

St Michael's School



26 November, 2014

Newsletter No: 11

Thank You

Thank you to the veritable army of PTA helpers that poured drinks, washed up, collected tickets, monitored and generally boogied and shimmied their way through Friday night.

New Addition

We are pleased to announce the addition of Phoebe Jane (6lb 13oz – for those of you that are interested) to the St. Michael's family. Mr and Mrs Dew Jones are doing well and Phoebe is behaving well! She can't read yet but Mrs Dew Jones is doing her best!



Christmas Events

I can't believe that we are on a count-down to Christmas already! As you know, a primary school Christmas starts very early and has a lovely, comfortable familiarity about it. Carols, tea-towels on heads, babies being hand delivered by tinsel-clad angels – it's coming soon to St. Michael's. Just in case you have mislaid your 'Diary Dates' sheet; here is a reminder:

What	Where	When	Time	Notes
Non-uniform day	School	28/11/14	All day	Don't wear uniform in exchange for gifts for the Christmas Fayre
Nursery Songs	In Nursery	05/12/14	11:30	
Reception Nativity	St. Michael's Church	01/12/14 04/12/14	1:45pm 1:45pm	See recent letter regarding ticket arrangements etc.
Infant Christmas Show	School Hall	09/12/14 10/12/14	2:00pm 9:30am 2:00pm	See recent letter regarding ticket arrangements etc.
Christmas Fayre	In school	06/12/14	12-4pm	
Junior Carol Service: GABRIEL	St. Michael's Church	10/12/14	7:00pm	Year Three – 3B leading the service. All Junior children in GABRIEL House required to attend: full uniform. Infant children may attend with parents
Junior Carol Service: RAPHAEL	St. Michael's Church	11/12/14	7:00pm	Year Three – 3G leading the service. All Junior children in RAPHAEL House required to attend: full uniform. Infant children may attend with parents
Class Christmas Parties	Individual classrooms	17/12/14		School uniform as usual Letters will be sent out regarding food arrangements nearer the time

Congratulations to:

Congratulations to Lillie Mae in Year Six who won the Primary Public Speaking Competition – and to Ben U who provided sterling back-up and support.



Change for School Trip Payments

I have had no responses – either for or against - to the suggestion that small change from school trips be counted as donations to the school. If you do have a strong feeling either way, please speak to me at the end of the day, speak to a member of the office staff or write a note. We do want to know your opinions.

Tickets for School Plays

Whenever we can, we try to accommodate families' requests for extra tickets to children's performances and we do understand that Grandparents often want to attend. It is in response to parental requests that we put a tight deadline on requests for tickets this year – doing so means that extra spaces can be allocated with enough time to make arrangements at work. Our policy is that we issue a two tickets per family to each event. We are quite aware that we have families with two or more children in one show - for example, the Junior show has children from 4HM, 4F, 5P and 6M and it is conceivable that a family could have a child in at least three of these classes. However, much as we would love to be able to issue two tickets for every child, it is not something we can offer. When there is plenty of space, we will allocate extra tickets as soon as possible. Because of the way we are spreading out the events between school and church and between Raphael and Gabriel houses, there should not be quite as much pressure as usual.

You should all have received a letter regarding concert tickets for your child's Christmas concert. These letters are also on the school website, please go to Parents' Area/School Letters. Please do observe the deadlines stated in the letters for ordering your tickets, as additional tickets are being released immediately after each deadline so there is no guarantee you will get a parent ticket if you miss the deadline.

Learn About ... Faith Schools

From gov.uk:

All children in England between the ages of 5 and 16 are entitled to a free place at a state school.

Most state schools have to follow the national curriculum. The most common ones are:

- **Community schools**, controlled by the local council and not influenced by business or religious groups.
- **Foundation schools**, with more freedom to change the way they do things than community schools.
- **Academies**, run by a governing body, independent from the local council - they can follow a different curriculum.
- **Grammar schools**, run by the council, a foundation body or a trust - they select all or most of their pupils based on academic ability and there is often an exam to get in.
- **Special schools** - Special schools with pupils aged 11 and older can specialise in 1 of the 4 areas of special educational needs.
- **Faith schools** are mostly run like other state schools. They have to follow the national curriculum except for religious studies, where they are free to only teach about their own religion. The admissions criteria and staffing policies may be different too, although anyone can apply for a place.

St. Michael's is a faith school – a Christian school – but what does this mean?

It does not mean that all the children and staff are of the Christian faith.

It does not mean that Christianity is the only religion that is taught or that churches are the only places of worship visited.

It does mean that relationships within the school are conducted in line with gospel values such as love, forgiveness, truth and hope and in the recognition that each person is a unique and valued child of God.

It does mean that we recognise that each child is a spiritual being and as such should be given time and space to wonder at the beauty of creation, to appreciate the value of life and examine their own sense of spirituality, whatever that may be.

Maintenance Funds

A reminder from the Governors that maintenance payments are now due, please note that the payment is for £35 per child and not per family. Many thanks.

Year Five Windband

The Year 5 Windband will be holding a band concert on Wednesday 3rd December at 9.30am. All year 5 parents are welcome to attend.

World War One memorabilia

WW1 items that were donated to the museum are now available to be collected, please make an appointment with the office. Many thanks to everyone who donated their photographs, memorabilia and other artefacts to the museum, which was a huge success and very moving.

Poppies for sale

Year 4 children will be selling the poppies they made for our WW1 themed week this Friday, 28th November. This will be the last chance to buy one of these poppies. There is no need to compete the voucher sent out previously, if your child would like to purchase a poppy then please send them to school with a 50p donation and Year 4 will take the poppies round the classrooms on Friday.

Newspaper Club

Newspaper Club would like to ask all our budding artists to submit a winter or Christmas picture for the art gallery they are putting together. Please would children submit their pictures by Friday 28th November.

Message from Mr Johnson for keen gardeners!

If anyone would like a bag of composted leaves then please speak to Mr Johnson, who will be pleased to provide you with some!

Gym Festival

Some of our Infant and Junior Gymnasts have been practising their routines ready for the gymnastics festival next week. The teams will be competing against children from other schools and it will be lots of fun! Good luck to all of them!

Reminder regarding EYFS uniform

A reminder from Mrs Hempstock that children in Nursery and Reception should wear a green school sweatshirt and not a school cardigan. Thank you for your support.

Bridge of Hope Children's Ministry

The Bridge of Hope Children's Ministry supports orphaned and abandoned children who live in extreme poverty in West Uganda. This Christmas, as a one-off, we are supporting the work of this charity who have asked for donations of unwanted clothes (although we would ask that these are in a reasonable condition). If you would like to donate any clothes then please bring them to the office and do not put them in the clothes recycling bins at the entrance to school. The deadline for donations is **Thursday 4th December**. Please do remember that after this date you can still continue to donate old clothes to the school, Mr Johnson does a fantastic job of collecting them and raising money for St. Michael's.

Message from Smith's Schoolwear

Smith's will be holding a **15% discount winter sale** of all current stock exclusively (excluding personalising) on **Saturday 6th December** at our **Enfield store 9-5pm**. You can also use this discount on our website www.smithsschoolwear.co.uk. You can apply the discount coupon code 'WINTER15' which can be found in the shopping cart.

Christingle with Nativity Service, Sunday 14th December at 4pm

St Michael's Church will be supporting The Children's Society with a Christingle Service to raise vital funds for some of the UK's most vulnerable children - in particular those who are homeless or runaways.

The Christingle Service will be combined with a children's Nativity play and will be held on Sunday 14th December at 4.00pm, followed by refreshments. This is always a very special service and a highlight in the church's calendar. The service concludes with the lighting of the Christingle candles around the church - a magical moment which is very special for the children.

If any children would like to help by collecting coins in a "Christingle Candle" money box for The Children's Society, these are available now from St Michael's Church and also from the school office. The "candles" can be returned either to the school office (by the end of term) or at the Christingle Service itself.

If your child would like to take part in the Nativity, there are spaces available for Angels and Shepherds, they simply need to turn up at the service in their costume!

For further information, please contact Mrs Underwood via the school office.

PTA News

Children's Disco

A massive thank you to the ticketers, washer uppers, drink pourers, crisp givers, crowd control, glo stick sales associates and disco dancers! The children danced the night away and we raised a fantastic £948.25.

Christmas Cards

Thank you to everyone who has placed an order through school. You can still place additional orders through the Class Fundraising online system from 28th November until 1st December. Orders have a delivery charge of £7.50 and will be delivered between 9th and 13th December.

Christmas Fayre – Saturday 6 December

Only 10 sleeps to go! Hope you're all getting highly excited for the forthcoming fayre extravaganza. We've got a fantastic range of stalls and activities set up and even have some external stallholders coming along to sell their wares; a jewellery stall, Phoenix Cards, Forever Living (Aloe Vera products) and Personalisation will be there to let you create personalised Christmas stockings and sacks.

Please can you consider helping with the Christmas Fayre in one, or more, of the following ways. Thank you.

Non Uniform Day Tombola Donations (Friday 28 November 2014)

On Friday 28 November 2014, the children can wear their own clothes in exchange for donating gifts for the Christmas Fayre tombolas. Please may we ask classes to contribute specific items as shown below:

Nursery, Reception – Chocolate selection boxes

Years 1 & 2 – Toys/Games/Craft sets suitable for children

Years 3 & 4 – Gift items suitable for adults (e.g. bath foams, soaps, candles)

Years 5 and 6 – Bottles of wine

Or if you prefer, pop a cash donation in an envelope in your child's book bag.

Grand draw tickets

All parents/carers should have received one book of raffle tickets per child. Please do your best to sell as many of these as possible among your friends and family. Extra tickets can be requested.

Great St Michael's Bake Off

We know we have some fabulous bakers among our school community. Please may we call upon you again to donate your delightful cakes and biscuits for us to sell at the fayre. Contributions to be left at school on Friday 5 December.

Matched funding

Matched funding is a really simple way that we can raise extra money from the Christmas Fayre by asking employers to 'match' the money we make. For instance. If someone helps on a stall that makes £250, we can ask an employer to 'match' this by contributing another £250. Most banks, major UK companies and multinationals offer matched funding to employees. If you, or a family member/friend, work for such an organisation, please can you check whether they will match fund and let Rachael Ryan know if you can help (rachael.ryan.ryan@btinternet.com).