St Michael's Weekly Post

28th November 2025

Rowan Class had a fascinating trip to Hampton Court Palace this week. Using replica objects based on historical facts as well as excerpts from contemporary Tudor sources, the children found out how the past is constructed from a range of sources. They also explored how evidence can be used to draw conclusions about the past and discovered that there is more to Henry VIII than the popular stereotypes. A brilliant trip which thoroughly helped bring their history lessons to life!

The Year 6 Sports Leaders have been preparing a warm up for the Santa Dash (Saturday 6th December), creating a fun dance for everyone to follow. There are still lots of tickets left, so please do purchase if you would like to attend via the following link. All children who enter will receive a gingerbread medal and there are prizes for the best dressed. More info below, but do please come along and support this wonderful event!

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Christingle service today. The children had great fun creating their Christingles yesterday, reminding themselves of the true meaning to each element and why we mark this celebration. The older year groups teamed up to help the younger ones to make their creations. Thank you to Rvd Sue Rodd for leading the worship and to all of those who donated chocolate oranges for the Swindon Food Collective.

Well done to our Learners of the Week!

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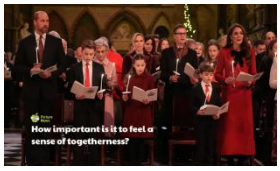
Parent Survey

Thank you to those of you who have completed our Parent Survey. If you haven't done so yet, please use the following link to complete the questionnaire. This year's questionnaire aims to gather your views on how your child uses digital devices, the internet and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI). Your responses will help us understand family experiences and support children's digital wellbeing: https://forms.gle/Kymrr4UVggkAKDf78

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).

Picture News

Question: How important is it to feel a sense of togetherness?

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 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.

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:

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, meet Father Christmas in his cabin, 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!
Please see the silent auction is now live: https://app.galabid.com/christmas-2025/items

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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!

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

Thursday 4th December	PTA Wreath Making (7.30pm)	Whole School Community
Friday 5th December	Last Celebration Assembly of term **(includes performance from after school dance club)**	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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