

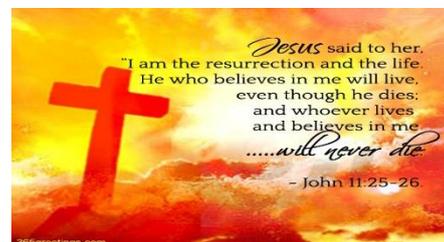
St Michael's School



15 April, 2015

Newsletter No: 26

Welcome back to the Summer Term here at St. Michael's. I hope you had a great Easter holiday and, although it breaks your heart to let them go, you are ready and willing to send your children back to school. I know the lounge will seem lonely and empty without their toys, the house will be warmer when the doors you shut, stay shut and the food shopping you do might stay uneaten for at least a few hours but ... you must send them back!



Summer Uniform

Should the beautiful weather decide to stay with us and you decide to dust off the summer uniforms and break out the sunscreen, may I remind you of one or two points:

- Even in very hot weather, shoes worn at school should have closed toes and must be substantial enough to be able to kick a football, cartwheel around the field and be trodden on in a line. Shoes or sandals should always be worn with white or grey socks.
- Sun hats should be white, red or green without logos or designer labels. There are many designs to choose from as well as the ones with the school logo.



- Summer dresses should be worn with socks rather than tights; if tights are desired, they should be worn with winter uniform.

Sunscreen

Children do play outside all year round and the summer is no exception. All day sunscreen should be applied at home, before coming to school. Children may keep sunscreen in their bags but staff are not allowed to apply it for them.

Reminder: School Meal Prices

After having remained stable at for a long time, we are having to put up the cost of school meals. For every meal taken, the school is charged £2.50 although the amount contributed by parents up to now has been £2.00. We cannot sustain the shortfall and so, from Monday 13th April, the cost of a school meal will be £2.15 a day / £10.75 per week.

Congratulations

We send our congratulations winging across the miles to Miss Jones. Miss Jones left our staff at Easter last year in order to return home to New Zealand and get married. They have finally tied the knot and Miss Jones (now Mrs Johnston) has sent us some pictures from their beautiful seaside wedding. We wish them all the best and the staff still miss her great sense of fun and adventure!



It just goes to show that what Fr Stephen always says is right . . . once St. Michael's, always St. Michael's



Walking to school

Yesterday, two of our children were approached by two women they didn't know, and offered a lift to school. There was no attempt to force or cajole the children and they reacted exactly as they are trained to do; they didn't engage in conversation and went home immediately. If your Year Five or Six children do walk to or from school, unaccompanied (or indeed, play out on the light evenings), please remind them of the safety rules.

Sex Education

As you will know from your school year planner, there will be a meeting for parents of Year Six children next Wednesday, in the spare Year Six classroom at 2:30pm. It is a legal requirement for schools to offer parents the opportunity to view the materials that will be used over the course of the term. At St. Michael's, SRE (Sex and Relationships Education) starts in Nursery when the living eggs are hatched and continues right the way through the school - through activities such as farm visits, growing plants, RE lessons, circle times, science lessons and philosophy sessions - all the way to Year Six where children learn about personal safety, hygiene, healthy relationships and much more.

St. George's Day: Thursday, 23rd April

Members of uniformed organisations are welcome to wear their uniforms on St. George's Day.

Science Club

Science club will start again on Wednesday April 22nd. The club is open to children from Yr 3 upwards & runs from 3.30 to 4.45pm. It is run by Mrs Lange who is mum of Yr5/Yr4 boys and a scientist! There are places available. For further information and to reserve a place please email louisemlange@gmail.com.

EMS Music Lessons

Just to confirm that music lessons start again next week. There are no changes to the current timetable **except** for those children who have been having guitar lessons on a Thursday afternoon, will now have them on Wednesday afternoon.

Milk Cartons – Igloo – a message from Mrs Theodorou

Many thanks for all the milk bottle cartons. We now have enough to complete our igloo!

PTA News

We hope you all enjoyed a lovely Easter holiday and are now looking forward to the exciting Summer term ahead. A couple of PTA diary dates for you to kick start the term...

Summer Fayre planning group meeting, today Wednesday 15 April, 7:30 pm for an 8pm start at the Cricketers pub on Chase Side

Please feel free to join the planning group and share your ideas for this year's Wild West themed fayre. Everybody welcome.

Bank Holiday Bingo – Saturday 2nd May 2015, 3-5pm

Please note that since "Bank Holiday Bingo" has such a lovely ring to it, we have changed the date for the family Bingo afternoon (rumours of double booking the hall are scurrilous!). So our eyes will be down for an afternoon of the finest family fun and the chance to win a bob or two on the May Bank Holiday weekend. Please don't try to turn up this Saturday as your eyes will have nothing to gaze upon.

Community News

Botany Bay Cricket Club – Pre-Season Open Day

Botany Bay Cricket Club (East Lodge Lane/The Ridgeway) are holding an open day from 12pm-4pm on Sunday, 19th April with cricket taster sessions, bbq, bouncy castle etc. More info in the office if you are interested.

EMS Steel Pan Groups – a message from the Enfield Music Service

At the EMS, we are actively recruiting to our New Steel Pan Groups and are looking for new pupils to join this term. Please phone 8807 8881 if you would be interested in joining one of the groups

- Tuesdays, 4.30-5.30pm/Bishop Stopford School, Wednesdays, 4.45-5.45pm/Houndsfield School, Thursdays, 4.15-5.15pm/Bowes Primary School also at EMS Saturday Music Centre Houndsfield School

Learn about ... The Governors' Fund

When you first decided to send your child to St. Michael's, you were probably aware that it is a VA school - but what exactly is a VA school?

According to gov.uk:

Voluntary-aided schools

Voluntary-aided (VA) schools are maintained schools and often, but not always, have a religious character. These schools are eligible for capital funding by grant from the department.

VA schools are paid on a similar basis to other categories of school, but the governing body must usually pay at least 10% of the costs of capital work.

Responsibility for work to VA school premises is shared between the school's governing body and the local authority (LA). The LA has responsibility for the playing fields and the governing body are liable for all other capital expenditure.

As a VA school, 10% of any development costs need to come from the school's governing body. This doesn't mean that the governors dig deep into their personal piggy banks to retrieve tens of thousands of pounds in loose change. What it does mean is that the governors are responsible for collecting and managing a central fund (known as the Governors' Fund) that is independent of the school's income and other fund-raising. The Fund provides for 10% of the school's upkeep and improvement and any remainder is spent for the benefit of the school in consultation with the Head Teacher.

The Governors' Fund comes mainly from donations from parents. When parents accept a place at St Michael's, they are making a commitment to support the school in this way.

The governors appreciate that there are many financial demands on families these days and make every effort to keep the contribution as low as is realistically possible.

- The expected contribution for a family with one child in the school should be no less than £35 each year.
- Where parents have two or more children in the school the expectation is that they will contribute not less than £70 each year.
- Parents are encouraged to give more if they can, and many do this.
- The governors are grateful to all parents for their support. If any parents feel that they cannot contribute £35, the governors will be pleased to accept whatever contribution families are able to make.

Recent projects include:

The governors made a £15,000 contribution towards our amazing adventure playground and science garden. The fire alarm system in the EYFS building was upgraded to be at the same standard as the system on the new building - this was funded by the governors and a sizeable contribution was also made towards the cost of re-roofing the EYFS.

The Governors' Fund also pays the school's contribution to the London Diocesan Board for Schools.

How should I pay?

By cash at the main school office, by cheque made payable to "St Michael's School Managers" or by standing order (mandate form at the office).

Community News

Please see details of two local charity events raising money for cancer treatment for a family member of a member of staff here at St Michael's. Both events are coming up this weekend and should be lots of fun. Please note that they are both ticketed events, contact details for tickets are: 07894 333125 clare_erin@yahoo.co.uk

Frozen Fever Fun!

Children's craft afternoon

Saturday 18th April 2:30-4:30



For tickets, please email
clare_erin@yahoo.co.uk or ring/text
07894333125

Children's biscuits and squash included in price
Further Refreshments also available for purchase



Photos with Elsa and Anna
Crafts
Children's Karaoke

Please join us for a Fundraising event
In honour of Karis Mitchell

£5 per child
£3 additional children in a family



17 Chase Side, Southgate, London N14 5BP
020 8886 1617

For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone.

Audrey Hepburn

As Karis Mitchell is exactly this sort of beautiful, please join us in a Breakfast at Tiffany's themed evening raising funds for her cancer battle.

Breakfast at Tiffany's

"Didn't I tell you? I'm just crazy about Tiffany's!"

Saturday 18th April 2015
7:30 - 11:30

Live Music, DJ and Dancing
"Breakfast" pastry mountain
Cocktails and Mimosa Bar

Southgate Club Function Room
Entrance on Crown Lane Southgate
behind Southgate Station
Southgate
London N14 5BP
020 8886 1617

£10 per person

Dress Code: Little black dresses and smart shirts



Children over 12 are welcome to attend with supervision.

For tickets please email clare_erin@yahoo.co.uk or ring/text 0789433312

