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Newsletter - November/December 2017

Dear Parent/Carers

Since the last newsletter:

- The Foundation stage held several 'Stay and Play' sessions, where parents and carers were able to come into school and play alongside their child.
- The eco-council represented the school at the Remembrance service, held at St Michael's Church, reading a poem during the service. As always, they were a credit to the school.
- All the children took part in an International Day focused on their year groups host country and a British Values afternoon focused on Individual Liberty.
- Children from across the Federation took part in a Tag Rugby Festival at Marldon. The children were put in mixed USF teams and competed against each other, with great fun being had by all.
- Year 6 invited their Grandparents to share lunch with them and then have a tour of the school. The afternoon was a great success and was enjoyed by all. For some who had been to the school themselves as children, it was a great opportunity to share with their grandchildren how things have changed.
- Both the FS and KS1 children performed a Christmas production to family and friends, as well as to the rest of the school. The FS performed a traditional nativity in St Michael's Church and the KS1 children performed 'Lights, Camel, Action'. All the children danced, sang and acted with great confidence and all enjoyed the productions.
- One of our Year 6 pupils, James Ellis, is a keen participant in karate. James has recently taken a grading and been awarded his **black belt!** This is an amazing achievement for anyone, but especially for one who is only 10 years old.
Well done James - an excellent achievement - and we are all very proud of you.

Enterprise Day

Following a very successful Enterprise Day, we managed to raise nearly £700. This money will be shared between Children in Need and school, to support the enrichment activities that all the children are able to participate in. Thank you again for your generosity and support with all our fundraising events.

Christmas Boxes - Samaritan's Purse

Thank you so much for your support with the Christmas boxes. We were able to send 82 filled boxes off to the charity who will ensure that they are passed onto deserving children. If you have any boxes at home that you did not use, please could you return them to school as they can be reused next year.

School Meals

Can we ask that you ensure that your school meal account is in credit ready for the beginning of the next term and that all outstanding debts are cleared by the end of school on Friday 15th December. Thank you.

Choir

The choir will be singing outside of Year 6 classrooms from 3pm on Thursday, 14th December 2017. Please join us if you are able.

Drinks

We feel that it is important that children stay hydrated during the school day and as such we are very happy for them to bring in drinks to have during lesson times. However, dental advice states that allowing children to graze on juice throughout the day, whether it is low sugar squash or fruit juice, is extremely detrimental to the health of their teeth. The Governing Body agreed unanimously to adopt the practice of allowing water through the day and juice with a meal. Therefore, please can we ask that children only bring water to drink through the day and they may bring juice to drink with their meal.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Wednesday 13th December, the children will be having their school Christmas dinner. On this day, they may wear a Christmas jumper (instead of their school jumper or cardigan) with their school uniform.

The staff at St Michael's are putting together a contribution of food items that we can send to the Food Bank at Christmas. We have elected to do this rather than send Christmas cards to each other, as we can wish each other Happy Christmas in person! If you and your family would like to join us in making a contribution to the Food Bank, you are welcome to bring items in to the school office between now and Thursday 14th December when the donations are being collected.

Parking

Please can I remind you that you are not able to use the car park next to The Bell when you are bringing your children to and collecting them from school. They are finding that their customers are not able to park because the spaces have been used by parents. Please use the car park at the Retail Park or Lidl's. Thank you for your co-operation.

Bikes & Scooters

Whilst we are very keen for children to ride to school, please can we ask that you do not leave bikes or scooters at school overnight.

Consultation about School Admission and Education Travel Arrangements

Devon County Council consults on all aspects of its admission and transport arrangements so that parents, school staff and governors and representatives of the community have an annual opportunity to review arrangements and make comments and suggestions for improvement.

The consultation can be found at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements where there are links to various documents which make up Devon's proposed arrangements and links to schools' own proposed policies. The consultation will run until 5th January 2018 and you are very welcome to respond if you wish.

Application for a Primary School Place

Applications open for admission into Primary school in September 2018 and you can apply online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline (from November 15th).

You can apply for a place if your child was born between 1st September, 2013 and 31st August, 2014.

Applications must be in by **15th January, 2018** or they will be considered as late and you may not get a place for your child in a school of your choice.

Please make sure you apply for 3 schools of **your** choice. If you only apply for one school and do not get a place, your child will be placed in a school where there is a space, which may not be a school you would choose.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and all the very best for 2018.

Kind regards

Karen West

Head of School

Dates for the term

Dates for the term		Class Assemblies (Usually Fridays but subject to change)	
December			
11 th	1:30 Yr 2 Grandparents' afternoon		
11 th	KS2 choir to sing at Greenhill Residential Home and Day Centre		
12 th	1:30 Yr 1 Grandparents' afternoon		
12 th	KS2 choir to sing at Penn's Mount		
13 th	Children's Christmas lunch Christmas Jumper Day		
14 th	Choir singing outside Yr 6 at 3pm		
15 th	9.30 am Christmas Service at Church		
15 th	School finishes for Christmas holiday at 3:15pm		
January			
3 rd	School opens at 8:50am		