

St Michael's Academy

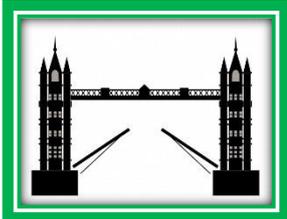


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Principal: Judith Barrett
Vice Principal: Caroline Lancey

Chair of Governors: Jonathan Gammon
Business Manager: Alison Draper



NEWSLETTER June 2016



Dear Parents,

Many of you will have seen or heard of some recent publicity about the school. On occasions, when students behave in a way that endangers others or deliberately damages property then it is the governing body's view that exclusions are right and necessary. These decisions are not taken lightly and carefully considered to ensure that they are proportionate. The governors fully support the Head, Judith Barrett, in her actions under recent circumstances.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask that any parents who would like to raise an individual concern write down the details of this and submit it to the office for my attention. You can also email me at: jgammon@educ.somerset.gov.uk I will then arrange a meeting between the concerned parent and governors to discuss and resolve any issues that we can. In this way we can remain in an informed position; ensure any concerns are followed up and ultimately work toward the best possible education of your children.

Dr Jonathan Gammon
Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the penultimate newsletter of the school year. It is hard to believe we only have six weeks left until we break up for the summer holidays. As always there is lots to do so let's hope the sun shines, as that will make life even more enjoyable.

Thank you for sending your children back to school looking so well refreshed and smart. We could tell that they had all had a great time and were obviously outside for a lot of the time, just as they should be. Hopefully the nice weather will continue, but even if it doesn't by the end of this week we will have our all weather surface down at the back of the school. The men have worked really hard and assured us it will be done by Wednesday. This will enable us to allow the children to play at the back of the school all year round. This is quite an important development for us especially as we have such limiting school grounds.

Discipline:

I thought it might be useful to explain to you a little bit about the systems we have in place when behaviour in school falls below the expected standard agreed by the Board of Trustees. Thankfully, the vast majority of our pupils are exceptionally well behaved as evidenced in our every day school life and reported on by Ofsted and our many other visitors.

Permanent exclusions are for pupils where we feel the school can no longer ensure their safety or the safety of other pupils and staff, and we feel the pupil in question is not suited to a main stream education. In the nine years I have been in post there have been no permanent exclusions.

Fixed term exclusions are for a period of days depending on the severity of the case. They are usually for a physical assault against another child or a member of staff, or for damage to the school and its property. The length of the exclusion also depends on how many times a pupil will have displayed challenging behaviour previously.

Internal exclusion is for pupils who are openly defiant or rude to staff or display a behaviour which may lead to negative impact on the learning of other pupils. These pupils will work by themselves for a period of time. They will be monitored closely by a Teaching Assistant.

Class teachers will at times ask pupils to return to the classroom if they have not completed work set in lessons for instance, and occasionally children are removed from the playground by a member of staff if their behaviour is not within the guidelines we work to.

I hope this clarifies a few things for you all. I am very happy to discuss any of the contents of this letter with individual parents if you would like me to. I know that you will appreciate that in any community there has to be a set of rules and discipline. Ours are very clearly set out in our Behaviour Policy displayed on the school website, as is our Complaints procedure if you should ever feel that you or your child have been dealt with unfairly. Our Chair of Governors, Dr. Jonathan Gammon is very

friendly and approachable and always happy to discuss and address issues if the correct procedure is followed.

Her Majesty the Queen:

On Monday 13th June we have been invited to attend a joint tea party on the field with Pen Mill Infant school. It would be lovely if the children could dress up in either red, white and blue or indeed as the Queen and wear their costume all day. The arrangements for swimming remain the same.



TOILETS



I know that you value keeping your children safe as much as we do, but we do need your help with this. We are being asked increasingly by parents if they can use our toilets for themselves and/or younger children, often during school time and also when they have just come over from Pen Mill. This means that when your children go to the toilet, they could well find a strange adult already in there. This is obviously unacceptable and not in accordance with our safeguarding policy. To this end we would ask that you ensure your children have been to the toilet before they leave their school and arrive for collection of brothers and sisters here. The office staff has been instructed not to allow adults into the school building before 3.30pm. In this way we can ensure that your children are safe while in school.

On the subject of safety, can I ask you to remind your children that if the person who collects them at the end of the day is not there, they must come back into school and wait and not go home by themselves. It also helps the children a lot if they know who is collecting them, as they often don't. I know you will understand our concerns. We teach the children a lot about stranger danger, but as recent news has shown they are much more at risk of being abused by someone they know, often in their own families. It minimises that risk if there is a set procedure in place for bringing and collecting children from school.

What's Been Happening in Ahlberg Class

The second half of the Summer Term has now started and we will continue to work on our 'Out and About' topic. Now that the weather is getting warmer (and hopefully drier) we will be able to get 'out and about' to explore the lovely area in which we live.

Many of us had the opportunity to visit the beautiful county of Cornwall as part of our Geography work. Thank goodness we have had the half-term break to catch up on our sleep!

The adventures started early on the Wednesday morning as the excited, but tired, children boarded the coach for our long journey. A stop at Exeter Service Station was enough to wake them up and refresh them for the next leg of the journey.

Our first stop was at The Eden Project. We were met by the friendly staff who took us to our Rainforest workshop. We had to become 'Rainforest Rangers' and we pretended what it would be like wading through the tropical climate thinking about survival techniques. We entered the biome in search of plants that would help us to survive. We made notes of the names of these and listed the ones that we could use for shelter, food or for medicine. We all got a feel for how hot and humid it is in the Rainforest.

The Rainforest Rangers had a great time exploring the biome and we saw so many plants that would be useful on our mission to survive the hot and humid conditions.



This looks like a great place to take some shelter. Just watch out for the tarantulas...

After exploring the rest of the site we returned to the coach for Kevin, our driver, to take us down to Penzance to the Youth Hostel.

We had fun settling in to our rooms and then we enjoyed a delicious dinner before going to bed. We were all excited so it took us a long time to get to sleep but we woke up the following morning ready for an exciting day in St. Ives.

We visited the Barbara Hepworth Sculpture Gardens and spent some time admiring her beautiful work. We stopped to sketch the pieces we particularly liked.



We then stopped to eat our lunch and had to carry this out like a secret mission. The seagulls were eyeing up our food so we had to hide it from them before they swooped!

We had a wander through the narrow streets to ask passers by some questions to help us understand why people were visiting the area, how far they had travelled and what their favourite attractions were. As we predicted, most of the people we spoke to were there on holiday and had travelled a long way. The beach was a favourite attraction but unfortunately it was raining when we were there so we didn't spend long on the sand.

After a delicious portion of chips we headed back to the Youth Hostel for a better night's sleep!

Friday was the final day of our trip and we went to visit the beautiful Victorian mansion called Lanhydrock House in Bodmin. We had a wonderful time exploring the beautiful gardens and learnt a lot about life for rich Victorian families when we wandered around the house.



It was sad to leave as we had all enjoyed a lovely few days away but we were looking forward to seeing our families again to tell them all about our adventures.

When we returned to school we heard about the adventures of the children who had not been to Cornwall. They'd had a lovely day in Ninesprings and had enjoyed a lovely picnic in the sunshine. They had also done some Forest School activities with Mr Jones.

Here are some of the things we had to say about our time away...

"I liked the Sculpture Gardens because there were lots of hidden pieces of art." (Katie)

"I liked Lanhydrock House because it was big and beautiful. I liked exploring the gardens." (Emily)

"I enjoyed the breakfasts because they were yummy!" (Thomas)

"When we went to St. Ives I saw a golden man in the street and we had to give him some money so he would move." (Megan C)

"I liked it when we went to the beach because we had some chips." (Abbi)

"I really liked the coach because it was really cool and Kevin was a brilliant driver."
(Jake)

"It was fun at Ninesprings because I built a den and a pretend fire." (Blake)

School Meals

New Summer Menu is now out and available to view on the school website.
Meals area available to order and pay for a week in advance ~£2 per day.



GENERAL REMINDERS



NO SMOKING

Along with all other schools in Somerset, St Michael's Academy is a no smoking site, which also includes e-cigarettes. Could you also dispose of your cigarette ends by taking them home? At the moment the site staff are having to brush up a lot of cigarette butts at each gateway and people who smoke even near the school grounds are not providing very good role models for our lovely children.

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.

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.

Summer Term 2 ~ 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

St Michael's Academy

DIARY DATES

June 2016

1	HALF TERM
2	HALF TERM
3	HALF TERM
4	HALF TERM
5	HALF TERM
6	RETURN TO SCHOOL
7	Y5 visit to Octagon Philharmonia Concert in school time. Y5 gifted and Talented
8	Y6 London Residential – Year 3 Farm to Fork Tesco visit – Y6 Montacute House Visit
9	Y6 London Residential
10	Y6 London Residential
11	
12	
13	Whole school to Pen Mill for a tea party to celebrate the 90 th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. Children in red, white and blue if possible, tea provided by the school. Year 3 Farm to Fork Tesco visit
14	Year 3 Farm to Fork Tesco visit
15	Y2 (September 2016 Year 3) Parents Evening 6.30pm
16	Y5 Earth Science Visit Area Athletics, (separate letter to follow.)
17	Y5 Earth Science Visit
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	Year 6 production of Lion King.
23	Bikeability Course – Y6
24	Bikeability Course – Y6
25	
26	
27	
28	Woodlands Adventure Visit– Rosen Class
29	
30	
	4 July DKS – 5 July Cole Woodlands Adventure visit
	6 July. Transition day. All Year 6 to their new secondary school and Years 2,3,4 and 5 to their new classes for September 2016.

Earth Science Centre Rivers Trip

Year 5

Child's name _____

Please tick relevant day for your child's class

<input type="checkbox"/>	Thursday, 16 June 2016 - Wilson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday, 17 June 2016 - Jennings
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- I enclose £8.00 to cover the cost of the events.
- My child is entitled to FSM/Service Child Funding

Signed _____ Parent / Guardian

