

## St Michael's Missive No 27 (Trinity 2017/18) – school and community news

### A MESSAGE FROM MRS OWEN

Dear Families,

First of all, a very big thank you to everyone who helped sponsor the children for Sports Relief. We raised £1174. This week, we have also received a certificate of thanks from Save the Children for the £372 we raised on Christmas Jumper Day.

There are lots of summer term dates for your diaries included in this Missive, which are on the website calendar, where you will also find term dates for 2018-19. I hope many of you will be able to come to our mini Science Fair next Tuesday, from 3pm (see attached letter from Mrs Buchanan). I'm sure your children will be excited to show you their science investigations. Two weeks later you are all invited to visit our exhibition celebrating the children's art work on Monday 14 May. If there are any artists among you who would like to exhibit your work as well, please bring your contributions to the office by next Friday, 11 May. Over the next week, please don't miss Tuesday's Phonics Evening for Year 1 Parents, Year 5's assembly next Friday and, of course, tomorrow's Film Club.

All the classes have started their new topics for the summer term. Details of each year group's curriculum are available on the website under the curriculum or classes tabs. If you haven't yet read last term's School News, you can also find that on the website under the News tab.

Best wishes,  
Rosalind Owen

### CLASS NEWS

#### Reception Year

Please could we have some parent volunteers to set up the art work for all classes for art week in the hall on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of May – we have only had one volunteer so far and need more. Please let Judith know if you are able to help.

### FROM THE LIBRARY...

#### Reading together: it's a joy and a benefit!

It's been proven time and time again that one of the best things that parents and carers can do for their children is to cuddle up together with a book. It's beneficial in more ways than one: you get to spend quality time together, even if it's only for ten minutes, and it helps develop both a love for and interest in reading, as well as developing reading skills and vocabulary. This has, in turn, been linked to greater academic performance in all subject areas.

Picture stories are particularly important because they often are layered with meaning. For example, the pictures might tell a different story to the words (see *Handa's Surprise*, *Rosie's Walk* and *I Want My Hat Back*) and you can have fun talking about the different sides to the story. Additionally, books like *Just Imagine!* provide children with an opportunity to talk to their readers about their hopes and ideas from the fun prompts.

Sometimes parents worry that they are reading in the 'wrong' way with their children, or aren't sure where to start.

The good news is that there is no 'right' way! Children love being read to and it can soon turn into an activity that everyone enjoys (even your dog, cat, fish, hamster, etc...). Here are three ideas for what you can do to make these opportunities more fun:

- **Take your time:** I remember I used to sometimes just read a book through so the story wouldn't get lost or forgotten, not giving enough time for my daughter and I to really look at the page – the images and words and ideas. However, this can really make the experience more enjoyable and beneficial. By taking time to let a child ask questions about words or images, you are helping increase their knowledge but in a fun way. Word knowledge in particular is improved and increased.
- **Repetition:** Have you noticed that some books repeat certain words over and over, perhaps in different ways or sentence structures? (Dr Seuss books and the Mog series by Judith Kerr are great for this!) By repeating words in different contexts, children learn the new vocabulary and also its meaning easily. They will also find it easier to remember. This also happens when you repeat the same book(s) – apparently when I was little

**Love** **Determination** **Responsibility** **Respect** **Kindness** **Friendship** **Honesty**

everyone thought I could read much earlier than I could just because my poor mother read certain stories over and over to me! It might feel frustrating but there will be some benefit! Perhaps keep a stock of three or more though so you don't feel like you're going to 'lose the plot'!

- **Read picture books:** Many children and parents think a child is too old for a picture book once they are in Year 2 or 3 or higher. Believe me when I say you are NEVER too old for a picture book! Some of the best writers and illustrators for children (and adults) write picture books and, because there are fewer words than in novels or short chapter books, every word counts.

If you'd like to talk about any of this further, or would like some recommendations for great books, please feel free to get in touch!

Mrs Pope



## **BookTrust's writing competition!**

**Write a story of 500 words or fewer!**

(That's the limit, not the aim, so it's absolutely fine to send in something with fewer words than that.)

**It can be about absolutely ANYTHING and can be set anywhere you like:**

in space, the jungle, at school, underwater, in a shop, etc.

**The only rule: YOU are the main character, and you have to use your REAL FIRST NAME.**

So, if your name is Sam, you can write a story about Sam finding a mouse in his sock.

If you want to illustrate your story, or do it as a comic strip, that's fine too. In fact, we'd love you to illustrate your own cover, or maybe have a go at illustrating the main character – YOU!

**WHAT DO YOU WIN?**

**Five winners** will get the chance to see their entry turned into an actual, properly printed one-off book by an actual, real life publisher – with their name on the cover and everything!

**Please hand entries in to Mrs Pope to post by 17 May!**

## CLUBS UPDATE

This **Friday** the **hockey club** will be running from 3.15 – 4.15pm, for years 3-6. The children who played last week really enjoyed it.

On **Monday**, there will be a **second** FREE taster session for the **choir**, 3.15 – 4pm, for years 2-6. Year 1 children can attend but they must be accompanied by a parent.

Please encourage your children to come along to either or both clubs and have a go. Parents are also welcome to join the choir.

## FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The annual football tournament has been booked for Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Our football coach Adam French is organising it along with the PTA. He needs parent helpers to oversee each team so if you are able to do that, please contact the PTA on: [stmichaelsoxfordpta@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelsoxfordpta@gmail.com)

## CELLO LESSONS

Our string teacher from the County Music Service will be offering private cello lessons in school from September this year for children from Year 3 (currently Year 2) and upwards. Please let the office know if your child is interested.

## SCHOOL TWITTER ACCOUNT - PLEASE FOLLOW US!



A few parents have asked why we don't use texts rather than emails to send out brief whole-school messages such as "football has been cancelled today". We appreciate that texts are convenient, but we have to pay for them. We could "Tweet" such messages, but with our modest band of followers (11...) there doesn't seem much point!

Please follow us – if Donald Trump can master it, so can we!

[@st-michaels-oxf.oxon.sch.uk](https://twitter.com/st-michaels-oxf.oxon.sch.uk)

## PTA NEWS

The next **PTA meeting** is on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 8pm. Items on the agenda include the Disco and the Summer Fete. Please come along, everyone is welcome.

Please note that the PTA email address is: [stmichaelsoxfordpta@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelsoxfordpta@gmail.com)

Volunteers are needed to help organise and run the school disco and to help sell tea and cakes after the May Day Dancing. These events will have to be cancelled if not enough helpers come forward.

Volunteers can sign up here -

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090D4CA5A62FA4FB6-summer2](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090D4CA5A62FA4FB6-summer2)

There will be a separate sign-up sheet for the Summer Fair/Football Tournament on 23 June.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



The Oxford Maths Festival runs from 28-29 April

All events are free to attend but some require pre-booking. For the entire programme follow the link below and see the *What's On* page. <https://mathsfest.web.ox.ac.uk/>.



The poster features a collage of board games and a pizza. A red box in the top left corner says 'MAY 16'. The board games shown include a chess set, a board game with cards and dice, and a board game with a pink board and dice. The pizza is in the bottom left corner.

**BOARD & FED UP**  
**Games and pizza**

**St Michael and All Angels**  
Jack Straw's Lane New Marston OX3 0DL

**6pm - 8pm**

A fun evening with favourite **BOARD GAMES** and **PIZZA**.  
Free admission, but please make a donation to Christian Aid for its work among the poor, hungry and homeless.  
**PLEASE TEXT 07794 036 302 TO HELP WITH CATERING**

**All Welcome!**

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Fri 27 April	3:30 – 5:15 PTA Film Club
Weds 2 May	3:00 – 5:00 mini Science Fair 6:00 Year 1 Phonics Evening
Fri 4 May	9:00 Year 5 Assembly
<b>Mon 7 May</b>	<b>No School – BANK HOLIDAY</b>
Tues 8 May	7:00 Full Governing Body Meeting 8:00 PTA Meeting at School in Year 3 classroom
Fri 11 May	9:00 Reception Assembly Year 1 and 2 visit to the Ashmolean
14 – 18 May	KS2 SATs WEEK
Mon 14 May	From 1:30 Art Exhibition in Hall
Fri 18 May	PTA Disco 5:30 – 6:30 KS1; 6:45 – 8:00 KS2
Thurs 24 May	1:30pm May Day dancing
Fri 25 May	No School – INSET DAY
<b>28 May – 1 June</b>	<b>HALF TERM Holiday</b>
Fri 8 June	3:30 – 5:15 PTA Film Club
Mon 18 June	Festival of Voices – Year 3 & friends – leave at 2:30pm
Weds 20 June	Sports Day
Fri 22 June	9:00 Year 1 Assembly
Sat 23 June	St Michael's Football Tournament and Summer Fair
Weds 27 June	Alternate Sports Day
Thurs 28 June	6:00pm Reception - meeting for new parents
Weds 4 July	Whole School trip to Hill End 7:00 Full Governing Body Meeting
Fri 6 July	Year 6 Transition Day
Weds 11 July	6:00pm Y5/6 Production
Thurs 12 July	1:30pm Y5/6 Production
Fri 13 July	Year 5 & 6 trip to Fairford Air Tatoo
Tues 18 July	1:30pm Summer Concert
Mon 23 July	Talent Show – for the children only
Tues 24 July	2:00pm pm Leavers' Service in Church
Weds 25 July	9:00 Final Sharing Assembly 1:30 break up for summer

**FINIS**