

St Michael's

Church of England Infant School



Next half term's value is

HOPE

28th May 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

With half of the summer term gone it is about time the sun came out! What a difference it makes to finally feel the warmth on our faces! I am hopeful that we will be able to carry on enjoying this over our half-term break and for the final part of our school summer term.

Open Book



Open Book was once again a huge success! We have had some lovely feedback and the children were delighted to share their books and learning with you. I hope we managed to answer your questions too and we enjoyed spending time chatting to you.



Next half term we will be arranging a final parent consultation as well as sending home an end of year report. For our Year 2 parents our conversations will be around well-being and transition. We will discuss with you the support we have provided for your child's next steps with their journey to junior school. By then we will have completed handovers to your child's new class teacher and we can discuss these with you in more detail. For our younger children, conversations will be focused on your child's overall well-being as we close the academic year and how we will plan for their next steps, including supporting any missed learning or gaps in learning.

Government Guidance

Earlier this month the government released new guidance for schools following the movement into the next step of the national road map. Despite the fact that life outside school is now very different, very little has changed in our school guidance. We have made some small adjustments to our measures but are still being advised to avoid gatherings unless necessary. **Please note that at the moment we are still asking that all visitors wear a mask as we are aware that the new variant needs to be considered and a cautious approach seems the best one to take, this will be reviewed at the next stage of the guidance.**

Transition Arrangements

All schools are prioritising transition arrangements as the guidance now allows that to happen with risk assessments in place. This means children can be supported well in their next steps of education. In the Dorking area, 29th June has been chosen for the 'Moving Up Day.' Our Year 2 leavers should be spending the morning or day at their new school, and we will also be giving our own children a chance to experience their new classrooms as well as welcoming our new intake on that day. This is great relief as we were not able to do this last year. Sadly however there are a

few things we are still not able to do, this includes large community gatherings such as Sports Day, school productions and the welcome meeting for our new parents.

We are planning an equivalent experience for the Sports Day but just with the children and staff in school. Whilst I know this is a disappointment for us all, we will do all we can to make it a memorable and fun experience for the children. Look out for some photos before the end of the summer term!

The Leavers' Service

As Year 2 will be leaving us this year, parents of our Year 2 children will be invited to this outdoor Service. This event plays a key role in the children's transition so with a risk assessment in place, we are able to run this event only. Fingers crossed for the weather!

Bee Rules

As you know here at St Michael's School, we guide children to make good choices by referring to our Bee rules. One of those rules is 'Be Safe' and we need your help to make sure children stay safe as they enter and leave the school site. We have noticed that children are running ahead of their adults both as they arrive and leave the site and this can create a potential danger if cars are driving up School Lane.

We are also mindful that we want children to arrive at school calmly so they can quickly settle for learning. Please can we ask that you make sure your children stay near you and do not run around when they are waiting in line. We are not opening the gates early as we have been guided to avoid gatherings and you have been brilliant at lining up along the path with social distancing so this seems the safest way to start our day.

As usual we would like to remind you that the school will need to be contacted if your child has a confirmed case of Covid-19 with symptoms seen before 3 pm on Sunday 30th May. Please inform us by emailing info@stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk

Important dates

9th July	We have arranged a visit from Zoolab to share a Rainforest Discovery Workshop with the children.
16th July	Leavers' Service on the school playground. Year 2 parents to attend. This will be at 1.30pm. You are welcome to take your child home at the end of the Service.
19th July	Year 2 Leavers' Party – 1.30pm. Children only.
20th July	End of term – early finish – Year R: 1:30pm Years 1 and 2: 2pm

If you have children in more than one class you will be able to take them at the same time.

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