

Dear Parents and Carers

Where did September go? It has been an incredibly busy month in school. Pupils in Investigators and Innovators have been learning about Anglo Saxon and Viking lives on these shores. While those in Explorers and Enquirers have been delving into the past finding out about the fire of London – more on that later!

Pupils have also been treated to off-site outward bound visits. Innovators spent three days away at Rock UK's Carroty Wood Centre just outside Tonbridge. They pushed themselves to undertake a wide range of activities, including some they never thought they could tackle. From archery and geocaching, a very muddy low-ropes adventure, mountain biking and pedal karting, to the heights of the high-ropes course and the "leap of faith" (climbing up, standing atop and leaping from a telegraph pole!) – they all gave it their very best shot and learned so much about themselves and what they are capable of. Other learning experiences included how to put a duvet cover on, how to wash up for a dining room of thirty plus people and how to play in the woods – it was a fabulous few days for all involved!



Love – Honesty – Forgiveness – Respect
Do to others as you would have them do to you – Luke 6:31

Investigators and Years One and Two all visited the Kench Hill Activity Centre for their outward bound experiences. They spent the day den building, mini beast hunting and pond dipping, taking part in animal care, learning circus skills, some took part in archery and generally playing and having fun in the great outdoors!



Meanwhile, back at school pupils in Explorers and Enquirers have been creating Tudor houses in class and they then took to the playground to recreate the fire of London! They excitedly looked on as the houses they had crafted were set alight and caught, one after the other, just as they would have done in the 1666!



To add to the excitement (and learning) they were also visited by a real life, 21st century fire engine. They spent time learning about fire safety, and looking in and around the engine learning about how it works.



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In other news, pupils in Investigators Class last year entered their poems into the Young Writers competition – writing poems on the theme of animals. All pupils worked hard, supported and inspired by Mrs Duly and Mrs Kirkham, and entered their own pieces to the competition. The publishers contacted Mrs Duly to share their delight at the pieces they had received from the class and let her know that, unusually, they were going to print all the poems sent by the pupils.



You can imagine the excitement in worship when we shared the copies purchased by families with the pupils and showed the copy that will proudly go into the library. What an achievement by our writers!

In other news, parents have yet again helped the school solve a practical problem. This time they have turned their woodworking skills to creating a new decked area next to the sandpit in Explorers Class outdoor area – this is a big improvement and the pupils (and adults) are thrilled with it!



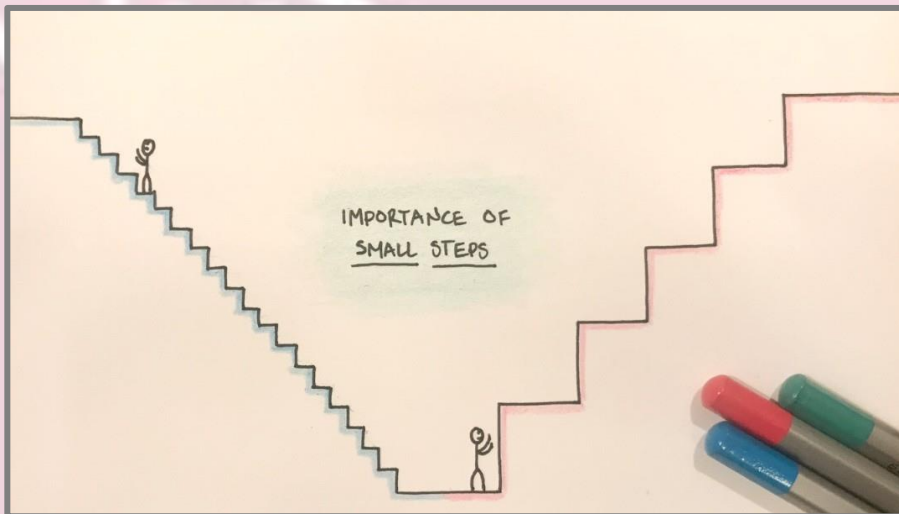
We will soon be announcing a Ground Force day to continue this work in our outdoor learning spaces. School budgets are being squeezed year on year in real terms, as costs rise and budgets do not, so any help you can give us to improve the school site or support PSA events is really gratefully received.



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Please take note of the Dates for your Diary enclosed with this newsletter. I will add to these as the terms go by, there are quite a few dates to note in the coming weeks.

Finally, in Collective Worship last week we talked about *Setting the Bar high*, understanding that in order to succeed we are bound to fail many times before success and that this is all part of learning. The image below gives a really good perspective on how we get to that high bar – almost always this is not in great leaps, but through small steps of learning, sometimes we'll stay on one step for a while or even step back for a moment, but we never get there in great big steps.



In the words of Proverbs 4:25-26 “Let your eyes look forward; fix your gaze straight ahead. Carefully consider the path for your feet, and all your ways will be established”

Regards

Fay Churchill



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Dates for your diary

Event	Date	Time
Individual School Photos	Thursday 9 th October	
Phonics and early reading workshop for parents (in person)	Tuesday 14 th October	9am
Phonics and early reading workshop for parents (online)	Thursday 16 th October	4pm
Harvest Festival	Friday 17 th October	9am
Investigators Class visit to Battle Abbey	Monday 20 th October	All day
Muggle and Magic Mayhem – PSA Event	Thursday 24 th October	3.15–4.30pm
INSET day	Monday 3 rd November	All day
Parent Consultations	w/c Monday 3 rd November	tbc
Antibullying Week	w/c Monday 10 th November	
Nativity (Explorers and Enquirers)	Wednesday 10 th December	2pm
Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime @ Peasmarsh School	Thursday 11 th December	tbc
Carol Service in St Michael's Church, Playden	Friday 19 th December	1.30pm
INSET day	Monday 5 th January	All day



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Starting School in 2026?



We'd love to welcome you to our vibrant, inclusive environment to learn more about how your child could grow and belong in our nurturing Church School community.

- **Every child is known, valued & cared for**
- **Support tailored to every child's needs**
- **Rich opportunities beyond the classroom**
- **Guided by our values of love, honesty, forgiveness & respect**

OPEN DAYS

- Tue 30th September
- Thu 16th October
- Wed 12th November
- Tue 9th December
- Thu 8th January

All visits start at 9.30am
You can also contact us to
arrange a 1:1 tour

BOOK NOW | **01797 280277**
office@playdenschool.com



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Pupils enjoy learning at this warm and friendly school. They feel happy and safe. One pupil, reflecting the views of many, said, "The best thing about the school is that we look after each other".

Ofsted, 2025

School Uniform

At St. Michael's we take pride in our uniform and expect all children to wear the correct school uniform as follows:

General uniform:

- Burgundy jumper or cardigan (school badge preferred, but optional)
- Grey skirt, pinafore or culottes
- Grey trousers or shorts
- White polo shirt (school badge preferred, but optional)
- Black shoes with appropriate fastening. No trainers, sling-backs or boots.

Summer wear:

- Red gingham dress
- White polo shirt (school badge preferred, but optional) and grey skirt or shorts

PE kit:

- Coloured T-shirt according to the pupil's House assignment. May be blue, green, yellow or red (school badge preferred, but optional)
- Black shorts
- Black joggers
- Black plimsolls or sports trainers

PE Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Investigators	Explorers	Investigators	Explorers	Innovators
Innovators	Enquirers	Investigators	Enquirers	Innovators

Extra-Curricular Provision

Please note that access to After School Extra-Curricular Provision is only available by booking through Arbor.

Activity	Day	Provider	Time	Cost (if applicable)
Youth Club	Monday	School	3.30 – 4.30	£4
Drama Club	Tuesday	School	3.30 – 4.30	N/A
Sports Club	Wednesday	School	3.30-4.30	N/A
Rugby Tots	Thursday	Rugby Tots	3.30-4.30	N/A
Multi-sports	Friday	School	3.30 – 4.30	N/A

Contact emails:

head@playdenschool.com

office@playdenschool.com

If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding please speak to:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Fay Churchill
- Vicky Isted



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