



ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

BURGHCLERE - EASTER 2022

CELEBRATING
30 YEARS
1992 - 2022

Dear Parents and Friends,

For the first time in two years we have had a complete second term at school: no lockdowns and no closures. It is an immense relief to look forward to completing a normal school year, free of the disruptions that have caused so much harm in many ways. For pupils in year 9, this is the first full academic year of their secondary education! The physical challenge was apparent during the last few weeks of term.

School life continues apace and keeps priests, staff and pupils very busy. We will save a full newsletter for the month of July, which is only two months away. Holy Week duties (as I write) and the summer term already in progress (by the time this letter is published) mean that I only have time to pen a short letter.

Since Christmas, we have received several visits from young families in search of a good Catholic school for their children. The difficulties usually lie not in the choice of school but in the logistical challenges of relocating to the area. There is no doubt that such decisions require tremendous confidence in Divine Providence. Local accommodation is expensive and although the school will never turn away any family for financial reasons, family budgets are stretched further by the commitment to private schooling.

We must never forget, however, that our heavenly Father can only ever bless the efforts of parents who truly desire a Catholic education for their children. Those children are first His children, and He desires that they learn and mature in an environment conducive to the healthy development of their baptismal vocation.

The famous St Patrick's Breastplate prayer sums up well the essence of a Catholic school: *Christ with me, Christ before*

me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

These words describe that which makes a Traditional Catholic school unique and precious, different from all

others: we consider Christ as the Alpha and Omega, the principle and the end or purpose of all that we do.

St Michael's is, therefore, a natural environment for a baptised soul. In fact, it is the only right place for a child of Christ because it is one where He is recognised, venerated and loved, however imperfectly.

A wise person once said that the peer group counts for the largest educational influence in childhood. One can go to the best school, one can be blessed with the best family but the peer group often exercises a lasting influence on a child, especially during adolescence.

On the feast of Candlemas, as we processed with lighted candles singing hymns of praise to Our Lady, the truth of the above statement was very clear. Here, all the pupils know and venerate Our Lady. The children live in an enclosed world which is truly Catholic and where their peers share in the same convictions and world vision. It will be the only time in their lives when they experience a fully Christian society. A good Catholic school is the kingdom of heaven on earth, in full flower! What an experience for young and innocent souls as they prepare for life in a world without God!

Please continue to pray that we be faithful to our Catholic mandate and give the best we can to our children. **This year we celebrate our 30th birthday.** More on this in July's newsletter! Three decades leaves St Michael's deeply grateful. We are indebted to all our benefactors, for whom we pray everyday and without whom St Michael's would not exist. Please continue to help us.

On a more academic note, our pupils continue to be spoiled with the time and attention that their teachers lavish upon them. The time lost during the past two years has been caught up and pupils are working well. Two of our senior boys qualified for the second round of the UK Maths Trust Challenge, with Nicholas McInnes and Basil Seeber finishing in the top 8%, and Francesco Debiasi in the top 26%. The senior pupils also took part in the national Poetry by Heart competition. I was very impressed with their efforts and achievements. The winning recitals have been sent off to the central office to be compared with participants all over the country. Events like these help pupils discover the sense of exhilaration and freedom that accompanies poetry's ebb and flow and poise: a ballet in words.

The priests, teachers and pupils wish you all a blessed Eastertide.

Fr John Brucciani, Headmaster



Pupil Commendation

St. Michael's School
Harts Lane, Burghclere, Hampshire RG20 9JW

S S P X Society of Saint Pius X

Merit/Demerit Report for Spring Term 2021-22

Merits: 68

Date of Birth:
Demerits: 9

Type	Teacher	Date	Comment
Evening Merit	Fr. TO'Hart	11th January 2022	Great in band
Evening Merit	Jonathon Steele	14th January 2022	Tidy cubicle
Academic Merit	Jayne Roch	14th January 2022	Excellent work in Science today.
Academic Demerit	Fr. TO'Hart	14th January 2022	Missing sports socks for PE
Academic Merit	Jayne Roch	17th January 2022	Pleasing Geography work on 'Local Ecosystems'.
Academic Merit	Jayne Roch	20th January 2022	Very good equation work in Science.
Evening Demerit	Philip Kane	22nd January 2022	Didn't turn up for serving
Evening Demerit	Br. Dominic	22nd January 2022	Openly talking disrespectfully to one of the Brothers.
Evening Merit	Fr. TO'Hart	22nd January 2022	Helping brother with the compost - Volunteered
Evening Demerit	Fr. TO'Hart	7th February 2022	Late for morning prayers
Academic Merit	Jayne Roch	7th February 2022	Geography longer answer at, or above, target grade.
Academic Merit	Jayne Roch	7th February 2022	Geography longer answer at, or above, challenge grade.
Academic Merit	Miss Jacinta Murphy	8th February 2022	Good answer

Each term, in addition to the school report, parents receive a behaviour report that sums up the good or not so good behaviour of their child during the school term. This gives them a valuable insight into how pupils respond to the school's expectation of academic effort, good behaviour and service.



Merits may never be requested in return for service. Any requests are rewarded with a demerit!

Congratulations to Year 7 pupils **Amelia, Miriam and Benedict** who have gained the **Gold Merit Award** for 150 merits. The Award includes a £5 book token. If our merry three attain 200 merits before the year end, they will win full school colours for exemplary conduct.

A **Silver Merit Award** (90 merits) goes to:

- ◆ Thomas, Joseph, Leon - Year 7
- ◆ Luke, Dominic, Xavier, Nicholas - Year 8
- ◆ Andrew, Ralph, Jude - Year 9

During the month of January Years 9 and 10 had a school trip to the Roman Baths. First we had a workshop activity where we discovered Latin inscriptions on tombstones. We could figure out to whom the tombstones belonged, what their occupations were, and how old they were when they died, which was very interesting. Secondly we looked at authentic artefacts that belonged to different rooms in the Baths such as the Atrium (entrance room), caldarium (hot room), tepidarium (warm room), and frigidarium (cold room). The artefacts included Roman coins and a strygl (used for scraping off dead skin). The Roman Baths were built between 60 and 70 AD. After the workshop we toured the baths independently. The architecture was very old and inspiring and it was interesting to see the natural hot spring that came out of the ground. The Roman Baths were built around this spring. The water was 35 degrees celsius.



This spring term STEM Club focused on a Crest Discovery Award around Artificial Intelligence. Everyone learnt about the principles of Artificial Intelligence and then, in groups, planned an application using AI that could be used in the home. All participants gained a Crest Discovery Award. Jude Rexworthy, Marcus Sherry, Francesco Debiasi, Dominic Pearce and Nicholas Martinez formed the group whose application and presentation was judged to be the best.

Easter Term STEM CLUB

Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths

In the second half term pupils worked in pairs to build a motor-powered model vehicle. They then evaluated this and built a second modified vehicle. Winners of the fastest vehicle were Marcus Sherry and Benedict Rexworthy, whose car covered 10 metres in 7.04seconds. The Constructors Championship went to Andrew Millar and Leon Galas.



THE PRIMARY SCHOOL has been blessed to have another full term of life, learning and laughter.

The first half of term followed our routine of English, maths and science in the mornings and RE, history, geography, art, music and PE in the afternoons.

Just before the half term holiday, we welcomed parents and families into school, as the children gave a 'Spring concert' to showcase their learning. We were treated to poetry, recorders, a Victorian drama and Scottish dancing.

World Book Day was celebrated with the children dressing up as book characters.

In art, printing was the theme. We were lucky enough to have a visit from Gregory Millar, an artist who specialises in linocut printing. He demonstrated his technique and gave the children an opportunity to make their own print. The children learned a lot and were inspired to develop their art.

After half term, we chose to support the charity, **Mary's Meals**. This was to teach the children to think of others and to highlight their own blessings. The children rose to the challenge of fundraising and with the help of parents organised a bake sale. Altogether, between the bake sale and donations, we raised more than £400, a staggering amount from such a small primary school.

Another highlight of the term was design technology. Each class had a project. The infants had to design a well with a pulley to rescue pussy, based on the rhyme, "Ding, dong bell, pussy's in the well!" Linking their history and maths measurement, Junior 1 made a wooden framed sarcophagus for an Egyptian mummy. Junior 2 designed and made a moving toy using a cam mechanism. They were challenged to problem solve to make it work as smoothly as possible. Congratulations to the winners, Laurie, Florence and Helena T.

This term we started 'The Lunchtime Letters Club' which was met with enthusiasm. Chess club and the School Council also take place at lunch break.

Other favourite events were the class trips. Infants had a beautiful sunny day at Marwell Zoo, learning about different animal groups and seeing African animals that they had learnt about as part of their project on Kenya.

Junior 1 visited the Egyptian galleries at the Ashmolean Museum to enhance their history and to find designs for their DT. As part of their history topic, Junior 2 visited Milestones Museum dressed as Victorians.



The Lunchtime Letters Club

- ✓ to spread cheerfulness,
- ✓ to encourage the art of letter writing
- ✓ to think of others

If you would like the club to write to you,
please send your address to
awebb@sanctusmichael.com





The most important news item of this spring term is commencement of the building phase of the future church of St Michael Archangel.

The construction site has been set up and earthworks will begin during the first week of May. If all goes well, the church will be ready for use by September 2023.

The pictures give you an idea of the change that awaits us. This church will serve the needs of the school but also allows for the continued development of the parish that has grown up around St Michael's. Larger facilities situated outside the school perimeter (for safeguarding reasons) are desperately needed. We have spent many hours fine-tuning the interior design, which has yet to be completed, but the pictures give a general idea of how the interior will look.



St Michael Archangel
CHURCH PROJECT
BURGHCLERE



For more information:
www.stmichaelarchangel.co.uk

PLEASE SUPPORT
BROTHER DOMINIC RAISE FUNDS FOR A NEW GYM FLOOR FOR ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL, BURGHCLERE



PLEDGE OR DONATE
<https://gofund.me/cf8a5caf>

SALISBURY PLAIN HALF MARATHON
SATURDAY 11 JUNE 2022
ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
HEADMASTER FR JOHN BRUCCIANI
headmaster@sanctusmichael.com

Art Design by Andrew Millar Yr9



We celebrate this year our Pearl Anniversary! Our July newsletter will retrace the salient parts of what has been a long adventure story! Over 500 pupils! Brother Dominic is running a sponsored half-marathon to help raise funds for a new gym floor. Two projects (church and gym) to mark three decades of dedication from so many. Through trial and success, God has blessed us with a wonderful school!



SAINT MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

Harts Lane, Burghclere, Newbury, RG20 9JW, U.K.

01635 278137 headmaster@sanctusmichael.com

Name : Tel :

Address : City:

Post Code : Email :

I would like to make a donation of £50 £150 £.....

£100 £200



I would like to set up a monthly Standing Order

Gift Amount £10 £15 £20 £30 £40 £.....

Pass on to your Bank or Building Society this instruction:

Please pay Royal Bank of Scotland, Newbury Branch, 20 Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5BD on the day of each month until further notice.

Sort Code 16-26-18 Acc. Number: 10191323 for the credit of St. Michael's School.



Boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

I want to Gift Aid the following donations to the Society of St Pius X (please tick the correct boxes)

- this donation
- all donations for the 2017-18 tax year
- all donations for the 2018-19 tax year
- all donations for the 2019-20 tax year
- all donations for the 2020-21 tax year
- all donations from 6th April 2021 until further notice

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature Date:

Please notify us if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

God bless you for your kindness! Return form to address above. Questions? Call us at 01635 278137.

HOLY MASS OFFERED FOR ALL OUR BENEFACTORS ON THE 1ST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH.



Some of our larger expenses:

Council Tax and Waste	£20342.00
Electricity	£13020.00
Gas and Fuel	£12141.00
Water	£10649.00
Repairs and Renewal	£27179.00

Here is a snap shot of our financial challenge. Many of our families receive substantial bursaries in order to be able to give their children a Catholic education. Operation Philomena is therefore essential, with the shortfall supplied by the District House.

Standing orders, however small, provide the surest means of helping the school since they guarantee regular aid.

To date, 111 donors have set up recurring donations ranging from £5 - £200/month.

Please consider setting up a monthly standing order. More importantly, please PRAY to St Philomena, who has never failed to work miracles. She is our celestial accountant!

Some urgently needed equipment:

Chromebook Computers	£160 (x12)
Dorm Blackout Blinds	£600.00
Network Security	£3500 approx
Classroom Floor (x2)	£400.00



Beaten and buffeted by the weather, the South facing walls of St Raphael's House are in need of repair and protection. This will solve the damp and mould problems on the inside walls. Project expense:

- Install scaffolding
- Remove old render so that building can breath
- Protect windows and doors
- Install new, breathable, white-coloured render (no maintenance)

£26 000 (materials and labour)

WHITE HOUSE - SOUTH FACE RENDERING