

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

Friday 10th January 2020

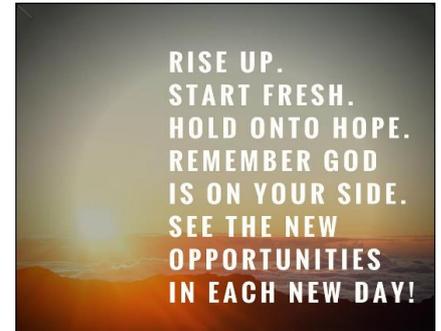
www.stmichaelscofe.co.uk



Pre-order for Week 1 (20th January): <https://forms.gle/vZkvFEkL4j85vnyvS8>

New opportunities

Happy New Year to you all; I hope that you found the holiday both restful and enjoyable. For many that I have spoken to while welcoming children and parents into school these last few mornings, the fact that we had some decent time after the New Year helped to make it feel longer. There are many more days ahead of us but maybe the image to the right here will offer you a positive thought.



I began the week by explaining to the children in assembly that we are now in a new term, new year, new decade and to the staff, that for most of us we are back in our twenties! This was lost on the children but brought a smile to most faces. Having completed this and undertaken a number of other tasks, I spent much of the first afternoon in the classrooms; I visited most classes (some were outside) and spent time gauging the mood and atmosphere in each room, talking to the children and staff about their holidays and basically seeing that everyone was back in the correct frame of mind. It was so pleasing to see that in all cases, the children were working, happy and calm. This sets them up for a great term.

To keep things running smoothly across the week when there have been some gaps, I have needed to teach. At first, this was in Y4 for an afternoon and I was pleased to provide some eye-opening ideas, primarily in the R.E. lesson when a question about Judaism was posed. Every one of the children said they knew very little and were shocked when I told them that many of the characters they know of: Moses, Noah, Abraham and even Jesus were in fact Jews. In one of the classes in particular, on discussing faith, using the analogy of football to explain how sometimes it is difficult to express your feelings when you suspect you might be ridiculed, one girl practically snorted when I shared my life-long support for Liverpool.

At the end of the week, Y6 also needed some time and asked me to teach the children about idioms. This turned into an opportunity to explore a whole range of language constructions, one of these being how in different cultures, language is so rich – we used the Inuit's varied terms for snow because of their need to distinguish types to compare with the idioms "you are the apple of my eye" and "you are the light of my life". I was so impressed when they came up with shades of meaning such as 'you give my life meaning', 'my life is better because of you', 'the days are better because of you' and many more. As powerful as the term 'I love you' is, these show much greater skill and careful choice of language to effect a particular response.

Andrew Cumpstey

Staff news

We are pleased to have new staff joining us this term; Mrs Damont teaching in Y1, Mrs Brinkley returning from maternity leave and working alongside Miss Kew in readiness to take over when she leaves to have her child, and Miss Green who is supporting children in Y1 at the moment while she gets to grips with all the intervention programmes that we have in place for her to deliver. It has been a bit of a whirlwind start but she has taken it all in her stride so far.

I can also announce now that we have appointed an experienced teacher to cover Mrs Burrows when she begins her Maternity leave in February. Miss Reid is very much looking forward to working with us and may be seen in the coming weeks.

A word of caution

We have received notification from a number of official sources this week that there has been an increase in the number of phone calls or texts from people purporting to be from the School Nurse Team, asking information about children. The following is information from Virgin Care:

School Nurses do not send text messages as their first contact with parents.

If you receive a text message requesting information about your child from anyone purporting to be a School Nurse, please DO NOT engage.

To check the validity of any request received, please contact the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service Single Point of Access:

Mid Essex 0300 247 0014 (option 2)

Congratulations

Ricky Snell (6L) passed his Grade 2 piano exam recently

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

Europe	Asia	Africa
Chimamanda Ugwu Max Lee Michalina Borowiecka Matthew Holland Reuben Peacock Lana Knight Jack Davies Roxanne Dulger Isabel Westwood		
Oceania	North America	South America

Love football?

Dunmow Rhodes Youth FC are looking for new players for their Under 10 team to take part in training on Wednesday afternoons; if any Year 5 children are interested, please contact the school and we will pass on contact details.

I have been working with a number of children this week and just before Christmas to try to find a solution to their desire to have a space to play football at lunchtime and today we think we finalised a plan. This will be trialled over the next few weeks.