



SCHOOL NEWS

17th March 2017

Dear Parents,

Since the last newsletter we have enjoyed lots of different activities. School was full of lumberjacks and woodland animals for Duncan Beedie's visit for World Book Day. All the children donned yellow jackets and went out and about with litter pickers to clean up Marston as our contribution to OxClean. The PTA ran a very successful film event, there were lots of laughs as the children watched the Peanuts Movie. Our sports teams have been busy playing in football and hockey tournaments. Year 5 visited Magdalen College School for a challenge day and this week they have been to the JR Hospital to find out about brain scanning. This week has been Science Week in school; all the children took part in workshops about the lungs run by scientists from Oxford University and Dr Holly Bridge, as well as organising Year 5's JR Hospital visit, worked with each class to help them learn more about the brain. Thank you to Holly, the PTA and all the staff for organising these events.

Look out for reports about some of these events from our budding journalists later on in this newsletter. Included today is the March edition of the Library Newsletter, with pictures from World Book Day. Remember too that you can keep up to date with all our sports events on the sports blog on the school web site.

Next week all the children will be watching a

theatrical interpretation of the Easter Story and years 4, 5 and 6 have been invited to a performance of the Snow Queen by The Cherwell School's Key Stage 3 Drama Group. To accommodate this, sharing assembly will be moved to 2:30pm next Friday.

Friday 24 March is Red Nose Day, Giant Wiggle Day and our International Evening. Please support these events, there is more information about each in the newsletter.

Today Year 1 are saying goodbye to Miss Page, who has been working with them for the past eight weeks. We have really enjoyed having her in school and wish her every success as she continues her studies.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate Ms Perkin who has recently completed her teacher training and has been granted Qualified Teacher Status. Her work in Reception continues to be invaluable.

Best wishes,
Rosalind Owen

Our Value of the Month for February
FORGIVENESS
Forgive us our sins as we have forgiven
those who have sinned against us
Luke 11:4

Future School Funding

You may have seen the recent headlines about the proposed changes to school funding. The new national funding formula for schools will not bring any real financial benefit to St Michael's, in fact a 0.1% fall in our funding is indicated. This will not allow us to cover the inevitable increases in expenditure, forecast at around 8% by the National Audit Office in their report of December 2016. The result will inevitably mean that we will have to make cuts, which will impact negatively on our children's education.

It was hoped that the new funding proposals would address the inequity in pupil funding across different local authorities in England. The 10 best funded areas, for example, receive on average £6,029 per pupil while the 10 worst funded areas receive £4,209. (Oxfordshire is one of the 40 worst funded local authorities.) However, the funding formula proposals cap reductions to the funding of the best funded areas, which means that no school will increase its funding by more than 5.6% by 2019-2020. The large differences in funding will remain, which is unfair.

You can find the technical information around the funding formula proposals at the link below: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/>

If after reading this through, or from other coverage in the news, you feel that this is not a fair approach, then you may want to complete the online survey found through the link, or write to your local MP.

Road Safety

Please remember that the safest place to cross the road is at the Pedestrian Crossing outside school. If your child walks to and from school by themselves, please remind them to use it.

Birthday Treats

Some parents provide treats for the class when it's their child's birthday. This is very kind of you. Remember that you only need to give something very small and gifts of stationery are welcome as well as sweet treats. Please make sure food does not contain nuts.

Head Teacher's Award

This week Head Teacher's Certificates are awarded to:

Reception: Charlotte and Arjun
Year 2: Mathieu and Martina
Year 3: Izzah and Morty
Year 4: Amelie and Ava
Year 5: Rohan and Jakob
Year 6: Sophia and Jack

Please go and read the work of our **star writers**:

Reception: Charlotte
Year 1: Elara
Year 2: Naomi
Year 3: Sahar
Year 4: Jonia
Year 5: Chirstopher
Year 6: Sam

Communication

Next week a group of Governors will be meeting to discuss how we will implement the recommendations from our recent SIAMS and Ofsted Inspections. We will also take into account the results of last term's parent survey, including the call for enhanced communication between school and home. We will keep you informed about our plans and will be asking for your involvement in planning how to make things even better.

FROM OUR REPORTERS:

Visit to the JR Hospital

We went to the JR Hospital because it was Science Week in the school and we went there to see how the brain works. We were split into two groups I was in group 1 and we came to the brain examiner. Emma was in it and we saw every detail of her brain. She was given specific tasks and we saw what happened in her brain. Red indicated blood and because the left hemisphere of the brain controls the right hand we saw more blood in the in the left hemisphere when we asked her to move her right hand. I found out that there are really strong magnets on the back of the brain scanner.

Rohan (Year 5)

Lung Workshops

On Monday we went into the hall and there were scientists. We had a straw and ping-pong balls and we had to blow the ball along the course. We did races and if you bumped into a model of a lung you had to start again. We put out hands in a plastic rectangular bowl and the scientists said it was snot but the children knew it was custard and it had cards and green colouring in it. We had to try and collect all the plastic pictures of lungs. We made some viruses with pipe-cleaners, pom-poms and sellotape. Gwen's was one that gets stuck inside your body, it was called Piggy and Orlaith's was called Twisty. There was a scientist wearing an apron and we could put on aprons too, the aprons had pictures of lungs on them. You could put a stethoscope on and hear each other's hearts beating. It was very fun and we really liked it because we like science. We learnt that scientists have a very special job.

Gwen and Orlaith (Year 1)

Brain Workshops

On Tuesday 14th March Dr Holly Bridge came to St Michael's for the day as part of Brain Awareness week. She started in year 4 where we learnt about neurons (brain cells) and how they talk to each other. She then made her way to reception with Abby and Joia where they all showed Miss Smith how to make brains from plasticine.

After break Joia and Abby went swimming and Holly continued to year 3 who watched a cartoon about the brain and then made one. Last stop before lunch was year 6 who made a beautiful network of brain cells. Abby and Joia returned to Year 1 to help show the children how to build a brain and then finished in Year 2.

'It was good. I learnt about the brain. It was fantastic.' Rosa, Reception

'It was very fun, interesting and exciting and we liked making the model.' Freya and Isabella, Y1

'It was fun, exciting and I learnt about the brain,' Tasneem.' Y3

'We learnt a lot, it was good fun and we made a class model.' Joia, Y4

'It was good I learnt the parts of the brain and where they were. It was well explained. I liked making the model and I like the cartoon.' Ethan Y2

It was interesting. I learnt what neurons were. I liked the cartoon.' Mark Y6

Abby and Joia (Year 4)

Year 5 Hockey Tournament

On Tuesday 14th March, the Year 5 pupils went to Oxford Hawks Hockey Club to play a hockey tournament. When we got there we got split into teams A, B, C, and D. There were some other classes playing as well. It was really fun and enjoyable and it was good to have a challenge. After about five games we had lunch and then it was time to announce the winners. Even though we didn't win we enjoyed having the opportunity to go there. We certainly recommend it for the rest of the school.

Hiba and Jakob (Year 5)

International Evening

Friday 24th March 5pm-7pm

Everybody welcome: children, parents, carers, grandparents.

Please come and celebrate the rich cultural diversity we have at St Michael's school.

Dress up in traditional dress from your country or another country.

Bring a dish of food to share- it can be hot or cold. Please bring a serving spoon with your dish if it requires one.

Please bring a dish of food large enough to feed the amount of people that you are bringing to the evening- in this way, we will make sure there is enough food to share with everyone.

We are also hoping to have some musical entertainment and a children's fashion show.

No payment or ticket necessary.

Red Nose Day

On Friday 24 March we will be raising money for Red Nose Day. You can either buy a red nose and/or come to school dressed in red on the day for a donation of £1. Year 5 are currently visiting the classrooms after lunch to sell red noses. You can also bring a joke to share with your class. All the money we raise will be used for projects in the UK and Africa that help to tackle poverty and injustice.

The Giant Wiggle

On 24 March the children in Reception will be taking part in a Giant Wiggle, which takes its inspiration from the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Please bring a donation of £1, which will be donated to projects supporting disadvantaged children. Reception children can also dress up in red and wear their red noses, but do not need to bring in an additional donation.

School Lunches

Please can we remind you that children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 should only be asking to have school lunches if they have been paid for in **advance**.

Lunches can be paid for using ParentMail, which accepts a minimum payment of £10.50 for 5 lunches. The table below calculates the cost of lunches for the second half of the Spring Term.

Total for this half term (35 days) = £73.50	
Meals taken in a week	Cost from 20 th February to 7 th April
1	£2.10 x 5 days = £10.50
2	£2.10 x 10 days = £21.00
3	£2.10 x 15 days = £31.50
4	£2.10 x 20 days = £42.00
5	£2.10 x 25 days = £52.50
6	£2.10 x 30 days = £64.00
7	£2.10 x 35 days = £73.50

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school lunches through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme.

The latest lunch menu is available on the school website under Documents and Links.

Dates for the diary:

- 20 March: Y3 trip to the Living Rainforest
Fire Service visit Year 1 & 2
Y1 trip to Pitt Rivers Museum
- 21 March: Easter Play for whole school
- 22 March: Y6 trip to the JR Hospital
- 24 March: Red Nose Day and Giant Wiggle
Snow Queen performance for Y4-6
Sharing Assembly (not Year 2) **at 2:30pm**
- 24 March: PTA International Evening 5-7pm**
- 28 March: Y6 trip to Natural History Museum
- 29 March: Y5 & 4 trip to Oxford Playhouse
- 31 March: Sharing Assembly (not Year 3)
- 3-7 April: ART WEEK
- 4 April: Easter Service at Church 2pm
- 7 April: Sharing Assembly (not Year 4)
- 7 April: Break up for Easter Holiday 1:30pm**
- 24 April: Back to School**
- 26 April: Mickey's Meeting 6pm
Full Governing Body Meeting 7pm
- 28 April: Sharing Assembly (not Year 6)
- 1 May: May Day Bank Holiday - no school**
- 2 - 5 May: Year 5 residential at Yenworthy
- 4 May: PTA Meeting in school at 8pm
- 5 May: Sharing Assembly (not Year 5)
- 5 May: PTA Film Event**
- 11 May: Full Governing Body Meeting 7pm
- 12 May: Sharing Assembly (not Year 1)
- 19 May: Sharing Assembly (not Year 2)
- 19 May: PTA Discos**
- 25 May: Break up for Half Term**
- 5 June: Back to School**

Library Newsletter

January and February flew past very quickly and the Library has been very busy, which is why there hasn't been a newsletter for a little while. Sorry about that! But with Spring having sprung, hopefully things will get back on track! I hope that you're all enjoying the lighter evenings and, of course, that you're still reading a lot. 😊

Wonderful World Book Day

I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone – pupils, staff and parents/family for making such an amazing effort to dress up for World Book Day! You all got into the theme of lumberjacks and woodland characters and our visiting author, Duncan Beedie, was quite overwhelmed when he came in and saw you all (we didn't tell him as we wanted it to be a surprise). He asked me to pass on his thanks for making his day special too and said that all pupils and staff were great. Thank you also for supporting his work by buying his books – we hope you enjoy them.



March 2017

Radio 2 500 Words competition

Well done and thank you to the children who submitted stories to this very popular, annual competition. We are keeping everything crossed for good news!

Library lunchtimes

Monday:	Closed
Tuesday:	Years 3 and 4
Wednesdays:	Years 5 and 6
Thursdays:	Year 2
Fridays:	Year 1

There will be a limit of 15 people in the Library at any one time.

John Betjeman Poetry Prize

This writing competition invites entries from 10 - 13 year olds across the UK to write on the theme of 'place', which was a central theme in John Betjeman's work. Why not put pen to paper and see what happens? The deadline is 31 July 2017 and you can find more details at:

<http://www.betjemanpoetryprize.co.uk/how-to-enter>

Missing library books

We are still missing lots of library books, especially recent ones, so please could you have a good look at home and in class and bring them in as soon as possible. If a book is lost, then we ask that the same one is replaced, either by payment to the school so we can repurchase it or by giving us another copy of the missing book. I will be sending out reminders soon.

Joke corner

Q: What musical instrument is found in the bathroom?

A: A tuba toothpaste!