



St. Michael's Church of England Primary School



Our school values: *Respect · Kindness · Challenge · Forgiveness · Perseverance*

13 November 2019

Dear Parents

My apologies in advance; this is going to be a rather lengthy letter. There seems to be a long list of exciting things to tell you about.

Charity Work

Here at school we are very proud to support a range of different charities in many ways. Once again, this year we are very pleased to have been chosen as a public drop-off point for this year's CFM Mission Christmas appeal. If anyone would like to donate a small gift, such as a toy, selection box or book, there is a collection box outside the Year 2 classroom. We will also have a Food Bank collection box in the reception area for food stuffs and toiletries. However, we do not want anyone to feel under pressure to take part in either of these. We are very aware that there has been a lot of fundraising lately, with poppy sales, sponsored sport events and non-uniform days as well as quite a few school trips to pay for. Due to this, we have also made the decision not to collect for "Children In Need" this year. Friday 15 November will be a "normal" uniform day. However, if any children have Pudsey merchandise that they would like to wear, they are welcome to. We will talk about the work of Children In Need in our Collective Worship time and many classes will take part in a Children In Need activity, but we will not be asking for any money. I hope you understand and agree with our decision, and I do know that many local shops and businesses will be fundraising for the cause if you would like to make a donation.

In the New Year our intention is, as far as possible, to have a "Dry January", during which we will not request any money or have any fundraising events.

Christmas Gifts

Many of you, very generously, give gifts to teaching staff at Christmas. While we would never want anyone to feel pressure to do this we are always extremely grateful and do appreciate them. However, after much discussion in school the staff would like to suggest that parents donate to the CFM appeal or the Food Bank this year instead of buying gifts. Of course, this is entirely at your discretion!

Christmas Cards

We will have our Christmas Post Box out from the start of December. Can I ask that the children who are wanting to give cards wait until this time. Please make sure envelopes are marked with the recipient's name and class number to make it easier for our "Posties" to sort and deliver the cards. Unfortunately, due to data protection restrictions we are not allowed to give out class lists!

Colder weather

It has turned very cold recently. Please can I remind you that children should bring a coat, along with hat and gloves to school (especially if they are doing an after school club outdoors). As with all clothing, this should be labelled with their name. Please also ensure that children have a labelled water bottle in school so that they can stay hydrated throughout the day.

Co-Op Chosen Cause

Just a reminder that we are one of Co-Op's chosen causes for this year. You can go online and choose us as your cause and then every time you use your membership card in a Co-Op store the company will make a donation to the school. It is very quick to do and won't cost you a penny! If you don't already have a membership card it is free and easy to obtain one, just ask in store.

Easyfundraising

If you are making any online purchases in the run up to Christmas check out this website first - <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> You can sign up to them free of charge, visit their site and select our school and then use the links to visit the sites you wish to purchase from, such as Amazon and Argos. The stores then, via Easyfundraising, make a donation to the school. Again, this will carry no cost for you and the school will benefit greatly.

HAS Sponsored Sport Event

If anyone still has sponsor money to bring into school please can you do this by Friday 15 November. Thank you.

Snacks

Children are welcome to bring a small snack of fruit or vegetables to school for break time. Foods such as crisps, sweets, chocolate bars, or cereal bars are not allowed. This rule also applies for snacks brought to school for after swimming. We are almost out of stock in our tuck shop and after this time snacks will not be available to buy from school.

Nut Free

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you that we are a nut-free school. Please ensure that food items brought into school, in packed lunches etc. are nut-free. This includes items such as Nutella.

A request

If you have some spare time in your week and you would like to come in and share some books and reading time with our children we would be very grateful. Please speak to your child's teacher or to myself.

Thank you

A huge thank you to all who supported the HSA's Christmas Shopping night, which was a very successful and enjoyable event. Quizzes from the night can be handed into the school office. There are still sheets available from the office if you would to have a go!

We are very grateful to the many local businesses who support us so generously. MFL Engineering have recently donated a fantastic outdoor noticeboard which will be located in our infant playground. Compass Security kindly donated CCTV equipment and signage to cover the new outdoor classroom area and Nestle have donated £500 towards improvements around our outdoor classroom. Thank you all very much indeed!

Finally, see overleaf for a list of the dates for your diaries regarding Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Paisley
Headteacher



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Dates for your diary

Wednesday 4 December	KS2 trip to Keswick to see "A Christmas Carol"
Tuesday 10 December	H.S.A. Christmas Disco after school – more details to follow
Tuesday 17 December	Infant nativity at 2pm in the school hall
Wednesday 18 December	KS2 Carol Service at St. Michael's church at 5.30pm
Thursday 19 December	Christmas lunch and activities – children should come dressed in party gear for the day! If your child usually has a packed lunch but would like a school meal, contact the office (or order via Lunchshop).
Friday 20 December	School will close at 1.30pm for the Christmas holiday
Tuesday 7 January	School re-opens