St. Michael's CE Primary School Newsletter

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February 2016 Issue 6

Dates

Thursday 4th February
-Mixed Year 3 & 4 gymnastics festival at Hornsey Girls School
- Year 5 Orwell visiting 'Victorian Highgate'
- Chinese New Year food for those pupils on school dinners

Friday 5th February
Orchestra concert in Junior Hall at 9am

Monday 8th February
Year 5 Ragged School Museum trip
- Yr 6 Bike training until 11th Feb (selection of pupils only)

Tuesday 9th February
Year 5 & 6 boys seven aside at Whitefield School
-Pancake Day celebrations (dessert for those pupils on school dinners)

Wednesday 10th February
-Ash Wednesday
-Year 2 trip to Museum of London Docklands (Cholmeley class: 9am -1pm, Wilson class:11.30am-4pm)

Thursday 11th February
Nursery AM and Reception: Parent special book welcome at 8.45am. For Nursery PM it will be at 12.45pm - Please go in with your child to the classroom at drop off.

Friday 12th February
-Year 1 Kenwood family assembly and coffee morning
-**Last day of term, finishing 3.30pm**

Monday 22nd February
-Children return to school
-Nursery parent-teacher meetings during the day (nursery open as usual).

Tuesday 23rd & Thursday 25th February
Parents Teacher meetings 3.45—6pm (the school will let you know when it is available to book your slot online).

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and finding out all about what has been happening at school these past few weeks. The children have been very busy both inside and outside of the classroom. Please also take note of upcoming events in the dates section.

Best Wishes,

Geraldine Gallagher
Headteacher

Medical

There have been a few cases of chicken pox in the early years over the past couple of weeks. Below is some information and advice for parents:

What is chicken pox?
Chicken pox causes a rash of red, itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters. They then crust over to form scabs. Some children have only a few spots, but other children can have spots that cover their entire body. These are most likely to appear on the face, ears and scalp, under the arms, on the chest and belly, and on the arms and legs. Chicken pox in children is considered a mild illness, but your child will probably feel pretty miserable and irritable while they have it (even before the spots appear) so do look out for the symptoms.

How long should I keep my child off school for?
Please keep your child off school for five days from the start of the rash**.** After the five days, to prevent spreading the infection, keep children off until all their spots have crusted over as it is still infectious until they do. Try to keep them away from public areas to avoid contact with people who may not have had it, especially people who are at risk of serious problems, such as newborn babies, pregnant women and anyone with a weakened immune system.

Returning to school:
On returning to school, you may find that your child's teacher or other staff member queries you about the illness, especially if your child is still showing some spots. Please do not worry as this is just routine. As long as the spots have crusted over and no new spots have appeared, then there is no reason why your child should not stay at school.

To report any illness or absence: Please ensure you phone the school absent line on 0208 340 7441 or email the office on the morning of the absence, E: admin@stmichaelsn6.com

Details you should provide are:
- child's full name
- child's class name
- nature of illness/ reason for absence

If you have any queries about illnesses/school procedures such as chicken pox, please feel free to speak to a member of the office team.

Dates Continued..

Monday 29th February
Year 6 Churchill War Rooms trip

Thursday 3rd March
Panto will be 3rd, 4th and 5th (all dates will have an evening performance and an extra matinee on the 5th)

Friday 11th March
Year 2 Cholmeley family assembly and coffee morning

Wednesday 16th March
Year 6 St Paul's Cathedral trip, 11am—4pm

Thursday 17th March
SMSA quiz night

Tuesday 22nd March
-Nursery AM and Reception: Parent special book welcome at 8.45am. For Nursery PM it will be at 12.45pm - Please go in with your child to the classroom at drop off.
- SMSA disco:
Infants: 4-5pm and Juniors: 5.30-7pm

Wednesday 23rd March
- 9.30am Easter Church service led by Year3. All parents are welcome.
-Easter Bonnet parade will be to and from the church.

Thursday 24th March
Last day of term, **finishing at 2pm**

Return to school - Monday 11th April 2016

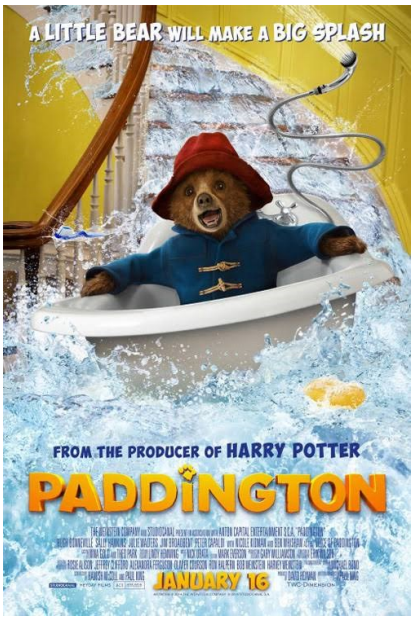
Nursery and Reception visit from the London Fire brigade

In January, the school had a very exciting visit from the London fire brigade. Nursery and Reception children were invited to meet the firemen and learn about fire safety. Some children even had a go at holding the water hose and sitting in the front seat.

Parent-teacher Meetings

Later this week, online booking for Parent-Teacher meetings (Tuesday 23rd & Thursday 25th February) will go up on Scopay.com. The office will send an email to confirm once it goes live.

Assembly on filming Paddington Bear—Be the best (bear) you can be.



Last week we were very fortunate to have Mr John Sorapure (Director of Photography) visit our school. He spoke during our special "*Be the best you can be*" assembly about filming scenes in the hit children's movie, Paddington Bear. How it took hard work, dedication and a lot of team work to make the film and that it did not always go to plan.

The children were enthralled and inspired by his personal stories of how tricky the bath scene was to film, explaining that the sets needed to be rebuilt after each take because of the vast quantity of water that flooded the studio. Exciting moments when the stunt man had to be rescued after a dangerous fall and how many people (approximately 500) it took to make the film. We were also lucky to be able to see some outtakes and photographs of the writer and crew at work.

St. Michael's School Council

After a successful first Term with School Council, Miss Batham, Year 6 teacher, is looking forward to working with a new set of class representatives from Years 2 to 6 this term. School Council meet fortnightly during their lunch break and two elected pupils from each class share ideas of how to improve our school.

Last Term, School Council wrote to Mrs Gallagher, who visited one of our meetings and fed back on our suggestions. They also wrote a letter to the governors informing them of what School Council does. Look out for School Councillors around school - you can see their photographs on the display board by the Science Room - and don't forget to pass on any useful ideas you have.

Office Notices

⇒ **Sophie,** our admin officer has secured a post in a school nearer to her home and will leave us at February half term. We thank Sophie for her work and dedication; all of St. Michael's community will miss her. We wish her much happiness and success and hope she will take very fond memories of her time at St. Michael's.

⇒ Some of you may know that **Hannah** our finance assistant and clubs coordinator, will be taking maternity leave from February half term until September 2016. We wish her luck and look forward to meeting her new baby.

During the interim her post will be covered by the following members of staff:

- Clubs: Please email *clubs@stmichaelsn6.com*
- Trips: Please email *trips@stmichaelsn6.com*
- Dinner money, childcare vouchers and all clubs finance questions will be covered by Derek Lamb, the School Business Manager. Please email *finance@stmichaelsn6.com*
- Medical and Health Care Plans will be covered by Nick Fletcher, the Inclusion Leader. Please email *SENCO@stmichaelsn6.com*

Summer Club Information

Our Summer Term clubs will be available for booking from the second half of next week (w/c 8th February). We strongly suggest parents and carers book early to avoid disappointment.

Booking will close on or around the 5th April, giving everyone seven weeks to sign up for clubs. We will be in touch by email before booking opens, and before it closes.

Governors' News

Earlier in the month Governors were very lucky to be invited to the Apple Education Leadership Summit. Billed as 'a chance to start to build your vision towards greater creative learning and teaching', Governors Geraldine Gallagher and Jonathan Murphy attended this exciting event at London's Kings Place.

They said: "We were thrilled to be invited to this event and are very interested in learning how we can integrate using mobile tablet technology. We were fortunate enough to hear from teachers and pupils from a primary school who showed us how they had used Keynote presentation software and the iPad camera to create superb poetry. This may not initially sound like the redefinition of learning, however the collaboration and feedback aspects of the projects would not be anywhere near as fluid without the use of iPads."

Governors hope to go on a fact-finding mission to a primary school that uses iPads in London soon.

Sports News

PCubed Rugby Challenge 2016

St. Michael's once again attended the annual PCubed Challenge at the HAC Moorgate on Friday 22nd January 2016. A truly brilliant day in a wonderful setting within the high skyline of the City. The event organised by the London Skolars rugby club - along with sponsors PCubed - involved 6 high quality tag rugby schools from Haringey and Enfield. For an excellent summary of the teams go to the
London Skolars website.
Once again St. Michael's performed very well after a shaky start with a 1-0 defeat against Keble School boys team. In the second game against Merryhills School, St. Michael's again had a shaky start and went 4-1 behind before venturing on a spectacular comeback leaving the score levels at 5-5 before a last minute try from Merryhills (the eventual finalists) won them the game. There was much to admire from the teams spirit in this game and this provided them with great confidence leading to a well-earned 4-2 victory over Coldfall in their final game. In the eventual final Rhodes Avenue defeated Merryhills.
Despite an unsuccessful attempt at reaching the finals (we shared the title last year with Rhodes Avenue), the real winners on the day were the children who took every opportunity to enjoy the fantastic experience of the day.

After tag rugby they helped form a guard of honour for Wigan Warriors and London Skolars as they arrived for the main event. The children watched the whole match and particularly enjoyed the tough tackling throughout. They didn't want to leave despite the rain and cold and their dedication was rewarded near the end when they got to meet England's Rugby League captain Sean O'Loughlin (see below). They came away with an autographed ball.

Well done to the squad of Molly, Elle, Lily, Freia, Reuben, Henry, Thomas, Louis, Kaito, Charlie, and Lucas for representing the school so admirably. This event is arguably the highlight of our sporting calendar. For more photos from the event, take a look at the school's tag rugby webpage in the P.E/Sports section.

Haringey Sportshall Athletics Tournament 2016

St. Michael's once again entered the Haringey Sportshall Athletics event at Heartlands High School on the 21st January 2016. This event has grown enormously over the last few years with now over 30 schools from Haringey competing. St. Michael's competed in Heat 3 and a squad of 18 girls and boys arrived at the venue with great excitement and optimism. The event started with 'field' events - standing long jump and triple jump, vertical jump, speed bounce, and chest push, before moving on to an exciting array of relay races. Cheered on by fellow team members the squad gave their all and achieved a fantastic set of results. With 11 schools involved in Heat 3 it was going to be tough to finish in the top 2 which meant qualifying for the finals a week later. In the end St. Michael's finished a fantastic third place only 2 points behind second place. So near and yet so far.
Well done to all the girls and boys for competing with a smile and great determination and representing the school so well throughout. The squad can be seen in the photo below.