



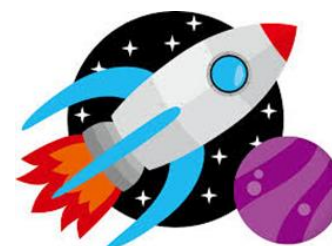
Dear Parents and Carers,



Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting the Royal British Legion poppy appeal. The children love the wrist bands, snap bands and reflective poppies, leading to a collection box that is too heavy for our Year 2 helpers to carry! I will let families know the total amount raised.

Planetarium visit

When the children arrived on Wednesday morning the planetarium dome was already inflated, issuing mysterious music. It was a treat to step through the door into the darkness and learn about our solar system, distant galaxies and about some of the Apollo missions. We believe strongly that the exciting experiences we plan each half term play a big part in children's enthusiasm to talk about their learning and to ask questions to learn more.



We need to cover the cost of these events if they are to continue. If you have not yet done so, we would be very pleased to receive via parent pay the £3 per child contribution. Thank you for your support.

Children in Need



Friday 18th November is the BBC Children in Need appeal. To keep things really simple this year we would like to make Friday a Non-uniform day and invite children (and staff) to wear something spotty or stripy for Children in Need if they wish. There will be spotty containers in each classroom for children to make donations. We realise that Foundation Stage and Yr2 will be in active wear as they have scheduled outdoor PE lessons on Fridays, but as long as clothing is suitable for an activity session, it can be non-uniform and could include something with spots or stripes.

Year 2 children will count the money for us so that we can announce a total in our Friday celebration assembly. Thank you for your support.

Christmas

Staff in school as well as the GIPA committee have all been working hard with our plans for Christmas events. We will compile this information into one Christmas email, which will be sent out on Thursday 17th November. We will start teaching the children some of the songs for our performance on Thursday but work on our whole school presentation will not begin until Monday 28th November.

Midday assistant role

A vacancy has arisen for a midday assistant to start in December or January. The post is for 7.5 hours a week, 11:45am -1:15pm daily, and involves setting up and clearing the hall, helping children with their cooked or packed lunch, supervising children in the playground and administering first aid. There will be the opportunity to shadow experienced members of our midday team and first aid training will be arranged. Please speak to me on the playground if you are interested in the role, or find the details on the Essex jobs website from Monday afternoon. <http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Search.aspx>

Simon Spider Stars of the week:

Rabbits: Emily W and Emily-Rose
Squirrels: Amelie and Jacob
Hedgehogs: Beau and Charlie
Owls: Ada and Toby

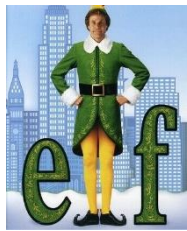


I take pride in my work and make it the best it can be!

We have some Try Hard Trevor stars to catch up with from 4th Nov, and it's Bella Bee next week!

GIPA events

We have been thrilled with the response to our Smartie tube challenge, presenting 95 certificates to children for returning their tubes of coins. Counting will begin on Monday and the total announced very soon - it is not



too late to pop your Smartie tube into the office. Thank you to all our families!

Next Friday is our second cushion club. Please join us if you can to start feeling Christmassy by watching the classic film Elf, Friday 18th November from 5:30-7pm in the hall.

School Applications

Applications opened on Monday 7th November for September 2023 school places both in Foundation Stage and in Year 3. If you know of someone with a child born between 1st Sept 2018 and 31st August 2019 please remind them to make the application before 15th January 2023, or talk to one of us in school. We are holding our second Open Morning for prospective parents on Tuesday 15th November from 9:30-11am and there are 3 more school tours available, Thur 17th Nov from 11-12, Monday 21st Nov from 11-12 and Wed 30th Nov from 9:15-10:15. The tours have a maximum of 6 people, so please book via the school office.

Parents with a child in Yr2 need to apply online for their place at St Michael's. We are very happy to help you with this process if you do not have access to the internet or get stuck with the online form.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions-to-essex-schools-for-the-next-school-year>

Flu immunisation letters

Information about the flu immunisation programme was sent to you by email on Friday 4th November and parental consent needs to be completed on-line by 3pm on Monday 21st November at the latest. If you need us to re-send you the on-line link, require a paper copy or have any general questions at all, please speak to a member of the office team who will be happy to help you.

If you do not wish for your child to have the flu vaccination (nasal spray) you do not need to do anything.