and happiness, as we give thanks for all the many gifts we receive from God our Father. We break the Harvest Loaf which we will share in Communion, and offer gifts at the altar as a way of saying thank you to God. And as if this wasn't enough - we finish our festal service with our last BBQ of the year - rounding off what will be a fantastic morning of worship, friendship and fun!

Our parish gifts (both School and Church) will as usual be going to Enfield Food Bank - who have requested dry goods, packets, tins, etc. (nothing fresh or perishable), and baby items (food, nappies, etc. - but not clothes).

Please contact Zanna Floyd on zannafloyd@hotmail.com if your child would be interested in reading a prayer at our Harvest Service

Community News

New Fitness Class – Message from Rick Palmer

Mums, Dads, Teachers and Friends..... An exciting new fitness class starts next Thursday, 2nd October. A mixture of cardio and conditioning, it is suitable for all fitness levels. So give it a try! Every Thursday, 7pm-8pm in the school hall. Only £5. Call Rick on 07971 625 398 for more details.

EMS Saturday Music Centre - OPEN DAY - Saturday 4th October, 9.30am-12.30pm

Houndsfield School, Park Suite Building, Houndsfield Road, N9 7RA

'Try an Instrument - We will have a range of instruments available for children and young people to try including: violin, cello, trumpet, trombone, French horn, euphonium, baritone, flute, clarinet, saxophone, tabla, guitar, keyboard.....

Parents will be able to find out about instrumental lessons offered at the Saturday Centre and in schools. For more information contact Enfield Music Service, 020 8807 8881 www.enfield.gov.uk/music

Coffee Morning – Parents of SEN Children in Enfield

Lorraine Bennett (Outreach Co-ordinator/Waverley School) is running a special parent support coffee morning on Wednesday, 8th October from 9.30-11.30am. This is for all parents of children with SEN in Enfield mainstream schools. If you would be interested in attending, please speak to Mrs Hergenhan.

PTA News

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Don't forget, **YOU ARE INVITED to The WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING for coffee, tea and cakes, on Friday, 26th September, 9.15 to 10.15am in the Dining Hall.** Go on, you deserve it ... do bring a little cash as we are supporting a really worthy cause, MACMILLAN. Also, if you would like to donate a cake or gingerbread men or ladies or whatever, you can leave them in the School Office on Thursday 25th September. We would especially like to welcome all new parents or carers so hope you can make it! *Pre-school children are welcome but will need to be supervised by their adult.*

Quiz night - Saturday 18 October 2014, 7:30pm

The first major PTA event of the year is to be one of our spectacular quiz nights. This is all set to be an even bigger and better night out than last year and we've already had several teams asking to sign up – and who wouldn't want to have a good laugh with friends, enjoy delicious food, visit a well-stocked bar and marvel at their own ignorance. Given the clamour for places we've decided to issue the forms a little earlier than usual – these should be in your book bags today. Please note that space is limited for this event so try to return your forms as soon as possible (last year we did have to turn a couple of late entry teams down).

Jumble Sale – Saturday 8 November 2014

The date of our next jumble sale might seem like a fair way off, but it is never too early to start sorting out your beautiful jumble donations (aka "old tat"). Why not give your cupboards a good clear out and let the PTA dispose of your treasures.

Christmas Fayre planning

Once you've cleared some nice space in your cupboards, you can get ready to fill them again with Christmas toys and gifts – see how the PTA think of everything! If you'd like to help us to plan what might be on offer at this year's Christmas Fayre, we're looking for volunteers to help us make it another sparkling success. If you'd like to be involved in the planning team, please email lucy.culora@hotmail.co.uk. We appreciate that some parents/carers might not have time to commit to planning meetings, so please feel free to just email Lucy with any ideas or suggestions you might have. Thanks.

Scooters for School

Micro Scooters are running a competition to win 30 brand new scooters for the school with the most points. To enter please visit <http://l.inkto.it/5g6vd> and select 5 stars for St Michael's. This will add 5 points to our total score.

You can vote once every 24 hours.