



St Michael's Academy

Grass Royal Yeovil Somerset BA21 4JW
(Access to site off St Michael's Avenue)
Tel: 01935 423863 Fax: 01935 427099
Office Email: sch.434@educ.somerset.gov.uk
Website: www.stmichaelsacademy.co.uk



Principal: Judith Barrett
Vice Principal: Caroline Lancey

Chair of Governors: Graham Oakes
Business Manager: Rebecca Golledge

September 2013

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome back to the new school year to our existing parents and a very warm welcome to the parents of our new pupils who have joined us from Reckleford and Pen Mill infant schools. We hope the year will be enjoyable and exciting. The children have certainly made a very positive start.

Monday 9th September is the start of swimming and the arrangements stay roughly the same all year.

On Monday Year 3 swim at Fiveways at a cost of £1.50. Year 4 swim at Goldenstones at a cost of £2.00, 50p extra to cover the cost of the coach.

On Tuesdays Year 6 swim at Goldenstones, cost £2.00 per week. Coach leaves at 8.30am.

On Thursdays Year 5 swim at Goldenstones, cost £2.00 per week. Coach leaves at 8.30am.

On Wednesdays and Fridays we take an extra group swimming to Fiveways. These groups are made up of poor swimmers who need extra coaching to enable them to swim more confidently. You will be notified separately if your child is included in these groups. There is no cost for this extra swim. 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,(no long shorts please.) Please make sure they send their money each week. Children in receipt of Free School Meals do not pay.

Please make sure your child attends swimming each week, it is a very important life skill, and I know you will have read of the number of children who drowned this summer because they couldn't swim. The children here are very lucky to swim every week throughout the year as many schools do not offer this. In the event of your child being well enough to attend school but not well enough to swim,(a cold for example) please keep them at home. All staff go swimming so there is no supervision for children not going.

In your child's home school log will be their PE days. Again please ensure that they have the correct kit in school on the right day. Sometimes it is easier to keep PE kit in here all week, so that in the event of good weather and they have an extra session they have their kit. They will need a white tee shirt, shorts and/or jogging bottoms and trainers. We will be doing lots of outdoor PE once again this year so please make sure kit is suitable for cold and wet weather. As with swimming kit please make sure it is clearly labelled with their name.

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Your child should have been issued with their complimentary academy sweatshirt today and for those of you who ordered an extra item, that one as well. All sweatshirts have been clearly named so that should keep them safe. Please encourage the children to look after them and keep them safe. I hope you agree they all look very smart indeed!

During the holidays we had extensive building work done to the interior and exterior of the building. Thank you to all of you who were very complimentary about it today. I hope you find that it will make your life easier. For those of you who do not bring your children to school we have slopes and new steps to the front and side of the building for pushchairs and wheelchair users. Inside the building we have an interior lift to the top of the building again for pushchairs and wheelchairs. We are also in the middle of converting our old oil boiler to a brand new gas one. There will be some further disruption when the gas pipes are laid from the back of the school to the main building, but we will give you plenty of notice of that.

Hot lunches will be delivered starting next week so please put your orders in. Research currently shows that children eating a hot meal at lunch time are eating much more healthily than those eating packed lunches. If your child is eating a packed lunch please look carefully at what you are giving them. A few sandwiches or a wrap, yoghurt, some fruit and a cereal bar are ideal. Crisps every day, and chocolate aren't. It is easy to see why some children are struggling weight wise when you look at what they eat. Please help us to keep your children healthy and fit.

Please see below the latest guidance issued to all schools regarding holidays in term time and attendance.

Section 23 Ant Social Behaviour Act 2003 empowers authorised officers of a Local authority, Head teachers and Police Officers to issue a Penalty Notice in cases of unauthorised absence from school.

1.

Penalty Notice Code of Conduct is considered in the following circumstances:

There have been at least 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in the last 12 school weeks and the school, in consultation with the EAS believe this early intervention will resolve the poor attendance and stop the matter moving toward a prosecution under section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

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2.

If a Head teacher does not authorise a request from a parent/carer for term time leave and the parent takes the leave having had at least 10 continuous sessions of unauthorised term time leave taken.

3.

A Pupil is stopped on a school attendance sweep out of school without reason.

4.

An excluded pupil is found in a public place without their parent during the school day.

Penalty notices are £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt, by post, of the penalty notice or £120 if paid after 21 days, but within 28 days of receipt of the Notice.

I hope you find this information useful. In line with our feeder infant schools and schools in the Yeovil Federation, we will not be authorising holidays in term time.

Hot lunches will be available to order for Monday 16th September onwards, please send in money on Monday 9th September. Until then hot meals will only be available to children in receipt of Free School Meals.

We are very much looking forward to working with you all during this forthcoming school year. We have an open door policy so please come and see us if you have any concerns before they become very big problems. It will take our new Year 3 pupils a little while to settle into the new routines but as I am writing this I can report that they have had a very happy day.

Judith.

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