



St Michael's Academy

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Principal: Judith Barrett
Vice Principal: Caroline Lancey

Chair of Governors: Jonathan Gammon
Business Manager: Alison Draper



HAPPY
NEW YEAR



NEWSLETTER

January 2016

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Happy New Year to you all and a very warm welcome back to school for 2016. I hope the year brings you much happiness and success in whatever you do. It is lovely to be back after my four months working in a school in Bridgewater. I missed St Michael's a lot, particularly the staff and children, and my time away made me further appreciate our hard working and committed staff and our lovely children. However, I left our school in very capable hands and I would like to take this opportunity to praise and thank Mrs Lancey for doing such a good job in my absence. The school ran very smoothly and I have been able to slot back in today as if I have never been away.

Judith
Principal

FUNDING FOR TRIPS, SWIMMING AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Parents/Carers who receive any of the entitlements below are entitled to funding for trips, swimming and school meals. The school will also be allocated money called Pupil Premium. This money is then used to support your child at school.

Your child does not have to take up the option of a free school meal but will still receive funding.

- Income Support
- Employment & Support Allowance (Income Related)- not Contribution related
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance-not Contribution based
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, providing you do not also receive Working Tax Credit, with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HMRC) of less than £16,190.

If your child is not already entitled to free school meals please ask for a form at the school office.

EXTRA FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOLS ATTENDED BY SERVICE CHILDREN

Additional funding of £300 is available for all children with parents in the Services. To ensure that the school is eligible for this funding please advise the school office before 11th January 2016.

Lower School Football Fixture

On Tuesday 12th January we have a lower school league football fixture away at Birchfield. The squad is as follows:

Mason Williams	Jake Hoyle
Thomas Hodge	Finley Turner
Conlun Ferguson	Joshua Wilkins
Nick Rice	Alfie Smith
Connor Mapletoft	Oliver Hughes

We will aim to get to the match at 4pm and kick off soon after. Please complete the form below so we can make final arrangements. You are more than welcome to come and watch but please be aware that all children must return back to St. Michael's after fixtures so the new football kit can be kept in school. We will aim to be back between **5** and **5:15**. Please also state below whether you intend to pick your child up from St. Michael's or if you are happy for them to walk home.

Please make every effort to return this slip tomorrow to the main office so arrangements can be made. Additionally please ensure all children have football boots and shin pads for their safety.

Cake Sales

Just to say a huge thank you to all the parents, staff and children that helped to organise, bake and sell cakes during any of the cake sales. We couldn't have done it without all of your hard work and support. It was a great success and we raised a whopping total of **£316.91**. This will go towards buying a selection of new books for our school library.



DKS: £21.55	Rosen: £19.85	Morpurgo: £33.97
Wilson: £11.60	Fine: £74.05	Strong: £16.80
Jennings £60.89	Cole: £30.95	Ahlberg: £28.10
		Walliams: £19.20

School Meal Provision



St Michael's Academy has been awarded a Healthy School status. As such we are committed to provide our own nutritious and healthy lunches which we will make fresh on site daily. We source and order our food a week in advance for the number of children who have pre-ordered and paid for meals. We do not offer a 'pay on the day' option. The cost of a meal is £2 per day. The menu is a 3 week rolling menu. It is available to view on our website and a copy is available from the school office.

Packed lunches are a bit of a minefield for parents but we would encourage you to look closely at the contents of your child's lunch box. It may well be that with a few adjustments you could be offering healthier and cheaper alternatives. If you ever want to talk to someone who is very knowledgeable about food in general and very inventive with lunch box contents please see Dawn Stringer. If there is enough interest she would happily run some workshops for you.

It is also worth looking at what your children eat and the link to childhood obesity and challenging behaviour. This year we have the highest proportion of children with challenging behaviour that we have ever had in our school and I think you would be shocked at some of the behaviours teachers are having to cope with. This morning on the news it said that young children are currently eating their own body weight in sugar by the time they are five. High intake of sugar and a poor diet are linked to poor behaviour in children, as is sleep deprivation, and they can't sleep because they are wired up with sugar. Why not make 2016 an opportunity to make some changes, and start with what your family eat.

There is a brochure available in the main reception regarding Healthy Packed Lunches in English and Polish giving advice and ideas and it is also available on the school website. www.stmichaelsacademy.co.uk

REGULAR SCHOOL INFORMATION



NO SMOKING

GENERAL REMINDERS

Along with all other schools in Somerset, St Michael's Academy is a no smoking site, which also includes e-cigarettes.

Can we also ask that you look carefully at tee-shirts and other items with slogans and messages on to make sure they are appropriate for our children to see? Many thanks for your co-operation.

Can we also remind you to send your children to school looking clean and smart with a haircut appropriate for their age. It states very clearly in our prospectus that it is not our school policy to have hair cut less than a grade 3 and no dyed hair or totemic patterns. They should also be in black school shoes or trainers and not beach shoes or coloured trainers.

ABSENCE

If your child is absent from school please let the school know before 9am.

LOST PROPERTY

Please label your child's belongings. We have a growing selection of coats, uniform and PE kit in lost property.

FRUITY FRIDAY

Send your child in with 50p if they would like a bag of fruit and a juice drink. There is no charge if your child is entitled to Free School Meals. This is phenomenal value as there hasn't been a price increase in 7 years.



Swimming 2015/2016



Please note that on swimming days the children leave school at 8.30am prompt. Please ensure your child is in school 10 minutes before the children/bus leaves for registration, and for them to pay their swimming fees.

If your child is unable to swim for medical reasons, but is not ill enough to be off school please DO NOT send them into school first thing as there is no provision for them. Please keep them at home and send them in at the time listed to be back at school as all staff go swimming so there is no supervision for the children who do not go.

Spring Term 1 ~ 2016

Day	Year	Cost	Leave School/ Bus Leaves	BACK AT SCHOOL
Monday	Rosen Class @ Fiveways	£1.50	8.30am	10.00am
	Year 4 @ Goldenstones	£2.00	8.30am	10.00am
Tuesday	Year 6 @ Goldenstones	£2.00	8.30am	10.00am
Wednesday	DKS Class @ Fiveways	£1.50	8.30am	10.00am
Thursday	Year 5 @ Goldenstones	£2.00	8.30am	10.00am
Friday	Cole Class @ Fiveways	£1.50	8.30am	10.00am

Please ensure that your child has their swimming kit on the correct day. They need a towel and a swimming costume for girls, (no bikinis please) and swimming trunks for boys, (shorts no longer than mid-thigh please.) Long hair must be tied back.

Please make sure they bring their money each week. Children in receipt of Free School Meals or Service Children do not pay.

Please make sure your child attends swimming each week, it is a very important life skill. The children here are very lucky to swim every week throughout the year as many schools do not offer this.



In line with all Somerset schools, please refrain from bringing your dogs onto the playground. Thank you.



There is NO PARKING at any time on the school premises. Please encourage your family to walk to school or if you really need to drive then park far away from the school entrance.

BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE



In conjunction with the Caretaker, I make the decision on snow and bad weather days whether the school opens or is closed. I can only open the school if I have enough staff to cover the care of the children using a 1.8 ratio. As only two of our teaching staff live in Yeovil, that means that the remaining staff have to travel in from villages, so if they were heavily snowed in, their journey would be impossible and dangerous. In the event of the school closing we will endeavour to put messages on:

- The school answer machine:
- School Website: www.stmichaelsacademy.co.uk
- Somerset County Council website:
[https://slp.somerset.gov.uk/cypd/Lists/Emergency School Closures Today/ClosedToday.aspx](https://slp.somerset.gov.uk/cypd/Lists/Emergency%20School%20Closures%20Today/ClosedToday.aspx)
- Local Radio: Heart (96-107) & BBC Somerset (95.5)



We can also email and text you important information. Please let the office have your up-to-date contact details for this purpose.



St Michael's Academy

DIARY DATES



January 2016

1	
2	
3	
4	Return to School Y5 Arts project workshops in afternoon Whole school Assembly with Philharmonic orchestra Lunch Money needs to be paid for next week's meals. NO SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK.
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	Saturday
10	Sunday
11	School Clubs re-start this week.
12	Lower School Football Fixture – Birchfield School
13	
14	
15	
16	Saturday
17	Sunday
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	Saturday
24	Sunday
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	Saturday
31	Sunday

Lower School Football Fixture

Mr Bisgrove

Name.....

Class.....

- Can attend / cannot attend
- I will pick them up / walk home

Signed: _____ Parent