

St Michael's School



12 November, 2014

Newsletter No: 9

WORLD WAR 1 MUSEUM: Opening Times: Tonight: 3:30-4:30, Thursday: 3:30-6:00, Friday 3:30-4:30

Please come and see our fantastic World War 1 Museum – it is open at the above times this week.

Gabriel and Raphael Carol Services

This morning, in the playground, a parent asked a question about the carol service and I thought it best to clarify in case anyone else was confused. The carol services take place on 10th December (Gabriel) and 11th December (Raphael) and it is worth noting the following points:



- The carol services are at 7:00pm and so infants are not required to attend.
- Infants may attend with their parent/s if desired.
- All Junior children are required to attend their own carol service. Attendance is not optional.
- Children only need attend their own carol service – **not** both.
- Year Three will be leading the carol service but even Year Three will only attend their own service.

Gabriel	Raphael
6M	5P
4HM	4F
3B	3G
2M	2R
1G	1D

I do hope lots of you will be able to attend these lovely, candlelit services to start the Christmas celebrations.

Don't forget Parents' Evening tonight and tomorrow night

During Parents' Evening, you will be able to look at your children's work and, maybe, cringe when you see some of the things they write about home (!) or see how they have made great progress this term. If, after speaking with your child's class teacher, you have any concerns or worries, please do not hesitate to speak with me. It will give me a break from making cups of tea for the teachers!

Please note: The back playground is exclusively for the use of Sherpa Kids, so please enter the building through the main office/reception area. The nature of Parents' Evening means that no outside area is supervised and gates are left open to the street.

Children In Need

Wearing pyjamas all day seems to make children very happy; not having to create a special outfit seems to make parents happy; collecting money for Children in Need makes lots of children across the country happy! It's a win-win situation! Don't forget to come into school in your pyjamas this Friday (14th November) and bring a pound for Children in Need. Teaching Assistants will collect the money at the lines in the morning.

Speakeasy

I know that a lot of parents have signed up for the Speakeasy session this Friday (14th November, 9:15 - 11:45). It is a very worthwhile and popular course. It will be held in the multipurpose room. All parents who filled in a reply form have a place on the course. Refreshments will be provided.

Next Wednesday

Year Five will be taking a trip to the Royal Observatory in Greenwich.

Operation Christmas Child – Shoeboxes – Extension of Date

There has been a change to the date that the shoeboxes are being picked up this year, so if you would still like to donate a box of presents, you have until next Wednesday, 19th November, many thanks.

Be Safe, Be Seen

You should be receiving a leaflet from Safe Gear (a not-for-profit organisation) with details of Hi-Vis clothing which will help your child to stay safe on the journey to school. If you would like to order any items, please follow the instructions on the form and return to the school office.

School Meals and Trips Out



Recently there have been quite a few muddles about what to do about children's lunches when classes go out on trips. To clarify the situation and ensure that all classes do the same, thus saving enormous stress for the school kitchen, I have decided the following:

- If a child usually has a school meal, it will be assumed that they will still have that school meal in the form of a school packed lunch on any day a trip takes place over lunchtime.
- If a child usually has a packed lunch, they will bring their own home packed lunch as they do every day.
- If, for any reason, a parent of a child that usually has school meals prefers to provide a home packed lunch on a trip day, they must let the school office know, in writing, at least a week ahead.

Typical example of a School Packed Lunch

Sandwich
(usually tuna, cheese or ham)

Cake, biscuit or chocolate
krispie or maybe a yoghurt

A piece of fruit or packet of
grapes

A bottle of drink

Learn About ... Why We Have Themed Weeks

Last week (or this week) you may have visited our fantastic museum, dressed your children in 1914 – 18 clothing, created models of trenches with your child or even loaned us precious family heirlooms from about that time. It was a lovely week ... but why do we have such events?

Well, there are lots of reasons really!

- Although the children are all different ages and, quite rightly, following age appropriate curricula, sometimes it is good to share an experience together thus giving things to talk about with children of different ages.
- It gives great opportunities for cross age activities: for example, this time, younger children wrote letters to their fathers 'in the trenches' and older children replied to those letters – then the children met together to read them out to each other. It was a very moving event!
- It gives a little break from the usual routines of the days. Routines are great – and necessary – but having a short break can be very refreshing.
- It allows us to mark special events – this year, the 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1.
- Weeks like these can give children the chance to direct their own learning and investigate things personal to them and/or their families. For example, this week many children looked for WW1 memorabilia and, in the process, learned about their own family history: their great grandparents' lives and adventures, their loves and their losses and how our children today fit into their own place in history.
- Teachers have a chance to get creative and 'think outside the box'. Think about our wonderful poppy display and the museum!

Themed weeks like these enrich children's education, not just with knowledge but through sharing, investigating, re-enacting and creating as well as giving them a chance to appreciate everybody's contribution from Reception to Year Six. Themes change year in year out but it is the shared experiences that always live on.

PTA News

Children's Disco – 21 November

Last chance to get tickets for this exciting event. If you have misplaced your ticket order form, please see Mrs Hergenhan in the office. **All orders for tickets must be handed in by Friday 14 November 2014 at the latest.** No further tickets requests will be accepted after this date. Please note that the PTA are responsible for distributing the tickets – any queries, please see Pippa Chapman in the school playground.

Glo-sticks Sale – 21 November

Every disco-goer's must have accessory will be on sale after school on Friday 21 December. Only 50p will get you four beautiful glo-sticks, or even better why not buy eight for £1!

Christmas Fayre, Saturday 6 December, midday to 4pm

Only 24 sleeps to go the Christmas Fayre! It is going to be even bigger and better than last year, so get the date in your diary now to make sure you don't miss out. Even better, get involved by agreeing to help on a stall for an hour. Please email rachael.ryan.ryan@btinternet.com if you'd like to help out on the day. Thanks.