



## MARCH NEWSLETTER 2016

### Go Compare? Don't!

A big thank you to all the parents who made it in for the Parent Consultation afternoon, we hope everyone found the new early start format both useful in terms of knowing how well your child is doing and also as a way of looking forward. Now at the start of Term 4 we are half way through the school year. However, the national testing (or SATs) will already be completed by the end of May which isn't long away at all!

After consultations with the class teacher, parents from Years 1-6 have now been informed that there is a new way of measuring progress. For many years all we have known in schools is National Curriculum levels – these have now gone and have been replaced by children being at an 'Expected' level or not, as the case may be! So, this is the first year children in Year 2 and Year 6 will be assessed without levels and using the new terms. In February, the Government released what 'expected' work looks like for these year groups.

Many teaching unions have been concerned about this as it leaves less than three months to implement this new standard. At the same time, the Government has also decided to raise the bar of achievement for all children. Although it is commendable, having a desire to drive up standards in schools, during their consultations with teachers, parents may have found their child is no longer where they thought they were!

A child leaving Foundation Stage at a 'Good Level of Development' is, even after a few weeks, no longer at an expected level because the targets for Year 1 are so much higher. The maths or writing expected from a Year 2 child is now more in line with the Year 3/4 levels before. As a school we have, in the past, been 'judged' on how many children achieve Level 4 in Maths and English. The new standards are now much closer to the old style Level 5.

This does seem a little unfair on the current Year 6 as the tendency is to compare performance from the previous year. 100% of our Year 6 achieved the expected level in Maths and Reading last year – with the best will in the world this is very unlikely to happen this year!

So, we are all on a new journey – but despite the television advert "Don't Compare!"

Mr P Fox

### Easter Church Service

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 10am

The whole school will be visiting St. Michael's Church for the end of term service to celebrate Easter. All are welcome to join us.

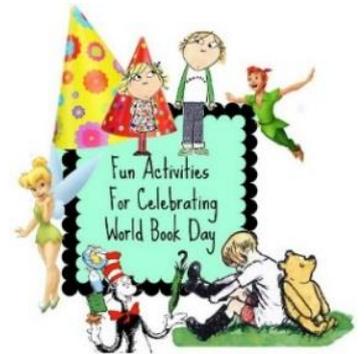


### 'Sporty Stalls In The Hall'

will be set up for children to enjoy during the school day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March - those who wish to participate may bring some pennies (suggested no more than £1)! Any funds raised by this fun event will be used to provide extra school resources.

### WORLD BOOK DAY Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 Non-Uniform/Dress Up

Children can bring their favourite book to share with a "reading buddy" throughout the day and are very welcome to come dressed as a book character or in non-uniform. No donation required.



Free book voucher for every child.

### TERM DATES

Please don't forget that we finish Term 4 on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March and will return on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April is an Inset Day.

### Polite Request

Please can we ask that parents of infant children only order meals for days that their children will definitely eat what is on the menu. We are finding that some children are bringing a packed lunch on days when a hot meal has also been ordered for them. This obviously causes wasted food and unnecessary cost to the school.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March is...**



We will be having a non-uniform day with a suggested £1 donation which will equally benefit Sport Relief & Louth Skate Park

**Parent, Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA)**

Forthcoming events:

Easter Disco

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Infants 6-7pm

Juniours 7.15-8.30pm

£1 on the door

Easter Egg Hunt/Races

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - am

Summer Fayre

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June - pm



If your child went missing wouldn't you want the world to stop and look for them? A Child Rescue Alert is activated when a child is known to have been abducted or their life is believed to be at immediate risk. Every second counts and your support is vital.

St. Michael's are proud supporters of this charitable scheme, please take the time to access their website and sign up for free at [www.childrescuealert.org](http://www.childrescuealert.org)

New PTFA Website

The St. Michael's PTFA are currently in the process of producing their own website, this should be up and running shortly. The site will share information, events and memories etc.

They have asked if Parents/Grandparents can please bring in any old photos/memories of previous years' events organised by the HSA/PTFA. The older, the better!

**Forthcoming Sporting Events**

Winter Games at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Swimming and High 5 teams

Winter Games at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Sports hall Athletics team

Basketball at MDTC on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March - Years 3 and 4

Details to follow for parents whose children will be attending.

**'I'm a Pupil Get Me Out of Here'**

We wish to thank everyone who supported us and made the night such a success.

We would also like to say a big well done to all of the children who were brave enough to take part.