

Dear Parents and Carers

A very belated Happy New Year to you all! This term seems to be flying by..

Much has happened since my last newsletter. The photos below and on the next pages give you a taste of some joyful moments in our community...



Innovators Class trip to Shakespeare's Globe

Discovering the theatre



Performing "the Scottish play"



Seeing the sights of the Southbank



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

Prickly Hay – Explorers and Enquirers heartfelt retelling of the nativity story.



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Christmas Celebrations.

Carol Service



PSA Christmas Workshop



Snow Disco



Singing at the Memorial Hospital



Making Christingles



Christmas Lunch



Panto



After all the excitement, we enter 2026 and look forward to all that it will bring.

For some of our pupils it has begun already.

Investigators Class took the train to Hastings for a fact filled day of fun at the museum as part of their learning about the Ancient Greeks.



Then those pupils who had been attending Young Voices choir rehearsals headed to the O2 Arena in Greenwich to perform with nearly 9,000 children at the Young Voices concert. What an amazing day and opportunity!



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Outdoor Fun

We are making some changes to our playground, offering greater opportunities for all pupils to play. We are collecting crates, tarpaulins, sticks, logs, twine etc to allow pupils to play creatively, building dens or castles – wherever their imaginations take them. If you think you would be able to contribute anything to this, be it an old Tesco delivery crate or a ball of string, we would be very grateful.

Malawi Day

This Friday sees a special event in school. As you know, we have recently linked with Kambwiri Primary School in Malawi through the charity Starfish Malawi. To get to know a little more about life as a child in Malawi we are going to learn about their food, how they are able to keep safe with water usage and also look at one of their most famous artists. All pupils are invited to wear black, red and green (no football kits please) on Friday and we will spend most of the day engaging in Malawian activities.

This QR code will take you to the Starfish Malawi site



The Malawian Flag



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I have updated the Dates for Your Diary, see below, so please check these carefully and add them to your calendars.

I have once again appended the reminders about Road Usage and School Uniform. Please continue to be mindful in both these areas, courtesy in the road and taking care of your children's presentation in school all show a respect for one another and show an aspiration to achieve the best for all in our community – something I'm sure you can all get behind.

Finally, I was looking for thoughts about keeping going and trying your best. This always seems tougher when the days are short and cold! I found two, which I believe go together well and give us some food for thought:

'A problem is a chance for you to do your best.'

Duke Ellington

'You just can't beat the person who never gives up.'

Babe Ruth

So with this in mind, let's face the week ahead with a smile and be thankful that the birds are singing a little earlier each day!

Regards

Fay Churchill



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Dates for your diary

Event	Date	Time
Last Day of Term 3	Friday 13 th February	All day
First Day of Term 4	Monday 23 rd February	All day
God and the Big Bang @ Peasmarsch	Thursday 5 th March	All day
World Book Celebrations (theme tbc)	Friday 6 th March	All day
Easter Service in St Michael's Church, Playden	Friday 27 th March	1.30pm
Last Day of Term 4 – collect from church	Friday 27 th March	Pick up from 2.45pm
First Day of Term 5	Monday 13 th April	All day
Celebration Afternoon	Wednesday 15 th April	2pm
Last Day of Term 5	Friday 22 nd May	All day
INSET Day	Monday 1 st June	All day
First Day of Term 6	Tuesday 2 nd June	All day
Sports Day – held on Peasmarsch field	Friday 19 th June	1.30pm
Innovators Class End of Year Production	Tuesday 14 th July	All day
Last Day of Term 6	Tuesday 21 st July	All day



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PE Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Investigators	Investigators	Innovators
Innovators	Explorers & Enquirers	Investigators	Explorers & 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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Road Usage

This statement is for vehicle drivers who use the lane outside school.

- Parking directly opposite the school gate, adjacent to staff cars, either partially or wholly, creates a pinch point at the site where pupils need to access and exit the school. Any double parking is not permitted.
- Parking on the Yellow lines or in the bus stop is not permitted.
- Careful navigation, at an appropriate pace, is necessary to ensure the lane is a safe environment for all users.
- All who use the lane do so considerately and with the safety and wellbeing of pedestrians as our utmost priority.

An accident outside school or in the lane could, potentially, be fatal.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

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