

St Michael's School



11 February, 2015

Newsletter No: 20

P.I.M (Parent Information Meeting)

Thank you to those parents that came along to the PIMs (Parent Information meetings). It was a disappointingly small turnout but those that did attend found it to be very helpful.

Once a Week Peek

The ongoing battle against head lice continues! Don't forget to do a Wednesday check for nits and/or lice. If you are not sure what you are looking for, Mrs Ahmed can show you how by demonstrating with your own child.



Please talk to us

If you have ever played Chinese Whispers, you will know that the usual result of having a sentence relayed by many people is that the original story becomes distorted. In the same way, if you have a concern about something that happens at school, the best way to communicate that is to come in and talk to us directly. We all want the best for the children.

Half Term

Half term is upon us and everyone gets a break from the school run, the traffic jams, the preparation of lunchboxes and many of us will get a break from the alarm clock ringing at silly o'clock in the morning. During half term, Enfield Council tend to run activities such as family cycle rides and Forty Hall is a cheap and fun day out. It is well worth investigating Enfield's web-site for fun things to do. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday!

World Book Day

I'm pretty sure that you all have a wardrobe full of elaborate dressing up outfits but, just in case you need a bit of notice, World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March and, if they want, children may come to school dressed up as a character from a book; ideally a book with which they are familiar. The spirit of the event is to celebrate the world of books: the magic, the imagination, the familiarity of traditional tales and the skill of authorship.

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will begin on Friday, 6th March and will run until Wednesday, 11th March. The books will be available to browse and/or buy after school. The fair will be under the canopy in the back playground and PTA members will be only too happy to relieve you of your hard-earned cash. Please collect your children from the front playground as usual before going round to the back.

Each child will receive a £1 World Book Day Token which can be spent either at the Fair or in most bookshops. We are running a 'Design a Book Cover of your Favourite Book' competition for the children with 5 prizes of £5 Scholastic Fair book tokens to be won. Please send any pictures to the office.

Red Nose Day- Friday 13th March

Red Nose Day follows quite closely on the heels of World Book Day so we have decided to keep it simple. Red Nose Day will simply be a case of paying a pound to wear non-uniform clothes.

Mrs Hammond

This week, Breakfast Club children will be saying goodbye to Mrs Hammond. She has been a wonderful Breakfast Club assistant ever since it started and we are really sorry to see her go. We wish her well as she takes on more 'Grandparent Duty' at home.

Learn About ... School Governors

Governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the country and have an important part to play raising school standards. Although all volunteers, governors take on a lot of responsibility and they are absolutely key to the effectiveness of a school.

Who are they?

At St Michael's we currently have 12 appointed governors and 2 ex-officio (ex officio means: a position someone automatically gains because of another job s/he already holds) governors – in our case, Fr. Stephen and Miss Matthews. The governors come from various places and there are rules about how many of which kind a school can have.

Because St. Michael's is a church school, six of our governors come from the Church of England e.g. parish and diocese. The other six come from other interested parties e.g. Enfield council or parents. Although governors are selected from different groups they are there as representatives, not delegates. That means that they are not there to be a 'middle man' and bring other people's issues to meetings.

Meetings

Governors need to work well as part of a team. All governors serve on one or more sub-committees. The main sub-committees deal with complying with employment laws for staff; overseeing the financial aspects of running a school and ensuring that the curriculum is well planned and standards are kept high. Most governors also serve on a second committee e.g. school admissions, Head Teacher performance. The focus for all these meetings is to promote the ethos and ensure that the leadership have clarity of vision and strategic direction. In addition to the above, all governors attend a full Governing Body meeting once a term.

Qualities of a Good Governor: Discretion

Governors are required to observe complete confidentiality when matters are deemed confidential or where they concern specific members of staff or pupils, both inside or outside school.

Qualities of a Good Governor: Passion

Governors do the job because they are passionate about ensuring that children attend a successful school which provides them with a high quality education, prepares them for adulthood in modern Britain and supports their well-being.

Qualities of a Good Governor: Detachment

Governors work for the good of the whole school. This can be especially hard for parent governors because they have to detach themselves from focusing on their own child's preferences and needs.

Qualities of a Good Governor: Skills

Schools are expected to find governors with a range of skills for example: finance, law, accounting, education, community, HR.

Qualities of a Good Governor: Humility

Governors donate their skills, give their time, work hard and take on tremendous responsibility. There is no glory, no recognition, no monetary reward and precious little thanks.

The governors at St Michael's are very active within the school and each year group have their own class governor. The governor provides support to the teacher and pupils and they quite often find themselves getting muddy in Hillyfields or helping to create a work of art as well as helping the children within the classroom. The class governors move with the children up the school thereby providing continuity for the children. This interaction provides the Governing Body with an insight and an understanding of daily school life.

If you would like more information on the role of the Governing Body within the school, please see our Chair, Mrs Doggett who would be happy to give you some more information.

A list of the current governors is on the website.

Lost Property

The lost property will be on a table in the playground on Thursday and Friday after school. Any unclaimed/unnamed uniform or belongings will then be recycled, many thanks.

Ultrasport Half Term Football and Multiskills Sessions

Don't forget you can still make payments/bookings at the office for the rest of this week for any of the Ultrasport half term sessions.

From Mr Floyd:

Y5 Swimming

As the class' swimming lessons finish we would like to congratulate the 25 children who achieved their Green Band and the 18 children who secured their Peach Band. The instructors have said they are the best class in the current group of schools taking part in the scheme! Can't wait for the Gala!

Swimming in Yrs 2 & 3

The School is introducing weekly swimming lessons across Yrs 2 & 3 starting next half-term. A letter will go to parents soon and the children will have a safety talk from their instructors before their lessons start. This is one of the brilliant initiatives we have chosen to put in place using our PE Sports Funding. We thought this would be an excellent way to use our funding, teaching our children these vital life-long skills.

Hockey Festival

Our team did fantastically well on Monday: 1 win (4-0!), two draws (including against the overall group winners!) and two defeats. Dom Paine was our Captain and scored all five of our goals (a player to watch I think - we secured special permission for him to play as it was for yrs 5 & 6 only). Excellent sportsmanship and fair play were displayed by every member of our team who were: Dom, Dylan (y5), Ben F, Anna H and Abbie (all y6). Very well done! Mr Floyd.



Church News

Cornerstones Youth Club

Due to phenomenal demand, it has been decided that after February half term, the year groups attending Cornerstones will be split.

Years 3, 4 & 5 can attend weeks 1 and 3
Years 6, 7 & 8 can attend weeks 2 and 4.

The club runs every Thursday during term time, 6-8pm.

We request that a parent, guardian or relative from each attendees' family join our rota, just one week per month. Come along and join the fun!

PTA News

Valentine's Day Cake Sale, Friday 13 February, after school

We will be selling a delightful array of cakes and biscuits to satisfy the sweetest of teeth. Please come along and indulge yourself this Friday.

Valentine's Day Cake Appeal

The aforementioned "delightful array" does actually depend on us getting some cake donations. Please could all those wonderful bakers among our school community consider baking something to donate. Your kind offerings can be left in the school office on Friday morning. Then you can come along to the afternoon sale and we'll charge you for them!

Saturday 28 February, 1-4pm – Pottery Afternoon

Last chance to sign up for the Pottery Afternoon where children can create their exclusively designed gifts just in time for Mother's Day! Please return your forms to school no later than this Friday 13 February. Thanks.

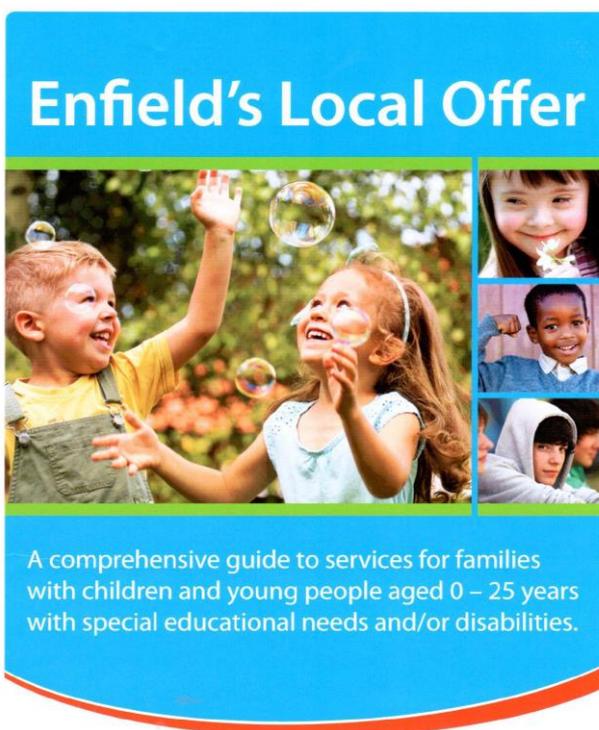
Summer Fayre Planning Meeting, Wednesday 25th February, 7.30pm (venue to be arranged)

This year's summer fayre (Saturday 27th June) is to be a themed event (**Wild West Bonanza**). We have formed a new sub-committee to organise the fayre and are looking for extra members to help with the planning. If you would like to get involved then please come along on the 25th. Everybody welcome - Yee Haa!!

Curry and Disco evening- Saturday 21 March, 7:30 pm onwards at school

Get the date in you diary now, for great evening of the finest fayre (curry buffet provided by Chase Side Tandoori) and grooviest dancing (groovy dancing provided by you, music courtesy of top class DJ).

Community News



The poster features a blue header with the text 'Enfield's Local Offer' in white. Below the header is a large photograph of two children, a boy and a girl, blowing bubbles. To the right of this main image is a vertical strip of three smaller photographs: a girl smiling, a boy in a school uniform, and a person in a hoodie. Below the images, the text reads: 'A comprehensive guide to services for families with children and young people aged 0 – 25 years with special educational needs and/or disabilities.'

For more information visit
www.enfield.gov.uk/SEND

