

Our first full week back after Christmas has been a successful one. The children have settled back into learning, and it has been lovely to see them so eager and reenergised again. One of my favourite things to do is to celebrate the work the children have been doing and so it was nice to see the return of certificates in assembly this week. Congratulations to Harry, Carmen Beth, Isabella and Albie who all received certificates this week. We are also delighted this term to welcome a number of new children to school – we hope they will all be very happy here and we are so pleased they have chosen St Michael's to be their new school. They have arrived in a month when our value is 'caring' so I hope all our children will demonstrate this lovely value to the new additions to their classes.

Even the **SMALLEST** act of
CARING for another person
is like a drop of water
-it will make ripples
throughout the
entire pond...

— Jessy and Bryan Matteo
VERYBESTQUOTES.COM

CLUBS start next week and run until 25th March 2022. Unless you have heard otherwise, all children who have requested a place in a club have been offered one. Please make sure children are collected promptly at 4:15pm or their place will be withdrawn.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Week beginning 7th February – Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 8th February – Safer Internet Day

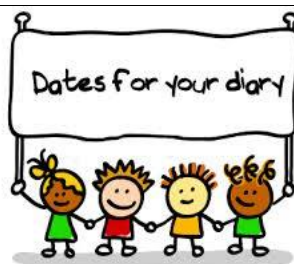
Tuesday 15th February – Parents' Evening

Friday 18th February – Break Up for Half Term

Monday 28th February – Pupils Return to School

Thursday 3rd March – World Book Day

Friday 18th March – Red Nose Day (Non Uniform)



Attendance - Our attendance has dropped due to a number of children testing positive for Covid following the Christmas holidays. Please ensure you inform the school office if you child is absent from school.

Foundation 2 – 94%. Year 1 – 92.4%

Year 2 – 95.5% Year 3 – 93.1%

Year 4 – 88.4% Year 5 – 90.3%

Year 6 – 89.3%



Lateness – We are noticing a number of children are arriving at school either just as the gate is closing or after 9am. Can I just remind parents, the gates are open from 8:45am and all children must be in school by 9am or they are given a LATE mark. More than 10 late marks can result in a fixed term penalty.

Did you know?

5 minutes late every day adds up to children missing 3 full days of learning per year

15 minutes late every day is equivalent to 2 weeks lost learning time every year

30 minutes late every day is equivalent to 19 days of lost learning time every year

*****We are also having a number of children not being collected on time again at the end of the school day. If you are over 5 minutes LATE, your child will be taken to After School Club and you will be charged the full fee. Staff have meetings and work to do at the end of the school day and it is not always possible to stay with late children.*****

Do you have a child born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018?

There is only 1 day left to apply for a Wirral primary school place. The closing date is 15th January 2022 so tomorrow. You need to apply via www.wirral.gov.uk. If your child is in our school nursery, then they must still apply for a place as F2/reception places are not automatic. If you miss this date (late application) then your child may not get into a preferred school.

Please see our school website for our meal menus for next week. They can be found when you click on the 'School Meals' tab. We are up to week 3 next week. If you pay for your child's school dinner the cost is £2.34 and this should be paid to the school office at the beginning of the week or on the morning the meal is being taken.



CHANGES TO Covid Testing - The requirement for confirmatory PCR tests changed this week. However, this was only for infection picked up by lateral flow tests done by those **without symptoms** – if you have symptoms, you must still book a PCR. I have copied the Government guidance below. Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) will be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January for those who do not have symptoms. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. We therefore don't need to ask people to do a confirmatory PCR unless they:

- **have symptoms** (in which case they need to follow the stay at home guidance, self-isolate and order a PCR test)
- wish to claim the Test and Trace payment
- have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group
- have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme

Please keep up to date with the current procedures we are following via our updated Risk Assessment on the school website. This will continue to be reassessed when new guidance is provided.

We have seen lots of fantastic learning going on in school again this week



In Early Years, they managed to find a nice dry afternoon to have some fun in the forest. Following the children's interests, they made some witches potions and read 'Room on the broom'.

In the 2s room, they have been learning about different animals. They have made some animal tracks using paint, shown care towards their animal toys, and discovered some new sounds.

Foundation 1 look gorgeous as they went on a 'Listening Walk' through school this week using their extra special listening ears that they made. They heard lots of different environmental sounds on their walk, and they drew pictures of the sources of each sound.

In Year 2, they have been using their detective skills to order portraits of Queen Elizabeth I. They used brilliant reasoning skills to make their decisions. They also learnt about Tudor times and what England used to be like.

In computing in Year 3, they have been using a search engine to find out information. They have learnt that the more detail you include, there are fewer results and it's easier to find what you're looking for. Year 5 have been demonstrating some excellent science skills and have been using force meters as part of their work.



This week in school we have been thinking about the Gospel story of Jesus' Baptism. This marks the end of the liturgical Christmas season in church. Following on from the Epiphany last week, It is as if we have 'fast-forwarded' thirty years to the adult Jesus coming to the River Jordan to be baptised. We discussed how Jesus did not need baptism but he did not look down disparagingly at the sinners in the water, but joined them, and becomes 'one with them'; 'Emmanuel' 'God-with-us' and this is recognised as God's plan in the voice from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you". This gives us heart as we move forward in our journey, that whatever challenges come our way, our God is not standing 'on the bank' looking down at us struggling, but 'plunges in with us', and as one with us, leads us forward.



Enjoy your weekend, Mrs Ralph