



# St Michael's CE Junior School

Newsletter - Issue 11 13.02.2026

## MESSAGE FROM MRS KINGHAM

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot quite believe that we are already at the end of the first half of the spring term. It has been a half term that I have thoroughly enjoyed, getting to know our wonderful children, dedicated staff, and the wider school community. It was especially lovely to see so many parents and carers celebrating their children's successes at Parents' Evening this week.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mrs Bundy for leading Thursday's Parents' Evening while I attended the Headteachers' Conference over the last couple of days. This was an excellent opportunity to connect with colleagues, explore best practice in their schools, consider new educational research, and reflect on the next important steps in our journey at St Michael's.

As you know, we are currently in a period of change at St Michael's. We recognise that change can feel challenging for many of us in different ways. I am truly grateful for the thoughtful feedback you have shared and for your continued support as we move forward with our plans. Times like these provide powerful opportunities to model and teach our children the true value of resilience. Change can seem daunting, but when managed with clarity, care and a shared vision, it can lead to growth, success and us becoming the very best we can be.

I am currently finalising the necessary paperwork regarding the secondment of our SENCo and Deputy Headteacher for the remainder of this academic year. There are still some discussions to confirm finer details with their schools and our Governors before I am able to share further details. I am hopeful that you will meet them after half term.

It is very important to me that we ensure a period of overlap in leadership, allowing Mrs Bundy and Mrs Ellis-Davies to share their extensive knowledge of the school, our children and our community, and the vital roles they hold. This will support a smooth transition into the summer term and provide continued stability for our pupils.

### Parent Governors

We will shortly be beginning the process of recruiting new Parent Governors, and this is an important step for our school. Parent Governors play a vital role in supporting and challenging school leaders, helping to shape the strategic direction of the school and ensuring that we continue on our journey of improvement. They bring a valuable parent perspective to discussions and decisions, strengthening the partnership between home and school. Further information about the role and how to apply will be shared at the beginning of next half term. We are particularly keen to hear from parents who are committed to working collaboratively with us and who are motivated to support St Michael's as we continue striving to be the very best we can be.



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### PTA

A strong and committed PTA plays an invaluable role in school life, bringing energy, creativity and a real sense of community to everything it does. Through their dedication and fundraising efforts, PTAs create opportunities that enhance children's experiences beyond the classroom. Previous fundraising has enabled us to explore new outdoor play equipment, and this week the children have chosen their preferred options, with our School Council helping to shape what this will look like. It is an exciting development, so do watch out for updates over the coming months. A proactive and forward-thinking PTA adds real momentum to the drive of the school, and we will soon be looking to recruit a group of enthusiastic parents who are keen to organise fundraising events and community activities throughout the year.

### Social Media Use for Children

We are increasingly seeing issues in school that have stemmed from children's use of social media and messaging platforms in the evenings, particularly WhatsApp. While these apps can be a convenient way to stay in touch, they also carry significant risks for primary-aged children, including exposure to inappropriate content, unkind messages, peer pressure and group conflicts that can quickly escalate. WhatsApp has a minimum age requirement of 13 years old, and many other social media platforms have similar age restrictions. We strongly encourage parents and carers to regularly check their children's phones and online activity, ensuring that content is age-appropriate and that privacy settings are secure. Working together to monitor and guide children's online behaviour is essential in helping to keep them safe and ensuring that issues from home do not impact their wellbeing and learning in school.

Thank you, as always, for your kindness and ongoing support. I hope you all enjoy a restful half term break — and perhaps a few pancakes! I look forward to welcoming you back bright and early on 23rd February.

Kirsty Kingham  
Headteacher



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## SCHOOL INFORMATION

### ATTENDANCE

At St Michael's Junior School, we are committed to:

- Promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence
- Ensuring every pupil arrives at school on time and ready to learn
- Ensuring every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled

Attendance is everyone's business - Every Learning Minute Counts									
This Week		Year to Date Attendance							
Whole School		Whole School		National		Persistent Absence		National	
92%		94.9%		94.6%		12.9%		16.4%	
Year Group Breakdown (last 5 days)									
Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6			
93.3%		94.5%		91.6%		95.3%			
Daley	98.3%	Abbott	95.5%	Keller	90%	Attenborough	96.9%		
Lewis	89.3%	Hawking	92.5%	Malala	93.4%	Earhart	93.8%		
Simmonds	92.4%	Johnson	95.5%	Mandela	91.3%	Henson	98.1%		

- Reminder: We ask for all children to be in class by **8.45am**. If your child arrives after this time, they will need to enter via the main entrance and sign in at the office. Thank you for supporting us in ensuring every child starts their day ready to learn.

### WORLD BOOK DAY - Thursday 5th March

The theme this year for World Book Day is "Making Reading Fun"; there will be lots of activities around books and developing a love of reading.

We have planned to start the day with 'breakfast and a book'. The children will be offered a pastry and/or some fruit and in each class a surprise book will be unwrapped with the children and used during the day. This is to reinforce the message that reading is fun and that books provide us with an exciting, imaginary world to explore.

We have also planned a joint activity where the Year 6 children from St Michael's Junior School will visit the Year 2 children at St Michael's Infant School to read to them. This will be an opportunity for the children to share a book together and to chat to one another about going to Junior school.

We ask the children to dress up in costume every other year and this year we **will not** be dressing up. The reason for this is that some of our children (and parents) find this very difficult for all sorts of different reasons. To ensure that we are supporting everyone, we have opted to dress up every other year.

We look forward to celebrating World Book day and know the children will love the breakfast and a book and all of the other activities that each year group will plan.



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Newsletter – Issue 11 13.02.2026

## **SCHOOL INFORMATION**

### **COMIC RELIEF - Friday 20th March**

A much-anticipated date in our calendars is coming... Red Nose Day 2026! As one of the UK's biggest fundraising events, Red Nose day brings the entire nation together to raise money and change lives. This year Red Nose Day is on Friday 20th March.

To do our bit and raise money for people around the world who have incredibly tough lives, we are asking children to come to school on Friday 20th March dressed in red clothes and to bring a suggested donation of £1.

### **INSET DAYS**

This is a reminder that we have two more inset days in the Academic Year, where the school is closed for Teacher training. These are:

26th June 2026

22nd July 2026

### **FUNDRAISING - THE LITTLE RECYCLERS**

Just a reminder that we have signed up to a clothing recycling scheme, called The Little Recyclers.

We are pleased to say that we can now accept clothing donations at any time - please bring any bags of unwanted clothes to the school office.

**The next collection is on Thursday 16th April.**

### **NO SWEETS IN SCHOOL**

Please can we advise that sweets are not allowed to be given out in school, at the end of the day for birthdays or celebrations, or in packed lunches due to allergies.

Please ensure that if your child has a snack for snack time that it is a healthy option to encourage a healthier life style.

### **WATER BOTTLES**

Please can we remind you to send your child in to school with a named water bottle.

Water is crucial to being healthy and ready to learn and children have access to their bottles at regular intervals throughout the day. Please do not put anything other than water in your child's bottle.

We ask children to take them home everyday in order that they can be cleaned.



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Newsletter – Issue 11 13.02.2026

## **SCHOOL INFORMATION**

### **COATS**

As we are still in the depths of winter and the weather is still rather cold, please can you ensure that your child is bringing a coat to school, as they will be out on the playground at break and lunch times.

### **SMARTWATCHES**

We have been made aware that a number of the children in school are wearing 'smart watches'. These may appear safe for children as they can not access the internet whilst in school. However a number of the devices that the children are wearing contain a camera.

Using the camera on these watches poses a safeguarding risk and therefore we ask that children do not wear these watches in school. If you think that your child has been taking pictures whilst in school of other children we ask that you permanently delete these images from your child's device.

A reminder that our uniform policy states that 'The only jewellery the school permits a child to wear is a plain small wrist watch.'

If a child is wearing a watch with a camera we will ask them to remove it and we will we ask a parent or carer to collect it from the school office at the end of the day.

### **BIKES AND SCOOTERS**

Please can we remind you that bikes and scooters should not be ridden on the school grounds or across the playground. This is a matter of safety, as a child at the Infant School was recently knocked over by someone on a bike and we want to ensure that we take appropriate measures to avoid this happening again.

### **FOOTBALLS, TENNIS BALLS ETC**

Please can we ask that footballs, tennis balls and any other kind of ball is not brought into school, or used to play with before or after school on the playground or field.

We have a strict policy that the children are allowed to play with the school provided footballs and handballs at break and lunch time, on a year group rota. This ensures that everyone gets a fair turn, and there are no arguments over the balls.

Please be assured that there are many other pieces of play equipment that the children can use at break and lunch time, if it is not their turn to use the footballs and handballs.



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Newsletter – Issue 11 13.02.2026

## **SCHOOL INFORMATION**

### **PUPIL SICKNESS**

If a child has been sick or has diarrhoea, they must stay off school until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours.

If your child is absent from school, you must contact the school **daily**. This can be done by calling 01252 322933 and selecting option 1, or by email to [adminoffice@st-michaels-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@st-michaels-jun.hants.sch.uk) with the following information; child's name, year group and reason for their absence (for example high temperature or sickness bug).

All absences must be reported to the school office on each day of illness by 8.50am. If we do not receive a message regarding a child's absence, we will telephone and if necessary, text to ask for an explanation. If we are unable to contact you, we will keep trying and also contact other emergency contacts.

The absence will be marked as unauthorised until we have spoken to a parent to clarify the reason.

### **MEDICATION IN SCHOOL**

If you think your child may need Calpol or other medication during the school day, this must be provided by parents and handed to the School Office, together with a completed 'Request for Administration of Medication in School' form and details of any medicine already administered that day. All medication must be in its original packaging.

Calpol kept by the school is for emergency use only, ie. if a child unexpectedly becomes unwell during the day. School should not be relied on to provide this.

### **MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS**

Standard medical or dental appointments should be made outside school hours. If a child is absent for a medical appointment, it is still regarded as an absence from school.

Please make sure the school are notified of any medical appointments in advance. Parents/carers will need to fill in a **medical appointment form and also provide proof of the appointment**. If we do not see proof of the appointment, then it will be unauthorised. Any optician appointments taken during the school day will be unauthorised.

Where there is no alternative for an appointment outside of the school day, children should only miss a short period of time and return to school as promptly as possible.



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Newsletter – Issue 11 13.02.2026

## YEAR 3

### **YEAR 3 TRIP: Butser Farm - Tuesday 3rd March**

Year 3 will be visiting Butser Ancient Farm as part of this term's work on The Roman Empire. The children will be taking part in various activities including archaeological excavation, Roman maths, Flint wall building and Villa tour.

The trip will take place on Tuesday 3rd March, leaving school at 9.00am, travelling by coach and returning to school by 3.20pm. The children will need to be in school for registration by 8.40am to enable a prompt departure. The children are required to wear their school uniform and a waterproof coat, and will need a packed lunch and water bottle (in a small named bag that the child can carry). The school can provide a packed lunch at a cost of £2.75.

**The cost of the trip is £24.50, and all voluntary contributions will go towards the cost of travel and the activities provided by Butser Ancient Farm. Payment can be made via your Scopay account or cash (handed into the school office). If insufficient contributions are received, the trip may have to be cancelled.**

**We are still looking for Parent Helpers for this trip, if you are able to volunteer, please let the Office know.**

### **YEAR 3 PARENT EVENT: Sewing - Tuesday 17th March 1.30-3.00pm**

Year 3 Parents/Carers are invited to join their child at a sewing event on Tuesday 17th March.

The parent event will be held in the school hall and will take place from 1.30-3.00pm, which will allow those to collect younger siblings from the infant school. Other parents can wait on the playground until 3.20pm so that the children can be dismissed from classes in the usual way.

Please note, this is not a drop in Parent Event so please arrive promptly. The pedestrian gate will open at 1.25pm and close at 1.40pm. Due to the nature of this activity, latecomers will not be admitted. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **YEAR 3 WORKSHOP: Egyptian Theatre Virtual Reality - Thursday 16th April**

As part of the Year 3 Spring Term History & Geography learning, each class will take part in a Egyptian Theatre virtual reality workshop. The workshop will inspire the children and support their learning and the curriculum in school. Please note, it is recommended that pupils with epilepsy or pupils who are prone to seizures consult with their doctor before using a VR headset.

**A voluntary contribution of £3.70 per child is requested to contribute towards the cost of the company coming in and activities provided. Payment is required no later than Thursday 26th March and can be made via your Scopay account or cash (handed into the school office). If insufficient contributions are received, the workshop may have to be cancelled.**



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Newsletter – Issue 11 13.02.2026

## YEAR 4

### **YEAR 4 PARENT EVENT: Times Tables - Friday 13th March 1.30-3.00pm**

Year 4 parents and carers are invited to join their child and take part in a Times Tables Parent Event on Friday 13th March.

The parent event will be held in the school hall and will take place from 1.30-3.00pm, which will allow those to collect younger siblings from the infant school. Other parents can wait on the playground until 3.20pm so that the children can be dismissed from classes in the usual way.

Please note, this is not a drop in Parent Event so please arrive promptly. The pedestrian gate will open at 1.25pm and close at 1.40pm. Due to the nature of this activity, latecomers will not be admitted. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **YEAR 4 WORKSHOP: Mayan Theatre Virtual Reality - Thursday 16th April**

As part of the Year 4 Spring Term History & Geography learning, each class will take part in a Mayan Theatre virtual reality workshop. The workshop will inspire the children and support their learning and the curriculum in school. Please note, it is recommended that pupils with epilepsy or pupils who are prone to seizures consult with their doctor before using a VR headset.

**A voluntary contribution of £3.70 per child is requested to contribute towards the cost of the company coming in and activities provided. Payment is required no later than Thursday 26th March and can be made via your Scopay account or cash (handed into the school office). If insufficient contributions are received, the workshop may have to be cancelled.**



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Newsletter – Issue 11 13.02.2026

## YEAR 5

### **YEAR 5 PARENT EVENT: DT Flatbreads - Thursday 12th March 1.30-3.00pm**

Year 5 Parents/Carers are invited to join their child at a DT Flatbread event on Thursday 12th March. The parent event will be held in the school hall and will take place from 1.30-3.00pm, which will allow those to collect younger siblings from the infant school.

Other parents can wait on the playground until 3.20pm so that the children can be dismissed from classes in the usual way.

Please note, this is not a drop in Parent Event so please arrive promptly. The pedestrian gate will open at 1.25pm and close at 1.40pm. Due to the nature of this activity, latecomers will not be admitted.

We look forward to seeing you there.

### **YEAR 5 WORKSHOP: Greek Virtual Reality - Monday 16th March**

As part of the Year 5 Spring Term History & Geography learning, each class will take part in a Greek virtual reality workshop. The workshop will inspire the children and support their learning and the curriculum in school.

Please note, it is recommended that pupils with epilepsy or pupils who are prone to seizures consult with their doctor before using a VR headset.

**A voluntary contribution of £3.70 per child is requested to contribute towards the cost of the company coming in.**

Payment is required no later than Friday 6th March and can be made via your Scopay account or cash (handed into the school office). If insufficient contributions are received, the workshop may have to be cancelled.



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Newsletter – Issue 11 13.02.2026

## YEAR 6

### **YEAR 6 WORKSHOP: Volcanoes and Tectonics Virtual Reality - Monday 16th March**

As part of the Year 6 Spring Term History & Geography learning, each class will take part in a Volcanoes and Tectonics virtual reality workshop. The workshop will inspire the children and support their learning and the curriculum in school. Please note, it is recommended that pupils with epilepsy or pupils who are prone to seizures consult with their doctor before using a VR headset.

**A voluntary contribution of £3.70 per child is requested to contribute towards the cost of the company coming in.**

Payment is required no later than Friday 6th March and can be made via your Scopay account or cash (handed into the school office). If insufficient contributions are received, the workshop may have to be cancelled.

### **YEAR 6 PARENT EVENT: Volcano Art - Thursday 19th March 1.30-3.00pm**

Year 6 Parents/Carers are invited to join their child at a Volcano Art event on Thursday 19th March. The parent event will be held in the school hall and will take place from 1.30-3.00pm, which will allow those to collect younger siblings from the infant school.

Other parents can wait on the playground until 3.20pm so that the children can be dismissed from classes in the usual way.

Please note, this is not a drop in Parent Event so please arrive promptly. The pedestrian gate will open at 1.25pm and close at 1.40pm. Due to the nature of this activity, latecomers will not be admitted.

We look forward to seeing you there.

### **YEAR 6 PARENT EVENT: SATS Workshop - Thursday 26th March 3.30-4.30pm**

Year 6 Parents/Carers are invited to attend a SATS Information Evening on Thursday 26th March from 3.30-4.30pm.

This will be held in the school hall - please could parents/carers wait outside reception until 3.30pm when the hall will be open.



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Newsletter – Issue 11 13.02.2026

## DIARY DATES 2026

All diary dates for future events are now available on our school website – this will be updated regularly as and when events are added/updated.

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026	<b>Half Term Week</b>		
Thursday 5th March 2026	World Book Day		
Thursday 12th March 2026	Year 5 Parental Engagement Event - DT themed	School Hall	1:30 - 3:00pm
Friday 13th March 2026	Year 4 Parental Engagement Event - Timestables	School Hall	1:30 - 3:00pm
Monday 16th March 2026	Year 5 VR Workshop - Ancient Greece	In School	
Monday 16th March 2026	Year 6 VR Workshop - Volcanoes and Tectonics	In School	
Tuesday 17th March 2026	Rocksteady Concert	School Hall	9:30 - 10:30am
Tuesday 17th March 2026	Year 3 Parental Engagement Event - Sewing	School Hall	1:30 - 3:00pm
Thursday 19th March 2026	Year 6 Parental Engagement Event - Volcano Art	School Hall	1:30 - 3:00pm
Friday 20th March 2026	Comic Relief		
Monday 23rd March 2026	Year 3 Easter Performance	School Hall	2:45 - 3.00pm
Tuesday 24th March 2026	Year 4 Easter Performance	School Hall	2:45 - 3.00pm
Wednesday 25th March 2026	Year 6 Easter Performance	School Hall	2:45 - 3.00pm
Thursday 26th March 2026	Year 5 Easter Performance	School Hall	2:45 - 3.00pm
	Year 6 Parent Event - SATs Workshop	School Hall	3:30 - 4:30pm
Thursday 26th March 2026	Class Photos		
Friday 27th March 2026	<b>Last day of term (normal 3:20pm finish)</b>		
Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April 2026	<b>Easter holidays</b>		
Monday 13th April 2026	<b>BACK TO SCHOOL</b>		

### CONTACT US

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