



St Michael's Academy

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Principal: Judith Barrett
Vice Principal: Caroline Lancey

Chair of Governors: Graham Oakes
Business Manager: Rebecca Golledge



NEWSLETTER

October 2014



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to the October newsletter. The weeks are racing by with only four until half term. Thank you to all of you who have ensured your children are in school every day. I know how much you value your child's education.

I would like to take this opportunity to talk to you about a couple of things. We have been looking closely at the swimming provision once again and have realised just how many parents either never or rarely pay for their child/children to go swimming. These are parents who are not in receipt of Free School Meals, so as a school we are not getting the Pupil Premium funding for them. This means that the school are paying for these children to swim, the consequence of which will be that this money is not spent on something it should be.

It was particularly upsetting to hear that a parent in the playground had been told not to bother paying for anything as I would pay anyway. This is clearly unacceptable behaviour and I would urge this group of parents to have a think about how you can help and

support the school rather than work against it. We are the only school in Yeovil who offer year round swimming for all children. The reason for this is that some children are rarely taken by their parents and generally, as a school, the children are not strong swimmers. The reasons why parents don't take their children swimming are varied, and include time and financial pressures. We thought parents would be pleased to only pay £1.50 for Fiveways and £2 for Goldenstones. This doesn't appear to be the case with a group of you.

This year out of 60 children, who started in Year 3, 46 of them can't swim and are not even really water confident. If we only take them one term in the year, like other schools do, there isn't a chance of them being competent swimmers by the time they leave. Please support your child and their school by weekly paying their swimming fees. This enables us to continue to provide this part of the curriculum which may well save their lives one day.

Following on from this, I'm afraid to say that if we don't have enough financial contributions for swimming, trips and visitors to school then we will have to look at reducing the number of opportunities we provide for your children.

Pantomime

On the 16th December we take the entire school to see the pantomime of Jack & the Beanstalk. This is an annual St. Michael's treat and the children love it. The cost is £10 and there are 10 weeks until we go, so £1 a week. We are happy to have weekly contributions if

that helps you manage a tight budget more successfully.

Christmas Fayre

On Saturday 29th November we will be holding our annual Christmas Fayre. More details to follow but please keep that Saturday free.

Oppositional Defiance Disorder:

I thought you might be interested to find out a bit about this as we seem to have more and more children being diagnosed with it, and it seems to be used increasingly as an excuse for very poor behaviour. ODD according to the official website is not a medical condition for which there is a cure. It is a learned behaviour or a mental health disorder which can only be successfully addressed by parents/families/therapist and schools all working together and changing their expectations of how children behave. At present we have a group of children, mostly in Year 3, but a minority throughout the school who think they are in charge and can do what they like. Of course that is not the case. We work hard with both children and families to bring about the necessary changes but this is much harder when families don't or won't engage.

Cassie Reynolds, our Parent and Family Support Advisor, is trained to deliver something called "Conscious Parenting." This is a course which helps parents to understand how children develop and what they need to provide as parents to aid this development. I have attached a form to this newsletter

for you to complete to express an interest and Cassie will contact you. I know that you don't need me to tell you that as adults we need to model the behaviour we want the children to copy. That means however angry and frustrated we become we do not swear or lose our tempers in front of the children. If things don't go our way we don't swear and strop around like a sulky teenager. All in all we behave like the grown ups we are. Thank you to all of you who behave like grown ups and whose expectations for their childrens' behaviour are as equally high as the school's.

Judith

Morrisons Lets Grow Vouchers

We are accepting the Morrison's Let's Grow Vouchers which will go towards cooking and gardening resources for the children to use in school. They are very gratefully received. Many thanks.



Harvest Festival/Church Service



The annual Harvest Festival is being held in St Michael's Church on Wednesday, 8 October at 2pm. You are all very welcome to attend. This year we are giving to the Lord's Larder. Please can the children bring in gifts of packets or tinned food. Thank you in anticipation.

Transferring to Secondary School – Deadline 31st October 2014

Children in Year 6 due to transfer to secondary in September should have received a letter and leaflet explaining how to apply. To ensure your child has the best chance of the first choice of school, please complete and return the form as soon as possible.

The deadline for application to be received by the Admissions and Entitlements Team is 31st October 2014. Parents will be notified of outcome on 2nd March 2015.



School Meal Provision



I thought I would take this opportunity to update you on our current hot meal provision. For the last 4 years we have bought into an external food provider and generally been very unhappy with the standard of food provided. We were confident that we could do better and I am happy to report that we ARE doing better, and quite substantially better too!! I have to thank first and foremost Dawn Stringer who has been instrumental in driving this initiative forward. Her ability to plan and deliver high quality meals for our most vulnerable children has been impressive to see. I must also praise and thank Nyree Collins and Tammy Plympton, who prepare, cook and serve the meals to the children on a daily basis. They are doing a brilliant job and the children absolutely love the meals they are providing.

Now we are tentatively looking at extending the service to our Year 3 pupils. This would be at the earliest after half term but I would firstly like to gauge your interest. If you are a parent of a pupil in Year 3, who would like your child to have a nutritious meal every day, please complete the slip at the end of this letter and we will be in touch.

Tempest Photography

Could all school photograph orders be returned to school by Friday, 3rd October please.



Year 6 London Trips – Year 4 Penzance Trip

Could all deposits and forms be sent in to school by 20th October please so we can start to book hotels, attractions etc. There will be no guarantee of a place for your child after these bookings are made.

Music Tuition



Champion Music Group provides individual music tuition here at St Michael's Academy for any child wanting to learn an instrument and currently have lessons available in Guitar, Drums, Piano, Violin and Harp. Lessons take place during the school day on Wednesdays and Fridays. The cost is £7.50 for 20 minutes or £11 for 30 minutes. We need a certain amount of pupils to sign up before the lessons can start. If your child is interested in taking up an instrument, please collect a registration form from the school office and return directly to Champion Music Group or call them on 01458 741697 for more information.

Parents Evenings

On Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd October we will be holding our first parents evening of the year. Please do all you can to attend. It is a very important opportunity to speak to teachers about your child and for them to talk to you. Parents of children with special educational needs can also book an appointment to speak to Tanya Ogden our SENco who can talk you through the extra provision in place for your child/children.

REGULAR SCHOOL INFORMATION

GENERAL REMINDERS

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.





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.

Swimming 2014/2015



Please note that on swimming days most of the children leave school at 8.30am. 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 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 not going.

Day	Year	Cost	Leave School/ Bus Leaves	BACK AT SCHOOL
Monday	Rosen Class @ Fiveways	£1.50	8.30am	9.30am
	Y4 @ Goldenstones	£2.00	9.30am	11.00am
Tuesday	Y6 @ Goldenstones	£2.00	8.30am	10.00am
Wednesday	DKS Class @ Fiveways	£1.50	8.30am	9.30am
Thursday	Y5 @ Goldenstones	£2.00	8.30am	10.00am
Friday	Cole Class @ Fiveways	£1.50	8.30am	9.30am

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

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

swimming trunks for boys,(no long shorts please.) Long hair must be tied back.

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

year as many schools do not offer this.



SCHOOL CLUBS

Day	Club	Run By	Time
Monday	Netball Year 6 Only	Miss Stringer & Mrs Court	3.30~ 4.30pm
Tuesday	Table Tennis Club Years 5&6 Only	Mr Jones	3.30~ 4.30pm
Wednesday	Imagineering Club Year 6 only	Mr Jones & Westlands	3.30~ 4.30pm
Thursday	Football Club Lower School Table Tennis Club Years 5&6 Only	Mr Bisgrove & Mr Whatmore Mr Jones	3.30~ 4.30pm 3.30~ 4.30pm
Friday			



St Michael's Academy

DIARY DATES



October 2014	
1	OPEN DAY. Come and see the school at work. We are open all day. Lords Larder assembly 2.45pm in readiness for Harvest Festival. Imagineering Club starts invitation only Year 6.
2	
3	
4	Saturday
5	Sunday
6	Fine class to Tesco's (school hours)
7	Morpurgo class to Tesco's (school hours)
8	Harvest Church Service 2pm – St Michael's Church
9	Y6 Able Writers Course @ Huish School – in school time
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	Parents Evening 3.40pm-6.30pm
23	Parents Evening. 3.40pm-5pm
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	

Conscious Parenting Session

If you are interested in attending a Conscious Parenting session please provide your details below and Cassie Reynolds, Parent and Family Support Advisor will contact you.

Parent's Name.....

Parent phone number.....

Child's Name.....Class.....



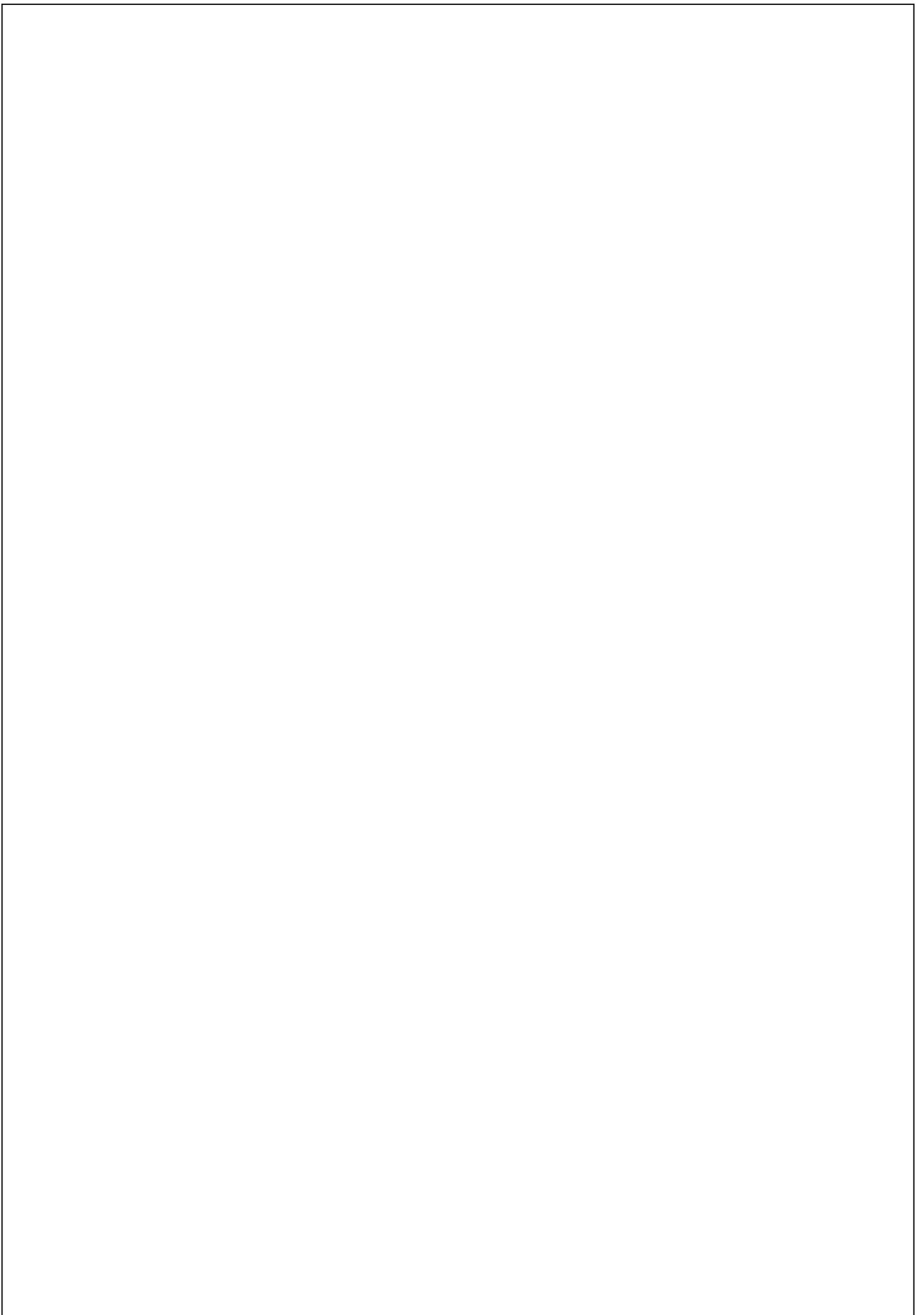
School Meal Provision – Year 3 ONLY

Yes I would be interested in my child receiving a school meal

Child's name

Class.....

Parent Signature.....



Parent Consultation Evening

Name:

Class:

Please tick two preferred time slots:

Wednesday, 22nd October 2014

Thursday, 23rd October

3.40 - 3.50

3.40 - 3.50

3.50 - 4.00

3.50 - 4.00

4.00 - 4.10

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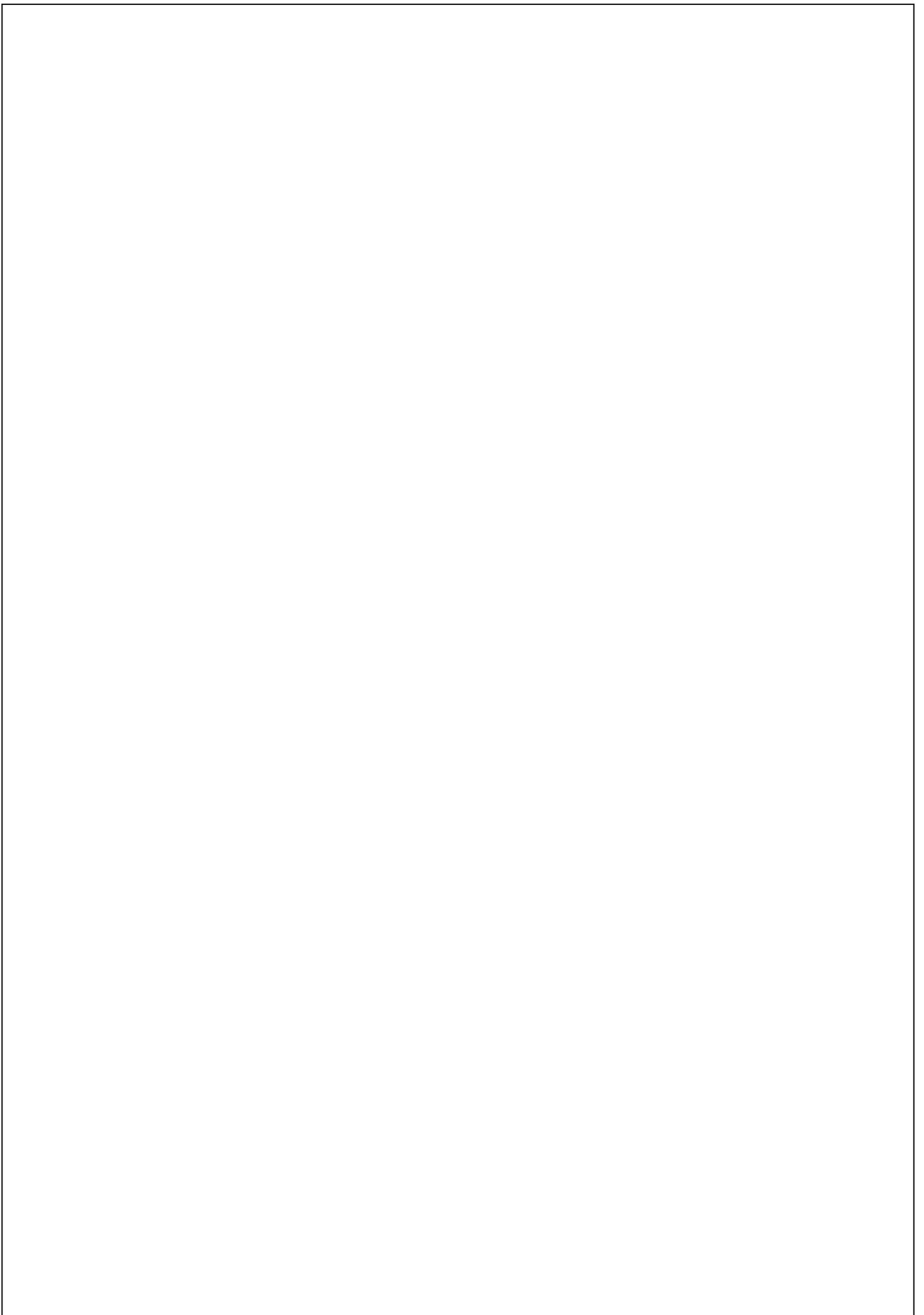
5.40 - 5.50

5.50 - 6.00

6.00 - 6.10

6.10 - 6.20

6.20 - 6.30



Parent Consultation Evenings – SENCO APPOINTMENTS

Name:

Class:

Please tick two preferred time slots:

Wednesday 22nd October 2014

Thursday 23rd October

3.40 - 3.50

3.40 - 3.50

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6.10 - 6.20

6.20 - 6.30