

## Headteacher's Update 8.3.24

Dear Parents,

This week's update is jam packed as it lets you know some of things that have been happening in school over the past 5 days (it's been a busy week!), as well as some information that you will find useful going forward.

### **World Book Day Celebrations including the PTA Book Sale and the Launch of our 'Book Borrow Barrow'**

We have had a wonderful day with learning focussed on reading and a love of books. We have really enjoyed seeing everyone who has dressed up as a character from their favourite book. They have really embraced the day, with some year group teams coming as a theme and the ladies in the office looked magnificent as the Three Musketeers!

The costumes were of such a high standard that it was very hard to judge but after much deliberation, the winners were chosen.

Congratulations to Valentino and Nancy in Nursery, Damon RL, Leanna in RS, Sofia 1S, Jace 1L, Mia 2S, Lucia 2L, Mia 3S, Oliver 3L, Raphael 4S, Olivia 4L, Jenna 5S, Melissa 5L, Gabriel 6S and Livia 6L.



The PTA has again helped us to spread the love of reading through the organisation of the book sale. This is a great way for children to get to choose a book they'd like for a small donation, and everyone took something home with them.

World Book Day also felt like an appropriate time to launch our new 'Book Borrow Barrow'. The purpose of this is to offer the children on our Y5/6 playground the opportunity to have access to books during their playtimes. The Y5/6 librarian children will be responsible for ensuring the book barrow is brought out and put away and also help keep it organised.

There are a range of texts in the barrow and we hope it has something for everyone. We will be working closely with the children to keep it stocked with new texts. We look forward to seeing the enjoyment and hopefully encouraging the children to have a love of reading.

You may even start to see book barrows appearing on some of the younger playgrounds very soon – we are hopeful that money raised from the PTA book sale may go towards

buying and stocking book barrows for the other playgrounds too, providing children with a mobile library as we head into summer. Watch this space for further updates.

### **Building Works – starting soon**

We are very excited to announce the building works that will be starting at Easter. St Louis has carefully managed its budget over the years in order to allocate money towards developing the Reception and KS1 area of the school. We are very lucky that the expansion to the school in 2016 created a modern, spacious area in KS2 and a brand new purpose built nursery. We are now in a position to develop the rest of the school. Initially the work will focus on the Reception area, building a new toilet block that can be accessed directly from the classrooms and refurbishing the classes including flooring, ceilings and radiators.

The work will then move into the KS1 corridor, enlarging our smallest classroom (1L), encapsulating the 'courtyard' to create an open, inviting reading area, making a doorway into the corridor from the playground (so that children can access the toilets during break times without leaving classroom doors open and losing all the heat) and new flooring.

There will be some necessary arrangements we need to make in order for these works to take place, including children been taught from other areas of the school, or different entrances being used by parents. All disruption will be kept to a minimum and we will communicate any new arrangements with the parents directly affected in due course. We can't wait for the transformation that will take place which should be completed by the time we return in September.

### **Term dates 2024-25**

I know many of you have been in contact about next year's term dates. As I explained we had to wait for the Governors to meet before these could be approved and shared with you, although we will aim to do this earlier next year to help you plan ahead.

As part of a Trust we have been encouraged to liaise with other local schools to try and coordinate our term dates as far as possible. As we are a feeder school to St Michael's and many of our children will therefore have siblings there, we agreed we would make sure our term dates were the same as theirs. Hopefully this will make things easier for those of you with children in more than one school when booking holidays and arranging child care. The dates are now published on our website.

### **Pupil Achievements**

Well done to Caleb (and his mum as a helper) who completed a 10k endurance walk from Chesham to Great Missenden with Caleb's cubs group.

The cubs were brave as the paths were so muddy and they had to walk in water and muddy, slippery conditions for the entire trip. The boys were falling all over in mud and water, but as Caleb's mum told us - 'it was fun, it was hard, there were tears, we laughed, we sang and most importantly we endured the walk'.

Odesh in Y5 also took part in the challenge, and agreed that the mud made it a very tricky walk, but he was determined to persevere and complete it.

We are very proud of you both for taking part in this challenge and for showing such great resilience.



### WoW Badge Competition

Well done to all the children who entered the WOW badge competition. We had a large number of entries and the standard was very high, making it very difficult to choose just three winners! A big congratulations to Emanuela (Year 6), Ethan (Year 5) and Aubrey (Year 3). I'm sure you'll agree these designs are amazing.



Ethan



Emanuela



Aubrey

### Football

It has been a busy week for football! The girls' team played two matches this week. Narrowly losing 1-0 to Buckingham Park, where they were very unfortunate not to score in the match.

Despite not managing to score against Buckingham Park School, they found their shooting boots the following day against Oak Green, by winning emphatically 5-1. Congratulations to all the girls that played. I am so impressed with the progress you have made since our first game to now! Keep up the good work.

The Girls team were not the only team to face Oak Green this week; the year 6 boys had to battle hard to get a fully deserved win. After a shaky start and a goalless first half, it looked like it was going to be one of those games where the ball just would not go in the goal. However, the boys found a way through and managed to win the game comfortably in the end, 6-1 to St Louis. Well done Year 6!

It is great when parents come along to support our children at the various matches we are involved in. Please remember though that the same expectations exist around photographing children as in school. You do not have permission of all the people taking part, and therefore should not be taking pictures of the children in action. I know this can seem a shame, but there are very good reasons why some parents do not or cannot give permission for photos to be taken and this should be respected. Thank you for your understanding.

Have a great weekend,

Mrs Machin



Learning at St Louis



### Reception

**We have been learning:** about number bonds to 10. We know different ways to make a number.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child to make different numbers up to 10 e.g.  $2+3=5$ ,  $1+4=5$

### Year 1

**We have been learning:** how to count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10.

**You can help at home by:** practicing this with your child.

### Year 2

**We have been learning:** about the 'Big Five' in our geography topic.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child what the 'Big Five' is.

### Year 3

**We have been learning:** how to measure and compare lengths.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child to measure different things in the home and compare the lengths e.g. 10cm, 78cm

### Year 4

**We have been learning:** the process of melting and freezing.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child to explain the experiment we conducted in class.

### Year 5

**We have been learning:** about letter writing.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child to write a letter to someone of their choice including the skills we have looked at.

### Year 6

**We have been learning:** about blood, what it is made up of and what the different parts do.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child to describe what one of the parts does e.g. red blood cells.

