



October NEWSLETTER 2016

Unauthorised Absence:

Governors reserve the right to fine

The government is continuing to put pressure on all schools to improve attendance. Last year our attendance did rise a little to 96.1%, which just about puts us in line with the **Lincolnshire County average**, but will at best give us only a satisfactory on our next Ofsted Report. At school, we can **only authorise an absence in exceptional circumstances**. All holidays etc. are unauthorised and this will appear on a child's end of year report. **Children whose attendance falls below 90% are currently considered persistent absentees on school records**. County Policy also states that once unauthorised absence is **15% of a term** or more, parents are liable for a **fixed penalty notice** from the local authority. There has been much debate about this in the national media this year and some high profile court cases have challenged penalty notices for those of regular attendance (a figure for which has NOT been determined). In view of our attendance still being only just average and although we have never done so, **the governing body does reserve the right to impose fixed penalty fines for persistent absentees**.

Where non-attendance continues the case will be discussed with Mrs Diane Enderby, the **Education Welfare Officer (EWO)** for the school, and further action planned. Parents may be invited to attend a meeting in school. This meeting will include the appropriate staff, EWO, parent and pupil if appropriate, to identify and solve the problems that are preventing the pupil from attending school.

We aim to review each child's attendance every term. If a pupil's attendance is below 90%, a letter setting an attendance target for the following weeks will be sent home.

If unauthorised absence continues this could result in legal options being considered such as Fixed Penalty Notice Warning letter / penalty or a Formal Legal Warning Letter being issued in regards to prosecution. Clearly, we hope things never get this far and attendance improves. **The governors and staff are sure that parents would want to assist the school in its efforts to meet the government's attendance targets**. Please see the complete Attendance Policy on the school website for further details.

Mr Ian Roscoe
Chair of Governors

Due to an increase in the number of children with serious nut allergies in school, we are trying to create a nut-free environment.



Please continue to help us to do this by avoiding nuts and nut based products in packed lunches and snacks.



Have you got any unwanted boxed board games which could be used in school for wet play times during the winter months? If so, please bring them to the school office. Many thanks.

Upcoming Events

- Harvest Festival**
- Tuesday 18th October
- Prayer Spaces**
- Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th October
- Cross Country at Cordeaux Academy**
- Thursday 20th October - Y3/4/5/6
- Children in Need**
- Friday 18th November
- Christmas Disco**
- Thursday 8th December
- Christmas Fayre**
- Thursday 15th December

Safety First!

The School Crossing Supervisor has had to request that another message is added to the Newsletter to ask that parents ensure their children stay with them on the walkway down to the road.

Unfortunately, there have been a number of occasions where unaccompanied children have arrived at the crossing alone and Mrs. Andrews cannot be held accountable if they step out onto the road.

Termtime Holidays (if you must!)

Whilst we prefer that all holidays are taken during the set holiday times, we understand that some parents, in exceptional circumstances, need to book holidays during term time. **There are, however, certain dates which MUST BE AVOIDED.**

Please do not book holidays if your child is in:

Year 1 Phonics Screen Week beginning 12th June 2017

Year 2 SATs any time in May 2017

Year 6 SATs any time in Term 5 especially the build up to and week beginning 8th May 2017

Thank you.



St. Michael's will be supporting Children in Need on Friday 18th November.

Children may wear non-uniform or come to school in spotty clothing/nightwear, please donate £1 per child by sending a pound coin in on the day.

Cooler Weather



As we are now having some cooler days, please can we ask that children have a named waterproof coat in school as well as wellington boots for the infants.

We want the children to be able to go outside when possible and be comfortable in class.

Prayer Spaces



After the success of last year's event, we will once again be holding two days of Prayer Spaces in school on:

Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th October

All children will have the opportunity to spend time in reflection during the school day with teachers, governors and serving members of St. Michael's Church team.

**WORLD SIGHT DAY – OCTOBER 13TH
CHANGE LIVES – ONE PAIR AT A TIME!**



Louth District Lions are asking for your help.

If you have a pair of eyeglasses that are no longer being used – you can donate them now!
Just drop them in the labelled box in the School Foyer.

The Lions will accept any prescription reading glasses, sunglasses (plastic or metal framed) – Children's glasses are particularly needed.

Your unwanted glasses can change another person's life, please ask families and friends to help support this worthy cause.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

St. Michael's will be collecting non-perishable foods (packets and tins) once again for the Louth Larder this year – please give generously.

We warmly invite parents of Foundation Stage to our Harvest Festival in the Hall at 10am on Tuesday 18th October (unfortunately we do not have the room for parents of other year groups)

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT TERM 1 WILL END ON FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER
AND TERM 2 WILL BEGIN ON TUESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER**