



St. Michael's C.E. Primary School  
*learning together through love, friendship, forgiveness and faith.*

# NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents, Carers,

Firstly, on behalf of all the staff at St Michael's, I would like to say a very sincere thank you to all our families for your flexibility and patience during drop off and collection last week. We did need to make a few alterations to our original plan, but we seem to have arrived at a safe system, that works for most people.

It was absolutely wonderful to welcome back all the children into school and hear the buzz of happy chatter and exuberance as the children engaged in their learning. The children looked so smart and polished in their uniforms as they filed in, tall and proud, into collective worship. Thank you again to parents. I can't imagine the efforts that went into online shopping, to buy uniform and shoes that fit!

It will come as no surprise to learn that our children have transitioned into new classes and routines with the minimum of fuss, and that their behaviour, as always, in these first few days, has been commendable. While we recognise we have a very busy term ahead and there will inevitably be some gaps in the learning to fill, it is reassuring to see the children exhibit such a positive approach in lessons and pleasure at being back amongst their friends and teachers. I have enjoyed listening to their news from lockdown and how their education at home has taken different paths; while their schooling has been interrupted, their knowledge of the world around them and their skill sets have continued, uninterrupted by Covid, to flourish.

While the restrictions of Covid have undoubtedly caused distress and anxiety for many, there is evidence in school that the time spent by children at home with families has had a really positive impact on their confidence when speaking; their vocabulary is wider and richer. Reading is another area, where many of our children have benefitted from the time spent engaged in 'book talk' at home and have made significant progress.

I hope our parents and carers feel reassured, and appreciate, how the time they spent reading and engaging in contingency rich conversations with their children during lockdown has added considerable breadth to their learning across the curriculum.

At school, we are continuing to plan a rich and engaging curriculum for the children and are making every effort to ensure we can safely enjoy all the experiences that characterise life in primary school, such as class assemblies and Christmas.

## Fund Raising

The effects of Covid on the national economy, are reported daily by the media. The restrictions imposed by lockdown, which prevented individuals or families gathering has also impacted heavily on our planned and potential fundraising at St Michael's. This year, for example, we were unable to hold a summer fair which generally raises in the region of £4,000-£5000. Our lettings income has also been seriously affected. As a result, the money so generously earned and donated by the PTA, that allowed us to invest in so many curriculum enriching experiences for our children, has ceased. We find ourselves in a situation where, without your help, the lack of planned self-generated income may mean we are unable to provide the additional, non-statutory activities, such as isingpop, which our children so enjoy.



Further examples of curriculum investment for this academic year, to benefit all pupils across the school, are:

- The Accelerated Reader programme- Miss Tracey, who is leading on this programme in school has shared the rationale for investing in this resource.

*Accelerated Reader is a program which aims to improve pupils' reading ability and help them to read books that are right for their age group. It ensures that every child has a reading book and time in the day to read them. At the start of each term, and at the end of the year, the children take a 'Star assessment' which assesses their reading fluency and comprehension skills. They are then given a 'zone of proximal development' which gives them a range of levels in which they should be choosing books. The library, and classrooms, are being organised based on book levels, so children know where to get their books from. This test will also highlight areas that each child needs to work on in terms of reading comprehension, allowing teachers to arrange interventions and lessons accordingly. The star test will also produce specific targets for each child as well as a predicted attainment for the end of KS2. Children can then choose books which are at their reading level, as well as age appropriate, and once they have read a book they take a quiz which tests their comprehension of the text. Children also collect 'points' based on how much they are reading and how long the books are. Another feature that this program has is the use of 'My On' which is a website that contains nearly a thousand eBooks that the children can choose to read. Many schools who have already implemented this system have commented on how much more engaged reluctant readers are and how much their pupils are taking responsibility for their own reading progress.*

*C Tracey July 2020*

**The children will be bringing home information about how to log in and access 'Accelerated Reader' from home, shortly.**

- Isingpop
- Update and renew KS1 reading schemes to maintain the quality of teaching and progress in reading, noted by Ofsted. (March 2020)
- Learning to read music from reception and playing an instrument from year 1.

Following discussions with the PTA, and in light of the continued restrictions on their fundraising potential, we would like to suggest one donation of £50 per child or £75 per family. We understand some families may find this amount a challenge and would welcome any contribution you are comfortable with. We appreciate this may be a challenging time and that you may not be able to support us at this time.

Donations can be paid using the school's Scopay system and would appear as 'School fund' on your account. Alternatively, we are very happy to receive a cheque. This will be operational immediately. We will keep you updated with the progress of donations. Together with the PTA, we are hoping to raise £9,000. To date, since our first appeal in July, we have received £600. The PTA at St Michael's will be contacting parents shortly to explain the range of safe fundraising events they have planned to support all our children in the year ahead.

## **Music at St Michael's**

### **Isingpop**

Current guidance prohibits us from inviting the team into school. Meanwhile, we are relying on our library of isingpop CDs to lift our spirits during collective worship.



### **Maestros**

Following safety guidelines, instrumental Music lessons in years 3,4 and 5 resumed this week. Individual peripatetic lessons are on hold until further notice.

### **Curriculum Music**

Once again, following DfE guidelines, the school is continuing to deliver quality music lessons across the school.

## **Safe Distancing – Drop Off and Collection**

We are relying on parents to follow the extensive measures currently in place, to ensure all our families feel safe dropping off and collecting children from school. PLEASE FOLLOW SAFE DISTANCING MEASURES WHEN LINING UP AT GATES. Unfortunately, some parents are very concerned about the 'huddles' of adults gathering at the gates to chat.

### **Coats**

The weather at present is changeable and many of our children have been arriving at school without a coat. It is particularly important at present, when the children are expected to remain outside in bubbles during breaks, that they have a coat and are comfortable.

**Emergency Contact Information**

Please ensure you have returned the information packs to the office. It is important for the school to have the most recent contact details in the event your child is unwell, particularly at this time. Similarly, please keep the school informed about any changes to your child's medical needs, for example, allergies and any asthma concerns.

Once again, thank you to all our parents and carers for your understanding and flexibility. I have every confidence, by continuing to work together, we can provide a safe, nurturing learning environment that enables us to achieve the best outcomes for all our children.

Warmest regards

L Anderton

Headteacher



## PTA NOTICES

### Class Reps for 2020/21

<b>Reception</b>	Mishel Cordes & Caley Kohler
<b>Year 1</b>	Katy Haywood, Clare Thorn & Sonja
<b>Year 2</b>	Hannah Brewer & Charlotte + Greg Hilleard
<b>Year 3</b>	Emma Sousa & Carolyn Tunnah
<b>Year 4</b>	Olivia Swift & Emma McSharry
<b>Year 5</b>	Natalie Steventon & Hannah Roppa
<b>Year 6</b>	Sapna & Sarah King

# 2nd hand uniform

Please let your Class Reps know if you have any donations for our 2nd Hand Uniform store. We are in need of:

**Ties, jumpers / cardigans  
& PE Kit**

*Thank you*

**Friday**

**25th**

**September**

**YOU'RE  
INVITED**



***More***

***details***

***to follow***

***soon***



# Back to School shopping list

You can help us raise over £5 in FREE donations

Item	Cost	Retailers	Estimated Donation*
1 pair of shoes	£44		2.5% = <b>£1.10</b>
Stationery	£10		4% = <b>40p</b>
1 backpack	£25		3% = <b>75p</b>
Lunch bag	£16		7.5% = <b>£1.20</b>
PE kit (Shorts, T-shirt, Plimssoles, Gym bag)	£32		3.5% = <b>£1.12</b>
Underwear (Socks, tights, vest, briefs)	£20		3% = <b>62p</b>
2 shirts	£14		1% = <b>14p</b>
2 pairs of trousers	£17		2% = <b>34p</b>
Pencil case	£8		4% = <b>32p</b>

**Total Raised = **£5.99****

If 20 parents use easyfundraising for their Back to School shopping we could raise **£119.80\***

If a primary school child on average raises £5.99, 20 primary school children can raise £119.80 if they buy via easyfundraising.  
based on donation rates correct as of 28th May 2020

Help us make a difference when you shop  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

Plus **4,100** more!







# CHRISTMAS PUDDING FUNDRAISER



Charity Number:  
1053339

Dear Parents,

With lots to organise, we are here to help by giving you the chance to purchase a Christmas Pudding, which has proven very popular in past years and uses a secret family recipe that has been used by Fortnum and Mason.

The puddings will be labelled with the school logo and "Happy Christmas from St Michael's and can last for 12 months or so, should you decide to buy a few!

We also have a Luscious Lemon or Sticky Toffee sponge pudding option (which can be stored in a cupboard for up to six months).

To order, please complete the slip below and return it to the office (via book bags) with your cheque/cash by no later than Friday 25th of September. Although this seems really early, we get a discount on the puddings by ordering early and therefore more money for the school. Puddings will then be available for collection towards the end of October (details of collection arrangements to follow).

Should you have any questions, please ask us at drop off / pick up or by emailing [tinawizard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tinawizard@hotmail.co.uk)

Thank you

Tina Wizard & Tanya Kopperman

CHILD'S NAME			
CLASS			
	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
454g (1lb) Plum Pudding Serves 4	£7.00		
908g (2lb) Plum Pudding Serves 8	£11.00		
Sticky Toffee Pudding (290g) Serves 3-4	£6.25		
Luscious Lemon Pudding(290g) Serves 3-4	£6.25		
Cheques made payable to: ST MICHAEL'S PSA		TOTAL PAID	

Made with PosterMyWall.com

<b>Important Dates</b>	
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
Friday 25th September	McMillan Coffee Morning (more details to follow soon)
Friday 25th September	Deadline for completed Christmas Pudding Order forms
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
Friday 23rd October	Term ends
<b><i>HALF TERM—Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2020</i></b>	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
Monday 2nd November	Children return to School
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
Friday 18th December	Term ends
<b><i>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY—Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January</i></b>	
<b>JANUARY</b>	
Monday 4th January	Inset Day
Tuesday 5th January	Children return to School