St Michael's Weekly Post

17th October 2025

A busy week, particularly for Oak class who had a brilliant day at the River Lambourn in Newbury on Thursday. As part of their geography learning, they collected data about pollution in our local waterways and it sparked interesting discussions on what we can do to help. They collected all sorts of things that could be harmful to our rivers, followed by sorting, categorising, tallying and making written and pictorial notes. Thank you to the team from ARK (Action for the River Kennet) who were so helpful and insightful in this thought provoking trip.

Earlier in the week, a selection of Oak and Rowan children entered a football festival in teams held at Pewsey Vale School. We were delighted when one team arrived back to school with their first place medals! Huge congratulations to them all, including our team of girls who came second against mixed teams – well done girls!

We bid farewell to Mrs Budd today. We hope you will join us in wishing her all the best for the future. Mrs Maslin's last day will be Tuesday, next week. A huge thank you for all that she has done for us – particularly bringing our forest to life for pupils present and past. As you know, both members of staff have been with St Michael's for many years and we will really miss them both.

Nasal Flu Immunisations – 18th November

A reminder to please complete the consent form **(yes or no)** for the nasal spray flu immunisation that will take place in school on Tuesday 18th November. Thank you.
www.bswschoolagedimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu
Please use the school code: WT126392

PTA School Quiz – Friday 21st November

The School Quiz is back! It will take place in the school hall on Friday 21st November. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Tickets will be £15 per person and will include a charcuterie board supper. Teams of up to 8, however you are most welcome to come along and join a team on the evening. We hope it will be a fun event to raise money for the school. With a wide range of topics there should be something for everyone! Please purchase tickets via the following link or pop an envelope with your name and entry fee into the office.

LOTTERY FUNDED

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival Service will be taking place on the last day of term, Wednesday 22nd October at **9.15am** in the church. **All parents/carers and siblings are welcome.** As per last year, we will be collecting produce for the Swindon Food Collective. The Food Collective website gives more details of the basic staples that are most urgently needed and there is also an app that flags their precise needs at any given time should you need some direction on what to donate. Please bring your donations on the day.

Welly Walk

On Wednesday 22nd October the children will be taking part in our annual Welly Walk around the school grounds for an afternoon, raising money for our school. After the walk the PTA will greet the children with a warming hot chocolate. Children will finish school at the usual time. Please see letter attached for more information on how to fundraise, including via the following Just Giving link.

Picture News:

Story: The UK government is planning to bring in digital identity cards, which people could keep on their smartphones or have as a physical card.
Question: Should everyone have an identity card?
Virtual Picture News: www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

St Michael's Open Day

We will be holding an open day for any prospective new parents with children starting school on Friday 7th November. If you know anyone who might be interested in looking at our lovely school, please share the details and the following link to RSVP.

Smartphone free childhood

Thank you to all of those parents who put together the important talk last week and to those parents who attended the meetings and for offering support. We wanted to share some key facts that were hard hitting: **25% of 5-7 year olds** in the UK own their own smartphone **and 89% of 12 year olds** own them. With these figures in mind its important to recognise the facts that **94%** of primary school parents think smartphones are harmful, **70%** believe they have a negative impact on family life and **33%** have admitted to crying over their child's phone obsession. If you want to be part of the movement of thinking differently with smartphones please sign the following petition: https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/sign-the-parent-pact There is also a whatsapp group to join here should you wish: https://whatsapp.smartphonefreechildhood.org/

Message from Aldbourne Youth Club:

AYC is recruiting for new youth workers and coordinators to plan and deliver our ambitious Youth Programme. Flexible roles are available.
Admin and support – up to 10hrs per week
Delivering youth sessions – up to 17hrs per week
Programme planning – up to 10hrs per week
Please contact: chair@aldbourneyouthcouncil.co.uk for more information.

Message from St Michael's Church:
Please join us for the annual 'Walk in the Light' event, taking place on 31st October from 5-7pm. There will be a quiz trail, marshmallow toasting, crafts, activities and treats! We hope to see you there.

Message from St Nicholas' Church, Baydon:
The third Sunday each month, 9.30–10.30 for children 0–11: story, songs, crafts, activities. Next session: 19th October - Bringing light in autumn days

Bringing families together in the Whitton Team
For more info, see **https://whittonteam.org.uk/?page_id=227**

September 2025 Term 1
Please note the 2025/2026 term dates can be found here.

Monday 20th October	Phonics Workshop for Acorn parents, 8.45am	Acorn
Wednesday 22nd October	Harvest Festival Service, St Michael's Church, **9.15am**	Whole School Community
	Sponsored 'Welly Walk' pm	Whole School
	Last day of term	Whole School
Thursday 23rd October – Sunday 1st November	**Half term holiday**	**Whole School**

Term 2

Monday 3rd November	**First day of term**	Whole School
Thursday 13th November	Individual and Sibling photos	Whole School
Friday 14th November	Weekly Celebration Assembly commences	Whole School Community
Monday 17th November	**TD Day – Children not in school**	Whole School
Friday 21st November	School Quiz, 7.30pm	Whole School Community
Monday 24th-Wednesday 26th November	Parents Evenings (more info to come)	Whole School Community
Friday 28th November	Christingle Service in St Michael's Church, 2.30pm	Whole School Community
Saturday 6th December	PTA Santa Dash	Whole School Community
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

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook

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