

St. Michael's C. of E. Primary School

Friday, 24 January 2020

www.stmichaelscofe.co.uk



Pre-order for Week 3 (3rd February): <https://forms.gle/jSdiEU3g6a8xjE57W8>

Making the most of moments

My week has been a blur at times, with a large proportion of it taken up with meetings; some pre-arranged, others in response to situations, but I have felt that all have been productive and positive. One of the keys to this I believe is listening, not just hearing but properly listening. Because of the complexity of some of my meetings, I made notes; I've never really been a note-taker, preferring to engage with others with whom I am speaking to, as I feel that this would appear somewhat awkward but my notes have proved very valuable and I hope did not stop the flow of conversation and attentive listening.

Sometimes, we only hear and then the point is missed. This may be the case with some of your children; they hear you when you give information or requests but do they really listen? This is where we as adults **can** and **must** help. We after all, are the ones that the children will learn from. For most, this may seem obvious but maybe sometimes what we think we are doing when we talk to others is not quite what is perceived. In my meetings, I've also thought about body language – where and how I sit in relation to others, how much eye contact is made and what messages I may be conveying inadvertently.



All of this has been to show that I truly am listening, taking on board what others are saying and considering their points, even if agreement is not found.

At home, there are many distractions: other people, phones, tablets, televisions, games consoles, music, pets plus many more which clearly make it more difficult for some, and yet, we still wish to get our messages across. For me, one thing stands out – whenever we do get someone's attention, it needs to be valued and appreciated. The children may not recognise it, but these moments no matter how brief, allow us as adults to model what we hope and expect of them. If we let our exasperation in trying to gain their attention slip into those moments when we have it, the message we want to give will have an edge to it and it may not be heard in the way it was intended.

Finally, as an aside but just about related; helping out in the kitchen a few times this week due to absences, I have been helping serve the children, trying to know every one of their names. I am getting better at this but the real moment is when I use a child's name and they 'light up', because in that moment, a fleeting one as they passed through the servery, they felt important. If and when I had more time, I took delight in speaking to them about their day to that point, what their views were about the meals and today, tried successfully with many to encourage them to try the delicious bread pudding. Another moment to savour.

Andrew Cumpstey

A new opportunity

Following on from many years of successful Bikeability sessions which have been run for Year 6 children, we are happy to promote:



“Bikeability Learn to Ride” is designed for children or family members who are unable to cycle, including those children who are ready to make the move to riding with pedals (stabilisers must be removed before the training), older children who are struggling to master the skill, or adults who have never learnt to cycle.

“Bikeability Learn to Ride” is delivered by qualified cycling instructors in a constructive, low pressure environment ideal for beginners. It is a learner-focused training session with an emphasis on working with trainees at their own pace to learn how to ride.

This can be delivered in school time on a playground at a ratio of 1:2, sessions are 45 minutes at a cost of £10 per person. There is capacity to offer this training until the 15th of May 2020 depending on availability of instructors and demand.

If this appeals to you, please let the office know as we can contact the organisers

Congratulations:



George W (**3G**), competed in his first karate competition on Sunday, the Karate England Kyu grade open in Harold Hill. He was classed as the most junior belt but came away with a gold medal in the kumite and silver medal in the kata.

Finley H (**4H**) was also taking part in some karate grading recently and achieved a purple belt.



Well done to both boys

Listed below are children that have recently received their Numeracy Passport certificates.

Europe
Ava Roscoe Elliot Seymour
Oceania
Katherine Moseley Corey Brough Luca Sapsed Charlie Bryant

This week's winning House Team was
Shakespeare
Congratulations to the winning house captains:
Vesper Higgins & Charlie Ansell
and their whole team

Staff update:

I don't plan on this being a regular feature of the newsletter but I do have some news to share. Unfortunately, Mrs Nicole Smith decided to end her contract with us at the end of the Autumn term. This will have some impact in the short term on PE but I remain committed to developing this in the way that I outlined by employing Mrs Smith.

One of the other ideas which she initiated which I hope a parent or group of parents might be willing and able to take on, was the fledging "Gardening Gang". This was a small group of children who were set up to develop their confidence through the opportunity to look after parts of our grounds. If you think you could help with this, please do let me know – no particular gardening skill is needed but enthusiasm and commitment are key.

Baby Stuff Braintree

A big **thank you** to everyone who supported the Baby Bank through donations.
Mrs Griffiths



There will be no story club on Monday 27th January as Miss Love is not in that day.

Apologies for the short notice.

Dates for the diary

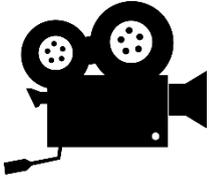
FOSM Movie Nights – Friday 31st January

FOSM Easter Disco – TBA (last week of term)

VE Day Celebration – Thursday 7th May

(Please note: May Bank Holiday is now Friday 8th **not** Monday 4th as previously notified)

FOSM Summer Fete – Friday 26th June



Night at the Movies...



We are trying things a bit different this time...
Both Movie Nights will be on Friday 31st January

Reception & KS1 - Straight from Class - 4.15pm
KS2 - 4.30pm - 6.30pm

Reception & KS1 - £2 per child - "Lost and Found"
KS2 - £3 per child - "Secret Life of Pets 2"

A ParentMail has been sent home with full details

There will be a hotdog in a bun, popcorn and a juice drink given to the children so please advise of any allergies. You can do this by popping a note with all the details on into the FOSM blue box in the foyer.

Please note - By paying the Movie Night fee you are confirming you are happy for your child to have these unless you have told us otherwise.

We are only accepting electronic payments now so please ensure payment by the deadline otherwise your child won't be admitted. Many thanks.

Payment Deadline for all years: Weds 29th January (midnight)

A letter should have come home this week giving you an explanation of how we run our events. Things you need to know and the things we need to know. Any queries please ask in the Office. Thanks 😊