St Michael's Weekly Post

14th November 2025

What a wet way to start (and end!) the week, but our Acorn Class made the most of it! The children couldn't wait to get outside and explore the watery world that appeared before them. With laughter and squeals of delight, they splashed, waded, and created imaginative games inspired by the flood!

On Wednesday, our school councillors delivered an inspiring assembly highlighting the theme of this year's Anti-Bullying Week 2025 — "Power for Good". They reminded us that everyone has the power to speak up, support others and continue to make our school a kind, inclusive place. Through examples, interactive questions and a focus on what it means to use our voices positively, the session encouraged all pupils to be active allies and stand together against bullying. It was great to see everyone wearing their odd socks to mark our differences as well.

We enjoyed celebrating Children in Need and World Diabetes Day today. Thank you for all of your donations for these important causes.

We hope you will have now seen the letter from our Chair of Governors Scott Room sharing the news that after 25 years of devoted service to St Michael's School — including 12 remarkable years as our Headteacher — Mrs Arkwright has made the difficult decision that it is time for her to leave. Mrs Arkwright will be leaving us at Easter to take up a part-time consulting role with Early Excellence. While we will miss her dearly, we wholeheartedly support her decision and hope you will join us in congratulating her with this new chapter in her life.

A reminder that the children are not in school on Monday as we have a TD Day. We look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday and hope you have a lovely long weekend.

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Well done to our Learners of the Week!

Waterproofs - OPAL

A polite reminder that if you have them, it is always useful for children to bring their **waterproofs** in at this time of year to ensure they are able to play on all areas of the field and make the most of the mud! In a conscious effort to save your washing machines, children are asked not to go on certain areas unless they have their waterproofs and wellies on. Thank you for your understanding.

Smartwatches

We understand that many children enjoy wearing smartwatches, and we're happy for them to do so in school. Learning to tell the time is an important life skill, and wearing a watch can really help with this. To ensure a focused and safe learning environment, we do ask that any smartwatch features such as cameras, messaging, or communication functions are disabled during the school day. If a smartwatch has a camera, this should be covered with tape or turned off while in school. As with any item brought into school, if a smartwatch becomes a distraction to learning, children may be asked to remove it and keep it safely in their bag until the end of the day.

Message from the School Council

The School Council would like to continue the St Michael's tradition and ask everyone to bring in a chocolate orange to school, which will be donated to the Food Collective, instead of sending Christmas cards to one another. This is to help our community reduce paper usage, to spread a little joy and a merry Christmas for those who need it most. Please bring donations from **Tuesday 18th November until Wednesday 26th November** and we will announce how many chocolate oranges have been collected, let's see if we can beat last year's total!

Christingle Service – Friday 28th November, 2.30pm
Our annual Christingle service will take place in St Michael's Church on Friday 28th November at **2.30pm**. All family members and friends are welcome, we do hope to see you there. The chocolate oranges will be blessed before they are passed onto the Swindon Food Collective.

Non-School Uniform for Tombola – Friday 28th November
Children are invited to wear non-school uniform on Friday 28th November in exchange for an item for the tombola at the Santa Dash. Please bring a bottle of alcohol or some chocolates to donate. Thank you.

Picture News

Story: Nike has revealed a new type of powered shoe, called Project Amplify, which uses small motors to boost a person's walking and running movement.
Question: Can technology ever help us too much?
Virtual Picture News: www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

Messages from the PTA:

St Michael's/Navy Personalised Bobble Hats – Order by Sunday 23rd November
We are thrilled to be taking orders for personalised navy bobble hats. Hats cost £12 and are available in youth size and adult size, with personalisation options including: school logo, name and class. Please place your order **by Sunday 23rd November** via Collectiv and include the personalisation detail (**particularly size and if you would like the school logo included**) in the "Leave Hayley a message" box.

Wanted – Christmas jumpers!
If you have any Christmas jumpers or festive tops that your children have outgrown, we'd be delighted to receive them. Adult Christmas jumpers are also very welcome! We'll be running a small stall at the **Santa Dash**, selling these pre-loved items to raise funds for our amazing PTA and help reduce waste. Please drop any donations into the school office between **Monday 17th November and Friday 28th November**. Your donations will be gratefully received.

Festive Wreath Making Evening - Thursday 4th December 7-9pm
St Michael's PTA invites you to join us for the popular 'Festive Wreath Making Evening', which will be held in the school hall from 7pm on Thursday 4th December.
Tickets are £35 per person. Includes all materials you need and festive treats, just bring your secateurs. Booking link: https://buytickets.at/stmichaelsaldbournepta/1937667

Santa Dash – Saturday 6th December

The **Aldbourne 3k Santa Dash** is back! Do come along to support the school on Saturday 6th December from 9.30am. A 3k Fun Run starting and finishing at the school, for all children and adults to warm up into the festive spirit. Enjoy brunch and a hot drink afterwards, with opportunity to win from the tombola and to enjoy listening to the school choir sing a collection of carols. Prizes will be given to the best dressed KS1 and KS2 children (as well as parents!) Click here to buy your family ticket now!

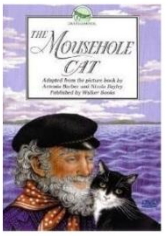
Message from The Aldbourne Carnival

Come and join us for the 'Aldbourne Christmas Tree Switch On', Sunday 7th December at 6.30pm.

Message from The Parish of Whitton:

Join us for 'Seedlings' on the 3rd Sunday each month, 9.30–10.30am. It is for children aged 0-11 and includes stories, songs, crafts and activities. The next session will be **Sunday 16th November** called "Remember the rainbow" where we will be thinking about the story of Noah and making lots of animals. *Bringing families together in the Whitton Team*. For more info, see https://whittonteam.org.uk/?page_id=227 or email revsuerodd@btinternet.com

Children's Film Showing



Activities & Refreshments from 3:15pm
Film*(25 mins, Ages 4+) starts 4:00pm
on 19th November
in St Michael's Church, Aldbourne
FREE - Children must be accompanied
For further information contact revsuerodd@btinternet.com

*By kind permission of Grasshopper Productions (https://www.grasshopper.co.uk/)

The Mousehole Cat

Come along to St Michael's Church in Aldbourne for activities, refreshments and a viewing of the Mousehole Cat film from 3.15pm on 19th November. **FREE - Children must be accompanied**. For further information contact revsuerodd@btinternet.com

Term 2

Monday 17th November	**TD Day – Children not in school**	**Whole School**
Tuesday 18th November	Nasal Flu Immunisations	Whole School (Opt in or out)
Monday 24th-Wednesday 26th November	Parents Evenings	Whole School Community
Wednesday 26th November	Hampton Court Palace Trip	Rowan
Friday 28th November	Christingle Service in St Michael's Church, 2.30pm	Whole School Community
	Non-school uniform in exchange for tombola prize	Whole School
Thursday 4th December	PTA Wreath Making (7.30pm)	Whole School Community
Saturday 6th December	PTA Santa Dash (9.30am)	Whole School Community

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Tuesday 16th December	Nativity (2pm and 5.30pm)	Whole School Community
Wednesday 17th December	Panto, Newbury Corn Exchange	Whole School
Friday 19th December	Last day of term Parent Workshop in school (more info to come)	Whole School

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