

St Michael's Academy



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Principal: Judith Barrett
Vice Principal: Caroline Lancey

Chair of Governors: Dr Jonathan Gammon
Business Manager: Alison Draper



NEWSLETTER July 2016



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

As this is my last ever newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the kindness and support you have given me as the Head teacher of Grass Royal Junior School and St Michael's Academy over the nine years I have been in post.

I have spent some time reflecting on all changes that have taken place during this time and it is hard to imagine that we are the same school as we were then. The thing I remember very clearly is the huge, broken and extremely dangerous greenhouse which was situated at the back of the school and which was such a health hazard, we couldn't let the children go anywhere near it! Now we have the all-weather surface and trim trail and they can play up there very happily. That is just one of the many changes we have put in place over the years to ensure that your children are safe, happy and well educated and I hope you feel we have been successful in that.

The list of people to thank and whom I am enormously grateful to is endless but I am going to have a go!

To Nigel, Phil, Mandy, Anita and Kellie, who have had to cope with a Head teacher who likes the school to look clean and orderly every minute of every day and who have never let her down...to you all I say thank you.

To Sam, Nina, Richard and Bonnie who have stood out on the playground with me in wind, sleet, snow and rain and always taken the best care of the children and smiled throughout...to you all I say thank you.

To Tammy and Nyree, who have been inspirational in producing top quality meals for our lovely children without breaking a sweat and to Linda who clears up after them...to you all I say thank you.

To Sharon, Karen, Nikki and our fantastic Business Manager Alison who has moulded them into the highly effective engine of the school they are...to you all I say thank you.

To our wonderful Teaching Assistants who go over and beyond what could be expected of them and who work with our most challenging children...to you all I say thank you. To the best group of teachers I have ever worked with and who have been instrumental in all the achievements of our school...to you all I say thank you.

To our wonderful board of Governors who always have the best interests of the school at heart, who work voluntarily for the good of us all and who have supported me throughout...to you all I say thank you.

To Caroline, who has stood by my side from the very beginning and worked tirelessly towards improving the outcomes for all our children...to you I say thank you.

To you our wonderful parents. You have been kind, funny, helpful, supportive and understanding...to you all I say thank you.

But most importantly of all I have to save the biggest thank you to our children - your children. They are kind, caring, clever and funny. They are resilient, hard-working and set on a path to success. What more could we ask for? They make me proud most days and on occasion they have moved me to tears. They are the reason I went into the job forty three years ago, and I will miss them enormously.

Now however, it is time to change direction, do something less tiring and leave this job to the youngsters! There are very exciting times ahead for you all, and I know that the right people are in charge to lead those changes. I am also confident that you will give Mrs Coghlan the same level of support you have given me.

I wish you and your families the very best and brightest future. Once again, thank you so much.

Judith Principal

NUT Action

On 5th July 2016 the NUT members are to take industrial action. Whilst all efforts are being made to maintain essential services to children and young people, regrettably the industrial action will mean that we will not be open as usual.

Woodlands Trip – Cole Class

We are sorry to have to cancel this trip on 5 July, but have re-booked the trip for **Monday, 11 July**. All timings are the same. Coach leaves at 8.30am so children will need to be in school at 8.15am. We hope to be back at approximately 3.40pm – traffic permitting.



Rear Access Gate from Grass Royal – Advance Notice



We have more building work and improvements commencing during the summer holidays until the end of November. Therefore, access from Grass Royal into the school will be out of use. Access will still be available via the park from Grass Royal.

Summer Olympics – Millfield School

On Thursday 7th July and Friday 8th July we have been invited to the Summer School Games being held at Millfield School in Street. We have entered an upper school dodgeball team to compete on the Thursday.

The children selected are as follows:

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sheya Orchard Alix Goodwin | Shane Pothecary Lewis Ashford | Aiden McCarthy Maisy Brooks |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|

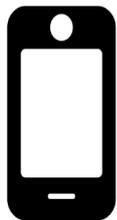
We have also entered a squad for a swimming event on the Friday. The children selected for this event are as follows:

| | | |
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| Chantelle Mauger Jayden Smith Liam Fouracres Millie Johnson | Maisy Brooks Ola Pstus Sheya Orchard Olivia Orchard | Poppy Knapman Lewis Ashford Keisha James |
|--|--|--|

Both events are within normal school hours therefore we will presume that you, as parents/guardians, are happy for your child(ren) to take part. If for any reason you do not want them to participate please inform the office as soon as possible.

Mr Bisgrove

Contact Details



We are at times having difficulty contacting parents as mobile/landline phone numbers and email addresses have been changed. It is important that you let us have all up to date contacts should there be an emergency or if a club/event has been cancelled and we need to contact you either by phone or text. Please let the office know so your child's records can be update. Thank you.



Swimming ends for the year on Friday, 15 July therefore there is no swimming on Monday, 18 and Tuesday, 19 July.

What's been happening in.... Fine Class



As most of you will know Fine class have spent a lot of the last week rehearsing for our Year 6 production of the Lion King. On Tuesday 21st June we performed in front of the rest of the school, on Wednesday 22nd we did our matinee performance for our friends at Penn Mill and Fiveways schools and then our final performance in the evening to the parents. On behalf of the staff and cast involved with The Lion King, we would like to extend a huge thank you to all those that supported our production! We are sad it is over as we have all had such a blast and are proud of everything that the children have achieved.

The cast of the show have been stunning! They have demonstrated what wonderful young people they are, as they took on the challenge of learning some tricky songs, including singing in Swahili whilst learning a series of choreography and staging! Between them, they have been professional, highly committed and engaged; it makes this one of the best jobs in the world, working with such talented and enthusiastic children!

The audience were applauding and cheering loudly after each scene, enjoying well known tunes including 'Can you feel the love tonight', 'Hakuna Matata' and 'Circle of Life'. Each and every cast member showed such professionalism and really went for it, bringing a real sense of energy at all times. The leading roles were wonderful, with these pupils working hard to learn and deliver their lines with such emotion and gusto; the ensemble made the production so wonderfully atmospheric, singing and dancing beautifully. We are already looking ahead to next year's production; we wonder what it could be!

We have also been busy preparing for the Year 6 leavers service and getting ourselves ready to move onto secondary school. We are all very excited about the next step on our learning journey; here is what some of us had to say:



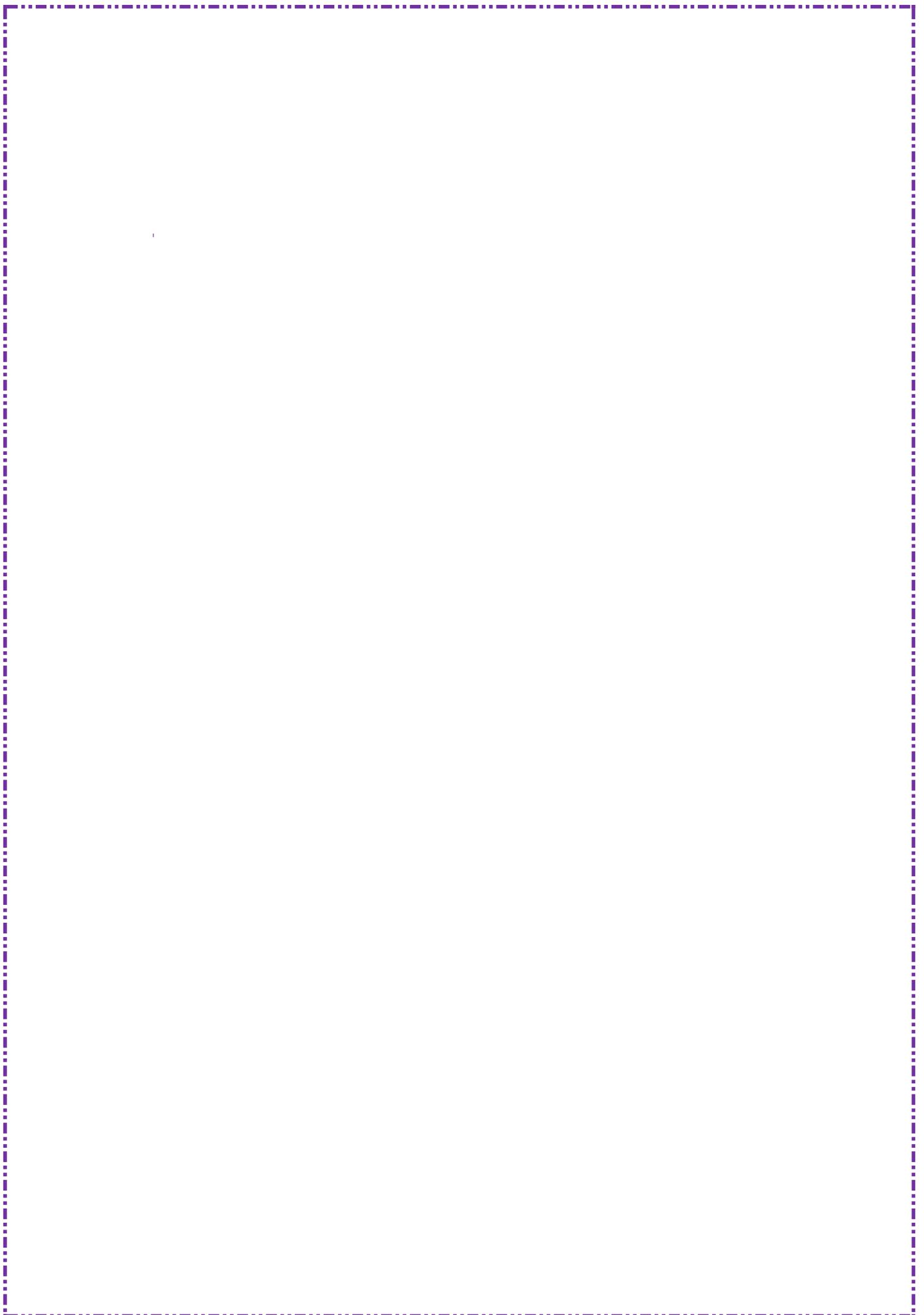
'I am really looking forward to singing the leavers songs in church. My favourite part of 'Bridge over you' is when we split into groups. But it is also the hardest bit!' Chantelle Mauger.

'In music we have been learning a song for our year 6 Leaver's Service, it's called 'Bridge over you'. I'm excited to sing it for the parents and the school.' Madi Nother.

'Mr Champion is helping us to learn our new songs. When I first heard about the year 6 doing a song I didn't know I felt it would be hard to learn but I quickly got the words stuck in my head.' Megan Healey.

'After the summer holidays the year 6s are going to their secondary schools. We have been given our new secondary school books to start working in so we can show our new teachers what we have been working on. We did some work on how to use a compass, it took a lot of practice but it worked out in the end.' Klaudia Pula.

'As we are leaving soon, Buckler's Mead Academy has sent us our little booklets in which we could write about us and if we're worried or excited to move to a big school. Some of us are a bit worried that we'll get lost since we don't know the way around the school! In maths we have been making spirals and it was really fun to explore what you can do with a protractor, a piece of paper and a ruler.' Ola Pstus



St Michael's Academy DIARY DATES

July 2016

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | |
| 2 | Sat |
| 3 | Sun |
| 4 | DKS Class Woodlands Trip LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL CLUBS THIS ACADEMIC YEAR |
| 5 | **SCHOOL CLOSED** – INDUSTRIAL ACTION Cole Class Woodlands trip is cancelled |
| 6 | TRANSITION DAY ~ Y6 to new schools. Years 3 4 5 to new classes Y2 (new Y3 joining us) |
| 7 | |
| 8 | The last Fruity Friday of the year. |
| 9 | Sat |
| 10 | Sun |
| 11 | Cole Class Woodlands Trip **NO SCHOOL CLUBS** New clubs will start in September |
| 12 | |
| 13 | |
| 14 | Y5 Enrichment Day @ Bucklers Mead |
| 15 | Y6 Crealy Reward Trip – Leave 9am return 5pm **NO FRUITY FRIDAY** |
| 16 | Sat |
| 17 | Sun |
| 18 | Y6 leavers Service – St Michael's Church 2pm NO SWIMMING |
| 19 | Miss Barrett's Leaving Party Last day of School Year NO SWIMMING |
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| September 2016 | |
| 5 | RETURN TO SCHOOL |
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