



St Michael's CE Junior School

Newsletter – Issue 11 28.02.2025

MESSAGE FROM MRS JONES

Welcome back to all our children - we have had a lovely, settled start back to the school after half term.

We are now in the second half of the academic year and we are seeing so many children who are showing strong learning behaviours and lovely manners. We have been talking to the children about chasing their learning, really showing the adults that they want to learn, they want to improve and they want to be the very best that they can be.

We had parent consultation evenings this week. A big thank you to everyone who came to meet with the teachers - we have enjoyed speaking to parents, talking about the children's learning and discussing how we can support each other to get the best for the children.

Thursday 6th March is World Book Day and we look forward to seeing the many different costumes that the children will dress up in or seeing them snuggled in pyjamas or looking at the clues children may bring in about their favourite book character. Children will have the opportunity to do a range of activities and to talk about their favourite books. School staff may also be dressing up as well, which is always entertaining and fun.

We hope you have a lovely and restful weekend and look forward to seeing all of the children next week for another great week of learning.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Psalms - Songs from the Heart

This week in Worship we looked at Psalm 25 '**I ask only one thing from the Lord. This is what I desire let me dwell in the Lord's house all my life** '.

We talked about special places, places where we might like to be still, feel cosy and 'at home'. We also talked about what 'our heart's desire' might be and the children explored this as their Big Question for the week.

In Celebration Worship we celebrated children who have kept to the school values and chased their learning. We said that these are the school's role models, the children that others should look up to.

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PTFA FUNDRAISING

PTFA Gift for a Special Lady Sale: Tuesday 25th March

Following on from the success of last year, the PTFA are holding another Mother's Day Gift Sale on Tuesday 25th March. The cost of a wrapped gift is £4.00. Payment for the gifts can be made via your Scopay account (under Trips/Events), or cash to the school office.

If you wish to purchase more than one gift, please make the appropriate payment online, for example:
1 x gift = £4.00 / 2 x gifts = £8.00

The deadline for ordering your gifts is Friday 21st March.

The sale will be run during the school day on Tuesday 25th March. All children who have placed orders will be taken to the sale by their class teacher. The gifts are all wrapped and will be displayed so that children can see what items are available, and they can make their selection, which they will bring home with them at the end of the day. All gifts are brand new, and gift wrapped.

Please see below the PTFA poster and a photo showing the types of gifts that will be available. We are hoping that this will be an enjoyable event for children and their families.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
St Michael's CE Junior School PTFA
Gift for a special lady in your
life

Tuesday 25th March 2025
£4 per ticket – payable via Scopay or cash to school office
Order deadline: Friday 21st March 2025
Gift shopping will take place during the school day
Each child that has purchased a ticket will get to
choose a gift from a large selection

Parentkind
Member Association



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YEAR 3

YEAR 3 TRIP: Butser Farm - Monday 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 Monday 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).

In order for this trip to go ahead a voluntary contribution of £20.00 is requested to contribute towards the cost of travel and the activities provided by Butser Farm. Please can any outstanding payments be made as soon as possible.

YEAR 4

YEAR 4 WORKSHOP: Viking Theatre - Monday 10th March

As part of the Year 4 Spring Term History learning, each class will take part in a Viking Theatre workshop run by Openbox Theatre.

The workshop will take place on Monday 10th March, with each class taking part in a workshop during the day. In order for the workshop to go ahead, **a voluntary contribution of £6.90 per child is requested to contribute towards the cost of the company coming in and delivering this unique experience.** Payment is required no later than Friday 7th March.

YEAR 4 PARENT EVENT: Dance - Thursday 20th March 1.30-3.00pm

Year 4 parents and carers are invited to join their child and take part in a Dance Parent Event on Thursday 20th March. Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes that you are able to move around in.

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: Viking Theatre Virtual Reality - Friday 4th April

As part of the Year 4 Spring Term History & Geography learning, each class will take part in a Viking 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 £3.50 per child is requested to contribute towards the cost of the company coming in and activities provided. Payment is now required no later than Friday 14th 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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YEAR 5

YEAR 5: CINEMA TRIP 'The Wild Robots' Wednesday 12th March 2025

Year 5 will be visiting the cinema in Aldershot to watch 'The Wild Robots' as part of the English curriculum. The trip will be held on Wednesday 12th March and the screening is from 10.00-11.40am. Year 5 will walk down to the cinema from school at 9.15am and return to school at 12.30pm.

Please ensure that your child has a waterproof coat with them.

There is no cost associated with this trip. This trip is covered by our Local Permission consent form, and is part of the trips and events in the local community (within a 4-mile proximity of the school) during your child's time at St Michael's CE Junior School

YEAR 5 GREEK DAY - FRIDAY 14TH MARCH

YEAR 5 GREEK DRESS UP DAY- Friday 14th March

Year 5 children will be having a Greek themed dress up day on Friday 14th March. The children will be asked to come dressed in traditional Ancient Greek attire, such as tunics, robes or togas (this could be as simple as a white bed sheet) and **sensible footwear - sandals or open toed shoes are not permitted**. Hair should still be tied back. Please see the attached sheet for ideas on how to dress up.

YEAR 5 WORKSHOP: Greek Virtual Reality - Friday 14th 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 £7.10 per child is requested to contribute towards the cost of the company coming in and activities provided.

Payment is required no later than Friday 28th February 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 5 PARENT EVENT: Greek Museum - Friday 14th March 2.00-3.00pm

Year 5 Parents/Carers are invited to join their child at a Greek Museum event on Friday 14th March. The parent event will be held in the school hall and will take place from 2.00-3.00pm, 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 1.55pm and close at 2.10pm. Due to the nature of this activity, latecomers will not be admitted. We look forward to seeing you there.



YEAR 5

YEAR 5 GREEK DRESS UP DAY: Friday 14th March

Dressing up day ideas

Greeks

So you're having a Greek dressing up day? Don't panic! Even if you'd forgotten about it until 8pm the night before, you can still manage to whip up a costume with some simple items in your house. There's no need for any buying and there's not even any sewing!

Greek Girl

- A long chiton (see instructions below)
- A large rectangle of fabric for a cloak (a bed sheet is ideal)
- A wide sash/belt of contrasting fabric
- Two brooches for the chiton
- A necklace and earrings as desired



Greek Boy

- A knee length tunic (see instructions below)
- A wide sash/belt of contrasting fabric

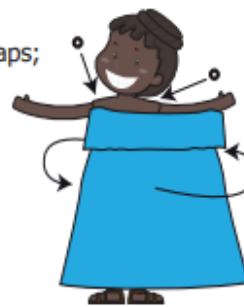


To make the boy's tunic

1. Take a large piece of rectangular fabric (an old bedsheet is ideal)
2. Fold it in half along its width
3. On the folded edge cut a hole for the head
4. Bind the waist with the wide belt, overlapping any additional fabric at the sides so that the tunic doesn't come open!
5. Trim the length so that it comes to your knees
6. A t-shirt and shorts can be worn underneath for modesty

To make the girl's chiton

1. Take an old single bedsheet or similar and fold the top third down on itself to make a flap. Now fold the whole thing in half the other way;
2. Wrap the sheet around yourself, making sure there's no gaps;
3. Fasten the front and back with a brooch at each shoulder;
4. Use the sash as a belt to hold the hole thing together!
5. A T-shirt and shorts can be worn underneath for modesty





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YEAR 6

YEAR 6 BIKEABILITY TRAINING 31st March - 3rd April

Hampshire Outdoors are offering Year 6 children the opportunity to take part in Bikeability training. This is the national cycle training programme supported and funded by the Department for Transport. The training has three levels;

Level 1 which is based on the playground and builds confidence in children who can already ride a bike

Level 2 which teaches children to cycle on local roads

Level 3 which uses more challenging roads.

Each child will need a fully operational bike with two working brakes and a cycle helmet. If your child does not have access to a helmet or bike but would like to take part, Hampshire Outdoors will endeavour to make the necessary provisions.

If you would like your child to participate in the training then **please could parents complete the permission slip that was sent home with their child this week, and return to the School Office by Monday 3rd March 2025** in order that we can ensure every child is provided for.

YEAR 6 VIRTUAL REALITY WORKSHOP: Friday 4th April

As part of the Year 6 Spring Term History & Geography learning, each class will take part in a 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 £3.50 per child is requested to contribute towards the cost of the company coming in and activities provided. Payment is now required no later than Friday 14th 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.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

CONSIDERATE PARKING

Please could all parents & carers park their cars considerately outside the school when dropping their children into school in the mornings.

On two separate occasions, the car below has parked on someone's property and obstructed view for parents walking with children and pushchairs parking over the pavements nearly causing serious accidents.





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SCHOOL INFORMATION

WEARING OF JEWELLERY IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION LESSONS

Please can all parents/carers be aware that Hampshire County Council's guidance on wearing jewellery in PE lessons has now changed based on national advice issued by the British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education (BAALPE) and The Association of Physical Education (AfPE).

It is now felt that the taping of earrings 'creates a perception of safety and is not recommended', as there have been several incidences within the local authority where children's ears have been injured from earrings being pulled out from under the tape.

The new guidelines state: **All jewellery should be removed prior to a physical education lesson due to the increased risk of it becoming caught or causing injury to the wearer or fellow learner. The wearing of any jewellery increases the risk of injury significantly.**

PLEASE NOTE that our school policy has been amended to reflect this. From March 2025, the main points to note from the policy are:

- **The only jewellery the school permits a child to wear is a plain small wrist watch and/or plain small studs for earrings. Other items are not permissible in school.**
- **Pupils with earrings must remove them for PE. Taping of earrings is not an option.**

WORLD BOOK DAY - Thursday 6th March

On Thursday 6th March it is World Book Day. This year we are giving the children different options for dressing up. Children can either:

- dress up as a book character
- wear their own clothes/school uniform and bring in some clues about their favourite book character so that other children can guess who it is, from the clues
- dress up in pyjamas/comfy clothes that are good for snuggling up and reading in

The theme for World Book Day this year is 'Get Ready To Read Your Way' with the aim of getting all children loving books and reading. Research shows that half a million children in England do not own a single book; we will be giving out World Book Day tokens so that children can either get one of the 12 free books with their token or put it towards buying a more expensive book.

We look forward to seeing what the children decide to wear!

COMIC RELIEF - Friday 21st March

A much-anticipated date in our calendars is coming...Red Nose Day 2025! 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 21st 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 21st March dressed in red clothes and to bring a suggested donation of £1.



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SCHOOL INFORMATION

EASTER PERFORMANCES

Parents and carers are invited to come into school to watch the Easter Performances, which are being put on by each year group in the school hall. Younger siblings and family members are also welcome to watch. Please arrive at the school, ready for a prompt 2.45pm start. Please note the dates for each year groups performance.

Monday 24th March	Year 3 Easter Performance	2.45pm
Tuesday 25th March	Year 4 Easter Performance	2.45pm
Wednesday 26th March	Year 6 Easter Performance	2.45pm
Thursday 27th March	Year 5 Easter Performance	2.45pm

Please note, this is not a drop in event so please arrive promptly. The pedestrian gate will open at 2.35 pm and close at 2.45pm. Due to the nature of this activity, latecomers will not be admitted. We look forward to seeing you there.

The performances will finish by 3.00pm and 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.

Go Draw in School

From 3rd March to 14th March our school is taking part in a drawing festival called Go Draw in School. With thousands of children taking part from all over the borough it looks like it will be an amazing event. The festival is kindly supported by Rushmoor Borough Council.



Over the two weeks we will be dedicating part of each day to drawing.

Each day there will be a short video the children will watch introducing a different theme. We will then give the children an opportunity to draw in a special Go Draw in School booklet.

They will be given lots of support and encouragement, but the time given is very much 'free drawing', and no formal drawing teaching will be given.

Drawing is an important part of every child's development and we feel it is important to give the children this time to explore.

If you are feeling left out... don't worry! At the weekend of the festival every child will be bringing home a few ideas of how to Go Draw at Home!



CONTACT US

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DIARY DATES 2024

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 3rd March	YEAR 3 - Butser Farm Trip	Off site	All day
Thursday 6th March	WORLD BOOK DAY		
Monday 10th March	YEAR 4 - Viking Theatre Workshop		All day
Wednesday 12th March	YEAR 5 - Cinema Visit	Off site	9.15am-12.30pm
Friday 14th March	YEAR 5 - GREEK DAY Greek Dress up Day		All day
	YEAR 5 - Greek Virtual Reality Adventure	School	All day
	YEAR 5 PARENT EVENT - Greek Museum	Hall	2.00-3.00pm
Thursday 20th March	YEAR 4 PARENT EVENT - Dance	Hall	1.30-3.00pm
Friday 21st March	COMIC RELIEF		
Monday 24th March	YEAR 3 - EASTER PERFORMANCE		
	CLASS PHOTOS		
Tuesday 25th March	YEAR 4 - EASTER PERFORMANCE		
	GIFT FOR A SPECIAL LADY SALE		
Wednesday 26th March	YEAR 6 - EASTER PERFORMANCE		
Thursday 27th March	YEAR 5 - EASTER PERFORMANCE		
	YEAR 6 PARENT EVENT	Hall	1.30-3.00pm
Monday 31st March	YEAR 4 - Viking Theatre Virtual Reality Workshop	School	All day
Monday 31st March - Thursday 3rd April	YEAR 6 - BIKEABILITY	School	
Tuesday 1st April	ROCKSTEADY Concert	Hall	9.45-10.15am
Thursday 3rd April	WHOLE SCHOOL - Church visit		Morning
Friday 4th April	LAST DAY OF TERM		
	YEAR 4 - VIRTUAL REALITY WORKSHOP		
	YEAR 6 - VIRTUAL REALITY WORKSHOP		