



## St Michael with St Thomas CofE Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Christian Value this half term: Friendship

#### 8 MEANINGFUL THINGS TO SAY TO A FRIEND

- I'm so glad I have you in my life.
- You make me smile.
- I value our friendship.
- I feel happy when I'm with you.
- I love our talks.
- I admire you for ...
- I want to get together more often.
- I appreciate you for being you.

“

Friendship isn't a  
*big thing—*  
it's a million  
*little things.*

-PAULO COELHO

### Internet Disruption!

Thank you for your understanding last week as we experienced issues with our internet due to a fault on the Virgin line, which unfortunately affected our phone lines as well. Please remember that if the phone lines are ever down and you are unable to get through to school, we have processes in place so that the office emails and in-app messages are always monitored, so you can contact school via these channels.

### Y3's Water Campaign – Non Uniform Day

During our Wide Awake to the World Week, Year 3 were focusing on the right to clean water and hygiene. They researched why clean water is so important to us and how it helps to keep us healthy. Year 3 found out that many children around the world do not have access to clean water and a toilet, which is having an effect on their other basic human rights as a child. This is something that really shocked them as a class, and they have decided they want to help. Year 3 have decided that they are going to raise money to sponsor a toilet in one of the poorest countries in the world. They have written letters to the local MP to ask for his help, but they also need your help as a school. Year 3 are going to hold a day dedicated to raising money for their campaign. **This will take place on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January.** As part of this day, they would like every child to wear something blue, to mark the importance of clean water. This could be an item of clothing, or a blue accessory such as a bow/headband/badge. The class have asked for people who are able to, to make a donation to go towards this cause, no matter how small this may be. Year 3 will share the progress of their campaign on twitter.

### Children's Mental Health Week

During the final week of the half term, we will be celebrating Children's Mental Health week along with the rest of the country. As you are all aware, our work on mental health and wellbeing has been an ongoing priority over the last 6 years, and we have been recognised for our excellence in this area. National weeks such as this one are important to raise awareness, but we also know that it is the day to day work that goes on which builds the culture. The theme this year is "My Voice Matters", again a message that we teach our children daily through their Rights work. There will be lots of activities taking place during lessons and we will also be taking part in our usual 'Dress to Express Day', where children can come to school dressed in something that expresses something about themselves, celebrating the uniqueness and diversity that we have in school. We are also holding a parent workshop with the Mental Health in Schools Team, who will be sharing ideas and tips on how parents can support children at home with things like low level anxiety, regulating their emotions, dealing with separation anxiety etc. I know from the conversations I have daily with parents that these are things we all struggle with at times as parents, so hope that this session will be really useful.

**Parent Workshop – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February – 2pm (Drop in – coffee and biscuits provided)**  
**Dress to Express Day – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

## Y6 Equality Workshop

Year 6 have had the wonderful opportunity to work with the Anne Frank Trust this week looking at equality. We have had two days of immersive, interactive tasks and activities, learning about the story of Anne Frank and the persecution of Jews, and other minority groups, during WW2. We have maturely discussed key themes such as prejudice and discrimination, the reasons why this may happen and what actions could be taken if we witness this. We have developed our empathy for others, imagining how they would have felt experiencing the difficulties that prejudice and discrimination bring. All of our learning culminated in the creation of key lessons and resources that we could use to teach these key lessons and messages of empathy, respect and tolerance to our peers. As always, Year 6 were wonderful ambassadors for our school, embodying our Christian values and welcoming our visitor Lucy with friendship and respect. We are very thankful and appreciative of having had this opportunity- thank you Lucy for taking the time to work with us!

## Parent Drop In Sessions – January 2024

Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Feb – School Nurse drop in (for any questions, queries, concerns)

All drop ins start at 1.45pm – no booking necessary.

### Looking Ahead:

Here are some important dates for your diaries to help you plan for the next few weeks:

- Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Jan – National Storytelling Day
- Tues 30<sup>th</sup> Jan – Non Uniform day – wear blue for Y3's water campaign
- Weds 31<sup>st</sup> Jan – Y2 Family Worship @9am
- Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb – National Number Day – wear something with a number on
- w/b 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – Children's Mental Health Week
- Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – Parent Workshop – Supporting your Child's Mental Health
- Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Feb – Parent Drop in with School Nurse @1.45pm
- Weds 7<sup>th</sup> Feb – Ash Wednesday
- Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Feb – Spring Disco
- Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb – Dress to Express Day, Break Up for half term

*Please note, these dates are subject to change - please ensure you check them each week for any amendments or additions.*

### **Headteacher's Star of the Term Awards**

Reception	Thea	For blowing us away with her improvement in blending
Year 1	Joseph	For showing perseverance in writing
Year 2	Dylan	For trying really hard in his writing lessons
Year 3	Olivia	For always being ready for lessons
Year 4	Carter	For fantastic maths during Parent Insight
Year 5	Evie	For wonderful explanations in maths and writing
Year 6	Liam	For wonderful effort and enthusiasm in all he does

### **Lunchtime Awards**

Reception	Hazel
Year 1	Olivia
Year 2	Theo
Year 3	Savannah
Year 4	Isabelle
Year 5	Archie
Year 6	Daniel

**Attendance Matters!**

**Whole school attendance:** 94.1 %

*Well done to our class attendance winners who will get an extra break time this week!*

**Class Attendance winner:** Year 1 96.4 %