



Through God, We
Love, Laugh and
Learn.

ST. MICHAEL'S CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

After our fantastic residential trip to Laches Wood, we wanted to let you know about topic changes this term and to give a few notices and prompts.

What to Bring to School Each Day

All children should come to school in school uniform and with a school bag. Pupils should pack a drink bottle (containing water only) and their reading folder, containing their reading book and diaries, every day. Please make sure all personal items and uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Reminder: Jewellery (apart from a single stud earring in each ear) should not be worn, although I would encourage the children to wear a wrist watch, as this helps with the teaching of time and is good preparation for middle school.

Unfortunately, not all of the children are able to take their earrings out for themselves still. As staff are not allowed to do this for them, there are a few children who have missed some PE sessions so please ensure their earrings are removed on PE days.

Hair **must be** tied back at all times and any hair accessories need to be school colours (blue/white).

Physical Education

Our PE days remain the same:

- Tuesday Afternoon - Outdoor PE
- Thursday Morning - Indoor PE

Topics

I would be grateful if you could continue to support your child's learning by discussing with them what they have learnt in school. *The enthusiasm shown by your children last term was fantastic and we loved seeing any work/activities they had done at home.* These are the only items that should be brought into school to 'show and tell'.

Our next topic is 'Stone – a place to settle'. We will be exploring the geography and history of Stone, throughout the whole term up to the Easter holidays.

In science, the children will be learning all about Teeth and Eating followed by half a term working on a LEGO STEM project. In RE, we will be studying Key Religious Figures then Attributes of God.



In computing, the children will be covering a topic called 'We are HTML Editors' alongside the STEM project. Finally, in music this term, we will be 'Developing Pulse and Groove Through Improvisation' followed by 'Creating Simple Melodies Together'. Please ensure your child has their recorder in school **at all times**.

Home Learning

As a school, we believe that family time is extremely important and that onerous amounts of homework impact negatively upon this time. We do however recognise that it is important to prepare the pupils for the move to Middle School, where there is an expectation for them to complete homework on a regular basis.

We would like to say a great big **thank you** to those of you who have done this at home - the impact on your child's home learning can be seen in school. Unfortunately, we have had a large proportion of pupils who have not managed to read, spell and complete times tables practise at home during the term. We really would like to encourage you to do this with your children where you can as it really does help us to extend their learning even further at school

Reading – Daily reading with your child is vital for them to make the expected level of progress, both with their reading fluency and comprehension skills. Reading diaries should be completed each time you read with your child and should be sent into school daily. A lot of the children are making great progress in their Reading Challenges with some who have already completed it. Remember, they have until February half term to complete it to be in with a chance of winning the £10 book token. Please check on your child's progress and encourage them to get as far as they can!

Spelling –Please help your child to learn their spellings over each half-term. These will be sent home and tested half-termly. Spellings spelled incorrectly when tested will be added on for extra practise with the new spellings given.

Multiplication Tables – The government expect all children to be able to recall their multiplication tables up to 12x12 by the end of their time in Year 4. These will be tested through the Year 4 National Multiplication check during the summer term.

TT Rockstars website – online platform where children complete multiplication challenges to earn digital rewards. The site provides an excellent platform to prepare for the multiplication check and can be used at home.

Also, this term, we have started weekly times tables test using the same format as was used in Year 3.

Communication

If you have any queries or concerns about your child, then please speak to us in the first instance. Feel free to catch Miss Whitney if it is one of her duty days on the gate. However, when in class we cannot hold discussions with parents at the start of the school day as we are usually supervising the children. It is possible to arrange a telephone call during the day for urgent issues and also to leave messages via the school office.

We are so looking forward to continue working with our brilliant Year 4 pupils – we can't believe we're nearly halfway through the school year already. Please do contact us if you have any further questions regarding your child's time in Year 4.

Yours sincerely,
The Year 4 team

