St Michael's Weekly Post

21st November 2025

Cherry Class have been taken back thousands of years this week, as they have started exploring stone age life. To help them understand this fascinating period, they have been looking closely at cave paintings, some of the earliest forms of human storytelling. They even transformed part of their classroom into their very own stone age cave!

Our Year 6 Digital Leaders gave an important school assembly on Cyber Bullying this week, aiming to educate the children on how to be safe online. They helped to explain to the children a range of ways to tell adults if they are concerned with anything they might see online and the importance of being kind to everyone.

Thank you so much for all of your support for this year's Remembrance Day, St Michael's raised £192.70. We also donated £188.40 to Children in Need, alongside the donations for World Diabetes Day, thank you!

Well done to our Learners of the Week!

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Parents Evenings – 24th, 25th and 26th November

A reminder to please book your parents evening slots for next week via Reach More Parents (Weduc). If you are having any issues or there are no slots that work for you, please contact the class teachers directly who can book you in manually. Thank you.

Elfridges – Friday 12th December

By popular demand, the Elfridges shopping experience at St Michael's is back! For those new to the school, Elfridges is a particular festive highlight for the children! During the school day, they are invited to browse, choose and buy gifts for their **adult family members**. The gifts come wrapped, and the children are given a label to personalise and attach. They will then bring the gifts home with them ready to give at Christmas! If your child would like to take part, please fill in the following form by **Wednesday 10th December** with who you would like them to buy for. Children will need to bring cash in on **Friday 12th December** (unfortunately no change is available, so please bring whatever you would like to spend or donate – thank you).

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 in donations **by 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. **Our Celebration Assembly will be incorporated into this service, so please note there will be no morning assembly in school.**

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: McDonald's changed the colours of its famous Happy Meal box in the UK, making it white on three sides, for children to colour and design it themselves.
Question: What are some of the different ways we can express ourselves?
Virtual Picture News: www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

Parent Workshop – Friday 19th December

In addition to the information below, we wanted to let you know that your creative task for our Christmas parent workshop this year will be to make a **Christmas decoration** during the session. Please bring your own crafty bits in. For those new to the school, this is a wonderful morning that we do hope you can join us for! Parents are invited to stay after drop off with the children to start the day with a Christmas story performed by our brilliant teachers! You will be then tasked to add to the story by creating your Christmas decorations, the classrooms and halls buzz with you all crafting away before

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being called back to the hall to finish the teacher's tale. The children (and parents!) adore seeing their favourite teachers take centre stage, it is guaranteed to make you laugh and we really hope to see many of you there! Siblings are very welcome to join you too. **It will finish at around 11.30am**.

As Christmas creeps closer, we want to make sure you are aware of all of the festive activities that will be happening in school:

Sunday 7th December	**Brass Ensemble & the School Choir** (Year 2 upwards) to perform at Aldbourne Brass Band Concert at 4pm. Annually, we are invited to sing with the brass ensemble and the Aldbourne brass band at their Christmas concert. Tickets will need to be purchased if you wish to stay and watch or alternatively you are able to drop your child and collect after. There is a discount code that can be used for **school parents only please.** The code is SCHOOL which can be used when purchasing via the following link.
Tuesday 16th December	Our **Nativity** Performances in the Church – 2pm and 5:30pm. All children are to arrive back at school (through the main entrance) at **5:10pm** to get ready for their evening performance. Children are to then be collected from school after, at a time TBC. The PTA will be raising money, selling drinks & mince pies. Could we please ask that younger children attend the 2pm session if they wish to see the nativity, rather than the evening performance.
Wednesday 17th December	**Pantomime Trip.** We will be taking the whole school to the Newbury Corn Exchange to watch the performance of Robin Hood. The payment will be available to pay via Weduc payments next week. Children are to be in school uniform and it will take place in normal school hours. We will need a few more volunteers, please. If this is something you are able to help with, please email admin@stmichaelsaldbourne.co.uk.
Thursday 18th December	**School Christmas Lunch.** Please book this for your child on the Lataca ParentMail app. In the morning, children will be making hats out of newspaper. If you have any newspaper for recycling, we would love to have it in school.
Friday 19th December	**Parent Workshop 8.45am – 11.30am & early finish for the last day of term 2, at 1pm**. We would like to invite you all into school for a morning of festive fun with your children. The parents session will be finished by **11.30am**. We realise that not all children will have a family member available to join us. We therefore ask if there are children without a family member that you include them in your group. Thank you. **We will be finishing our last day of term early at 1pm.**

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 before **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 Book Group
The Children's Book Group Committee invite you to cosy up with us around the church Christmas Tree for classic Yuletide stories on December 12th and 14th. Volunteers have picked out favourite extracts, stories and picture books for you. The sessions include a chance to make your own Christmas decoration and of course mulled wine, hot chocolate, gingerbread and mince pies. This year, the sessions are split into a morning weekday session for our pre-school members and a second Sunday afternoon story time, open to everyone. The dates and times are:
Preschoolers: Friday 12th December 10am
All welcome: Sunday 14th December 3pm
It's all happening at St Michael's Church and so come and celebrate with us!

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Message from The Aldbourne Carnival

Come and join us for the 'Aldbourne Christmas Tree Switch On', Sunday 7th December at 6.30pm. There will also be Christmas fun, dance and sing along event in the Memorial Hall at 5pm. £1 per child.

Term 2

Monday 24th-Wednesday 26th November	Parents Evenings	Whole School Community
Wednesday 26th November	Hampton Court Palace Trip (7.45am departure)	Rowan
Friday 28th November	No morning celebration assembly (to be included in Christingle Service)	Whole School Community
	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
Friday 5th December	Last Celebration Assembly of term	Whole School Community
Saturday 6th December	PTA Santa Dash (9.30am)	Whole School Community
Sunday 7th December	Aldbourne Brass Band Concert (4pm)	Birch upwards
Monday 8th December	Cricket Festival, Marlborough Leisure Centre	Birch
Friday 12th December	Elfridges in school	Whole School
	No Celebration Assembly	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 (8.45-11.30am) **Term finishes at 1pm**	Whole School

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