

St Michael's Academy

December 2016 Newsletter



The Week Ahead

Lower School

- **NO SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK**
- 13th - Y3 & 4 Christmas Dinner
- 15th - Panto Visit - Octagon

Upper School

- **NO SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK**
- 14th - Y5 & 6 Christmas Dinner
- 15th - Panto Visit - Octagon

Welcome to our December Newsletter, the last one of the year.



How quickly this year has flown by. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support throughout this term. We have managed to settle in the 65 new children, 6 new staff and vast array of new initiatives, and all over the space of 3 months. Quite an achievement. Thank you for the role you have played in that.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our new Year 3 parents (and anyone else who has joined us this term) for their support during this first term. Your children have settled very well and are happy. It is evident by looking in their books that they have all made very good progress and this is pleasing to see.

We have had a very busy term with the re-launch of our houses and the children being given an opportunity to visit them. Visits to the cinema in November and the panto this week; as well as a theatre company visiting us in school. We have had several groups taking advantage of the varied opportunities that being in this school offers. These include; indoor athletics, football matches, working with authors and mathematicians, and the choir singing in Somerton as well as theatre companies coming in.

The curriculum continues to be developed and extended with all children being taught PE by a specialist. Year 4 and 5 have had music tuition this year which for both culminated in a performance. The Harvest Festival for the year 5s and the Panto for year 4. The year 3 and 6 will benefit from this at

the end of next term. The year 6's have been visiting Bucklers Mead where they have been sampling science lessons from Mrs Hurd on a regular basis.

Gosh I feel exhausted just writing this and I know I have missed a lot out. So, please all of you have a wonderful holiday, rest up and come back ready to get on with the business of schools... which is to learn.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Mrs Caroline Lancey – Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe that this term is almost at an end. It has been a busy first term with lots of improvements being made to our school environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed getting to know the staff, children and parents of St Michael's this term. I am looking forward to meeting many more of you in the new year.

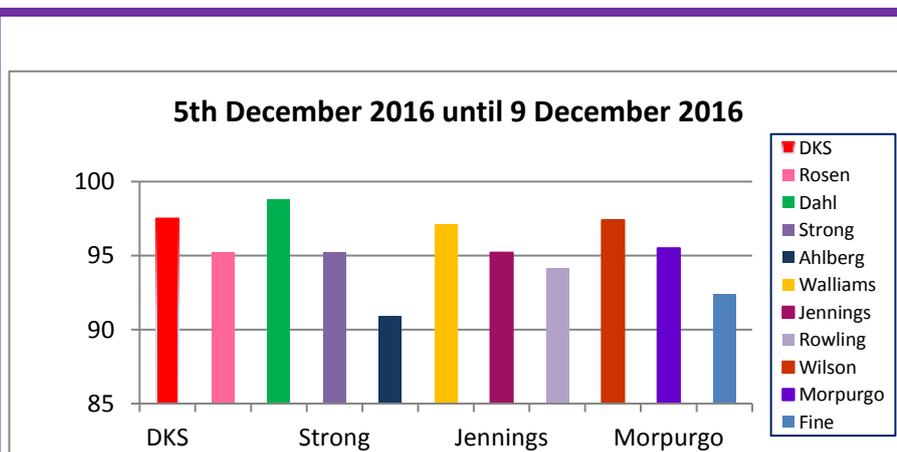
I am sure you will all join me in wishing Mrs Lancey all the best in her new role. We also say farewell to Mrs Draper and Mrs Evans who are also moving on to pastures new. I would like to thank all of them for their contribution to the school and its pupils.



I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Mrs Zoe Coghlan - Executive Head

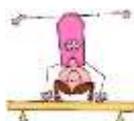
ATTENDANCE



Congratulations to **DAHL** class who achieved attendance of **98.8%**.

The winning class will receive 5 house points. All children with 100% attendance at the end of the year will receive an award.

Hobbies Day – on Friday 6 January 2017 children can come to school dressed in their hobby outfit. ie guides, cubs, gymnast, martial arts etc. Otherwise the children need to be in their school uniform as normal.



School Meals



For those wanting school meals when we return to school on Wednesday, 4 January, they must be ordered and paid for by Wednesday, 14 December. Please pay on Wednesday, 4 January for lunches for week commencing Monday, 9 January. Meals are £2 per day - £10 per week.

Christmas Jumper Day

On the day of their Christmas meal instead of wearing their school uniform jumper, the children can wear a Christmas jumper.



THIS IS NOT A NON-UNIFORM DAY – IT IS JUST A CHANGE OF JUMPER

Year 3 & 4 on Tuesday 13th, Year 5 & 6 on Wednesday 14th

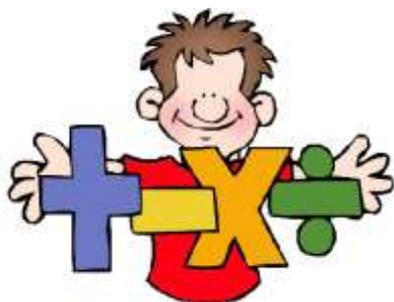
Year 5

ROWLING ~ In Rowling class this half term we have been working hard to improve our written work by including everything Mrs Moncur teaches us in Grammar lessons in our Literacy work which we do with Miss Freestone. We have really thought hard about our editing skills and made some great attempts at bettering our work by acting on next step comments provided by both our teachers and our friends. Our Christmas display in the hall is proof of this! An image of this can be seen below. We wrote lovely poems about what Winter looks like and successful descriptions of Winter weather using our senses. Another Literacy lesson we



really enjoyed was writing a letter to a girl from a snowman who was melting. We had to think very hard about how he was feeling at each point in the video clip we were shown. We have also enjoyed the Winter themed Art work we were asked to do to go on our display. We used watercolours to create a wintery feel and then spent time designing our own snowflakes by using rotation.

JENNINGS - In Jennings class we have been continuing our focus on Place Value in Numeracy this half term. The children have been learning how to multiply and divide using practical and written methods and then pushing themselves to apply this knowledge to word problems. In R.E. we have been looking at Judaism and comparing our own festivals, special artefacts and beliefs to those of the people who follow this religion. We have also been looking at how we can improve our empathy, perseverance and gratitude during our P.S.H.E. sessions, the children have been discussing different ways in which they can show thanks to those who help them every day.



WILSON – In Wilson Class we have been focusing on World War II. As part of this we have been putting key events on a timeline and discovering what everyday life was like for those living in that era, especially how it was for children to live in war time (both those in the cities and the countryside). The children also have been writing thank you letters to a war veteran as part of our remembrance day work.

During this topic there was a visit to the Fleet Air Arm Museum where the children found out lots of interesting facts about World War II and they have seen planes, ships and weapons used in WWII. Part of this trip was a workshop about how hard life was in the war time for adults and children. We even ended up under the tables to recreate the situation of a bombing, including very strict air raid wardens.



AHLBERG CLASS



In science this term we have looked at states of matter. The children have learnt that there are 3 states of matter; solids liquids and gases, they looked at how particles are arranged and formed in each state and also how to group matter into one of those states. They have also looked at how matter can change its state during melting/freezing/boiling etc. the temperature at which these changes take place and if they can be reversed.

STRONG CLASS

This half term in numeracy Strong Class have been focusing on written calculations, for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. This has included a few games to remind us of our place value facts, songs to learn our times tables and applying our new skills to a bit of problem solving. We have also been working on getting really speedy with our times tables and lots of us are starting to move up the ladder to the moon!



FINE CLASS

Fine class recently took their topic work on the Ancient Greeks to new levels by performing a class assembly covering all that they had learnt. With members of the class dressed up as Athenians, Spartans and Greek Gods and Goddesses (and for some reason Homer and Marge from The Simpsons), they combined brilliantly to deliver an informative and humorous assembly.



Among the topics discussed and performed were the original Olympic games, a variety of Greek myths and legends, the rivalry between the city states of Athens and Sparta, and the greatest philosophers and mathematicians of the Ancient World. Oh, and those who were there will surely not forget the site of Zeus, Athena and others rapping away to the beat: "We're gods and goddesses of Ancient Greece, our fame and power will never cease..." Toga-tastic.

DKS CLASS



"We have really enjoyed this half-term, learning about multiplication, division and measurements in Numeracy. Creating fantastic Dragon stories with Wow! Words alongside grammar focuses in Literacy. We have achieved so much, but our favourite has been learning all about chocolate and making our own edible Christmas trees in Topic work!

We wish you Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from DKS"

DAHL CLASS – Our Winter Walk

We have been doing lots of exciting things this half-term. One day, we made the most of the frosty weather and we went outside to explore nature in winter. We took some photographs and we used these to inspire us to think of some words we could use in our poetry writing.



Although it was very cold outside, we wrapped up warm and met Jack Frost! He had made the quad beautiful. We saw



icicles hanging from the drainpipes, silvery cobwebs, a frozen pond and crunchy grass.

Before we started writing our poems, we were treated to a mug of Hot Chocolate to warm ourselves up. We were then ready to write some fantastic poems.

Feeling freezing

Rock solid ice

Outside there are lots of spider webs

Snow on the bench

Tangled spider webs

Yesterday was cold like today

By Arthie



Frost bite has come to get you

Reindeer come out this time of year

Outstanding weather

Santa's reindeer race through the snow and ice

Terrifying ice – Beware!

Yesterday was frosty too

By Chrystal



WALLIAMS CLASS

In Year 4, we have been working very hard on our very own pantomime 'Cinderella & Rockerfella'. We have very much enjoyed learning all of our songs and lines ready for our performances on Wednesday 7th December. It was tough for some of us to remember all of our lines and to remember when we needed to get on and off of the stage. However, it was a huge success and we very much enjoyed sharing it to the rest of the school and our families.

Here is our favourite picture from the performances:



MORPURGO CLASS

Another busy half of term for the pupils in Morpurgo class has seen them refine their netball skills during PE lessons, make amazing ancient Greek masks during art and continue to develop their knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages in numeracy and their writing skills during literacy.

Last week saw the whole class perform on stage informing the whole school and watching parents about our amazing 'Human Body'. We were entertained by singing and dancing skeletons, talking body parts, informative narrators and of course the wacky Professor Spleen.

Well done everyone.



ROSEN CLASS

This half term, Rosen class have been focusing on the theme of chocolate. We have loved learning about chocolate and where it comes from. Within literacy we have been designing our own chocolate bar wrappers using explosive language and bright colours. Rosen class thoroughly enjoyed using their chocolate bar wrappers and creating an interesting and funny advert, thinking of a creative slogan for each of their adverts. In maths we enjoyed weighing and melting chocolate to make delicious chocolate crunchy trees.



“I like learning about chocolate. It’s really interesting and yummy!”

Kyra Burt



Merry Christmas!

Cake Sales

Thank you for all of you generous donations for our cake sales over the past few weeks for Children in Need. The table below shows how much each Year group raised.

Year 3	£85.60
Year 4	£54.00
Year 5	£62.44
Year 6	£52.40



Well done to Year 3 for raising the most amount of money! There will be an opportunity this week where your classes will have a special treat!

Netball Club

Unfortunately, there will be no Netball club this week. It will return again on Friday, 13th January. If you are in Year 5 or Year 6 and would like to sign yourself up for it, please ask in the office for a Club Form.



Dyslexia : Support for Parents

Tuesday, 17th January 2017 at 9am

St Michael's Academy

Mark Long, Learning Support Advisor, will be visiting to talk about Dyslexia and will be covering:-

- ❖ What does dyslexia look like
- ❖ Understanding dyslexia
- ❖ Support for dyslexia pupils
- ❖ How can I help?
- ❖ What to do if I think my child is dyslexic
- ❖ Resources for families



If you are interested in finding out more information then please come along

The children return to school on: WEDNESDAY, 4 JANUARY 2017

NO SCHOOL CLUBS DURING THE FIRST WEEK BACK. THEY RESTART ON MONDAY, 9 JANUARY 2017

House Point Results

This Term sees the results below:

4th	1st	2nd	3rd
Lytes Cary	Barrington	Montacute	Stourhead
5445	6339	5815	5568

Barrington as the winning house this term will be in non-uniform on Friday, 16th of December. There are unfortunately some children who have received 3 order marks and so haven't earned this privilege, they will be getting a letter home this week.



*From the governors, staff and
children of St Michael's
Academy, we wish you a very
Merry Christmas and a
peaceful New Year!*





St Michael's and All Angels Church
St Michael's Avenue

Christmas Services 2016

Sunday 18th December

6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
followed by Mulled Wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve

4 pm Crib and Christingle Service - for all who are young at heart

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 8.30 Said Eucharist 10am Family Eucharist



All are welcome to any of our services

May I wish you all a peaceful Christmas.

Fr. David - Vicar