

St Michael's

Church of England Infant School



Next half term's value is
FORGIVENESS

1st April 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been almost a month since we welcomed all children back to school and we are now at the end of the spring term! The clocks have gone forward an hour and I am sure that we are all looking forward to lighter evenings and better weather! What a term it has been. Everyone in our school community has managed the changes so well and we appreciate the challenges you may have all faced. If as a parent, you have any specific concerns that we have not already discussed with you, please feel free to speak to your child's class teacher.

Parent Consultations

As you know, our main focus has been settling the children back into school and making sure that well-being is at the forefront of our minds. We have taken time to observe the children at play and have used our observations as well as your input to make decisions about what level of support children may need in the summer term. Either as individuals, small groups or the whole school. Alongside this, we have been assessing the children's learning and finding out what gaps may need addressing next term. Our time spent with you over parent zooms was incredibly valuable. We now have a full picture of each child's journey and will put this together with our assessments and observations to plan for the learning needs of all children from the summer term. If your child is taking part in any specific learning or well-being interventions, we will give you more information after Easter. ELSA sessions and brunch sessions will resume after the Easter break.

Attendance

From 8th March, attendance, once again, became mandatory. The usual rules on school attendance apply. Unless your child is sick, self-isolating or there are exceptional circumstances, all children over the age of five, must attend school. Absences should be reported to the office via telephone, by email or ParentMail by 9.30am.

Open Book

Due to the success of our last Open Book session and the fact that we are still in a position where we can't have families inside the school building, we are going to run another of these sessions next term before the May break. Please look out for more information after Easter.

Clubs

We are excited to announce the return of our after school clubs! The following clubs will be running from Tuesday 20th April.

Premier Sports Multi-Sports - 20th April – 25th May - 3.00 – 4.00pm

Fun in the Forest Club – 28th April – 7th July – 3.00 – 4.00pm

Art, craft and cookery club – 29th April – 8th July – 3.00 - 4.00pm

Chelsea football – 29th April – 27th May and 10th June – 8th July – 3.15 – 4.15pm

Pencil Pots and Reading Books

Your child will come home with their pencil pot over the holiday for replenishing or replacing, ready for the summer term. We will be sending home 3 reading books with each child for the Easter break. Please continue to read books using our eCollins subscription too.

Pause Day



This week, the children have taken part in two 'Pause' mornings. We have focused our thoughts on the big question, 'Is Easter happy or sad?' The children have enjoyed taking part in a rotation of drama, art and talk based activities and made many reflective and thoughtful comments.

Easter Bonnet Parade

What great fun to see all the Easter bonnets this morning! The children thoroughly enjoyed parading their designs in the hall and great fun was had by all! Here are a few photos for you to enjoy!



World Book Day

It was lovely to see the children dressed up and excited for World Book Day on the 10th March. We focused our morning on a story linked to one of our Story Project books 'Everybody's Welcome' by Patricia Hegarty. This book focused on acceptance, community spirit and teamwork which was very fitting for the first week of everyone back at school.

In the afternoon, as a whole school we read a book called 'Same, Same but Different' about a boy called Elliot who lives in America, and Kailash who lives in India. They are pen pals who exchange letters and pictures and they learn that they both love to climb trees, have pets, and go to school. Their worlds might look different, but they are actually similar. Same, same, but different! This led to a discussion about Ilakya and that there may be things that she likes and hobbies that she has that are similar to our children's. We thought about whether we would recommend this book to her!

Government Roadmap

The **12th of April** is the next key date, when the Government will be announcing the next phase of the roadmap. Hopefully, non-essential shops, hospitality venues and outdoor attractions will

reopen. With some people having had vaccinations, it really is beginning to feel like there is light at the end of the tunnel. During the Easter break, please take time where you can, and encourage your child/children, to recharge their batteries! Please spend time with loved ones, but also adhere to Government guidance and safety measures, so that we do not undo all the hard work we have all put in so far!

Covid 19 related information

Staff will continue to participate in voluntary lateral flow testing twice a week, including during the Easter break.

If your child or anyone they live with tests positive for Covid-19 within 48 hours of being at school please email the school office on info@stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk to let us know and to enable us to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst at school. Please remain vigilant in checking for symptoms of Covid 19 and follow government guidelines.

Thank You to the Friends!



A big thank you to the Friends of St Michaels for organising the Easter trail tomorrow. It is incredibly well thought out and Covid safe. We appreciate all your continued efforts in raising money for the school, continually having to think differently to make events enjoyable but safe.

We would also like to thank you for the contribution of a 'Wheelbarrow of Wine' for the Mickleham Community auction.

Things to note:

- If your child is bringing hand creams, lip balms or similar into school, please can these be given directly to Mrs Piggott in the school office. When children keep them in their book bags, we have limited control over how often they are using them. We have also had occasions when children have shared these with their friends, which we need to avoid.
- **Water works:** SES Water will be carrying out a mains replacement project on Byttom Hill starting on the 6th April. The works are expected to last for approximately 6 weeks and during the course of the project they aim to maintain access to School Lane, for staff, parents and residents. Please take care when accessing the school during this work.
- **Full school uniform** from the start of the summer term. **P.E days** – children should come to school in their P.E kit (joggers or school shorts, school P.E top and school jumper only – no weekend summer clothes please).
- **Forest school clothing** – Children should now come into school in full school uniform from the start of the summer term. Children will once again get changed into Forest School clothing at school. Please bring in a long sleeved top and long trousers or joggers in a named plastic bag. This clothing will remain at school until the end of term when it will go home for washing. Forest School waterproofs should come into school in a separate named plastic bag and will be stored at school until the end of term.
- **Sun cream and sun hats** – please check the weather each day and apply sun cream to your child if needed. We are not able to apply sun cream at school. Your child should have a school sunhat only (no caps as these can be dangerous when children are running around.)

A prayer for Easter

May you have.....

The gladness of Easter

which is *hope*

The promise of Easter

which is *peace*

The spirit of Easter

which is *love*

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on
Monday 19th April.

We hope you have a restful and peaceful Easter break.

God Bless

Nicola Cleather
Head of School



Inset dates

1 INSET day left for this academic year 21st July 2021 School

INSET Days for 2021/22:

1st September 2021

22nd October 2021

4th January 2022

21st February 2022

22nd July 2022