

Newsletter: January 2019



Head Teacher's Welcome

Welcome back! I do hope that you had a wonderful festive break and I hope that 2019 is a very happy and successful one for us all! I also hope that YR/KS1 enjoyed the Pantomime and KS2 enjoyed our Carol Concert at St Michaels on the last day of term.

Richard Culham

Ofsted

As you may well be aware, we had our inspection yesterday (Tuesday 22 January). We had one inspector accompanied by an HMI who was 'Quality Assessing' the process.

I am not allowed to tell you the outcome until it is published in about 2 weeks, but I can say what a tremendous staff team we have and how well they dealt with the challenges of an inspection. I can also tell you that our children were absolutely superb and were highly praised.

It is great to have an opportunity to show our good work but it is also a great feeling to not have to worry again for several years!

Communicating



We have recently had 3 days without phones and I am sure that you can imagine just how troublesome that was! Fortunately we do have a school mobile and calls were re-directed through that number but one line in and out for a school of our size! Fortunately we were able to text and email. Apologies if you were inconvenienced during this time.

This is an example of why it is so important to have up to date mobile numbers and email addresses so that we can easily communicate with each other when there is a need.

It is also very important to have more than one contact name on our system in the event we cannot contact you. Please ensure the school office has at least 2 contact name and details for your child.

If your contact details have changed in any way at all please let the office know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Attendance



Our School target is 96% attendance and we are close to that figure now already. It is so important for your children's learning and future careers that they have good attendance habits now. We can't do much about the 48 hour rule as that is a National guidance figure but if there is any element of uncertainty then please bring your child to school. It's amazing how, sometimes, being with their friends and busy learning can be the "tonic" needed! If there are any concerns on our part then we will contact you.

Unfortunately we have had to issue several fines as a result of poor attendance and we will continue to be very determined in our pursuit of good attendance.

Uniform

I think it is well known that I often say that the children "think smarter" when they "look smarter". So a BIG thank you from me for all of the work that goes into getting the right uniform (particularly shoes!). If ever you need help with uniform then Mandy on reception does hold various pieces of spare uniform. Also, don't forget our Lost Property department where much of the clothing that doesn't have a child's name in will end up.

Sports Clubs



Each evening we are running at least 5 after school clubs which means that around 60 – 70 children are busy in school engaged in activities! It certainly means that the school is buzzing until 4.15pm!

My thanks to Miss Neill for organising it all and of course to our Sports Coaches who do such a great job. Thanks also to Mandy Saunders on Reception who administrates it all!

One request please, if your child can't attend a class can you please let the Office know so that it can be marked on the register. That then avoids someone from here having to phone you. Thank you.

Staffing News

This term we have welcomed several new faces to our team as we continue to extend our provision. Mrs Banfield, Miss Maynard, Miss Carnie, Mrs Hopkins and Miss Sparks.

We re-advertised for Mrs Macleod's Year 5/6 Intervention teacher role and will hopefully be appointing later this week.

Danielle Barter will be going on maternity leave at the end of February and we are recruiting her maternity cover later this week as well.

Fundraising

Our Christmas school disco raised a brilliant £600. Thank you so much for your support.

Road Safety

We have again, had several concerns around dangerous traffic practices around the school entrance. Cars parked on double yellow lines, reversing on the road outside school and turning around in the gateway, as examples, all have the potential for accidents as so many people leave the site.

Please remember that your children should be seated in an appropriate car seat for their age and size. More information and guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules>

Please drive responsibly so that we can protect our children.



Dates for your Diary

Tues 29 Jan: Y5 / Y6 NSPCC Workshop

Tues 12 Feb: Dental Visit for YR & Y1 for selected children (further details to follow)

Mon 18 – Fri 22 Feb: Half Term

Mon 25 Feb: School re-opens

Wed 27 Feb: RE Day (more information to follow)

Fri 22 March: School Disco

Wed 27 – Fri 29 March: Y3 Residential trip

Thurs 4 April: Non-school uniform day in lieu of gifts for Bingo prizes (26 April)

Fri 5 April: INSET

Mon 8 April – Mon 22 April: Easter holidays

Tues 23 April: School re-opens