



WEEK BEGINNING 13TH JANUARY

Events this week:

Wednesday 15 th	Swimming begins for Y5
Thursday 16 th	Spring Census
	Year 5/6 Athletics

Looking forwards: (dates/times may be subject to change)

Thursday 23 rd January	Anxiety workshop #1
Tuesday 28 th January	Year 5 to Ranelagh for a concert
Thursday 30 th January	Anxiety workshop #2
	Year 3 Family Learning SPAG
Thursday 6 th February	Anxiety workshop #3
Tuesday 11 th February	Year 4 Ufton Court trip
Wednesday 12 th February	Parents evening
Thursday 13 th February	Parents evening
Monday 17 th to Friday 21 st February	HALF TERM WEEK

Don't forget you can see key events on the school website Calendar page

<https://www.stmichaelsesthampstead.com/diary/grid/2024/10/>

Calling All Artists! 🎨✦

Are you a budding artist with creative talent? Whether you're a painter, sculptor, digital artist, or work in any other medium, we want to hear from you!

In the New Year, we will be hosting an exciting art project across the school, and we're looking for artists of all kinds to get involved. You can contribute by:

- Running a workshop for students
- Showcasing your artwork
- Offering advice and guidance to aspiring artists

If you think you can help or would like to be a part of this exciting opportunity, please get in touch! Send a brief description of what you can offer to secretary@stmicheast.co.uk.

We can't wait to see what you'll bring to our creative community!

Message from Mrs Johnson:

Welcome back. After 4 days of this new term, it's like we have never been away!

Revd Morley visited us on our first day back to bless our school with a traditional Epiphany blessing. Each door has been marked with 20 + C + M + B +25 representing the year and either Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar (the 3 wise men) OR a Latin phrase asking for blessings on the house. The children shared their new year prayers with each other, and these will be added to our prayer tree.

We have started the year with 2 Family Learning Sessions, for y1 and y5, both of which have been well attended, and I think, useful for helping to build a shared understanding of the types of learning your children encounter. Thank you to Mr Riordan and Mrs Couchman for organising these events.

Our extra-curricular clubs will begin next week, and it is great to see such a range on offer. A big shout-out to staff who give up their time to run these clubs in their own time: truly going Above and Beyond!

We welcome a new staff member to year 6; Mr Tom Johnson will be supporting Mrs Gonzalez in year 6 as a Teaching Assistant each morning. Mr Johnson accompanied the children on their recent residential trip and has been volunteering in the school over the past term. We wish him well.

Best wishes
Caroline Johnson

Relaunch of the Squid Game

You may be aware that the Squid Game has had a relaunch recently, please be advised that this is not appropriate viewing for primary aged children. Last time this was popular we had incidents of children playing scenes from the series in the playground. It is possible for children to access games linked to the series from within Roblox, including The Fish Game. Please, be vigilant when your children are gaming or viewing online to prevent them accessing harmful material of any kind.

Cold weather

With temperatures of -4 degrees this week it has been worrying to see children arrive without appropriate clothing. The children are expected to go outside at lunch and breaktimes and will need layers to keep them warm. If you need support with providing coats, jumpers or appropriate footwear, please do contact Mrs Johnson in to discuss this in confidence. We may be able to help.

Name Everything!

Please, please make sure that you name everything that comes into school. With additional hats, gloves, scarves etc there is a lot for children to keep track of. If items are named, then we can return them to your child, if not, they end up in the clothing recycling bins. Our lost property boxes are already overflowing. This also applies to water bottles, lunch boxes, PE bags etc. We will simply throw these away if they are not named.

Clothes Bank

Please see a message from the Bracknell Community Clothesbank:

Hello,

We will be holding our Winter Clothes Bank Giveaway on **Tuesday 28th January 2025 from 10.15am to 1pm at St Mark's Church, Popeswood Road, Binfield, RG42 4AH.**

Donations of seasonal adult and children's clothing & footwear, of all sizes, will be sorted by a team of volunteers to ensure the clothes are of a good quality and the volunteers distributing the clothing at the Giveaway will work from a set list of garments per client to ensure that it is distributed fairly.

Transport

A free minibus shuttle (courtesy of Newbold College) will be operating between Bracknell train station and St. Mark's Church and the minibus will leave from the train station at 10am, 10.30am, 11am, 11.30am and 12pm.

If you wish to use this service, please contact the school office so that we can organise a voucher for you.

Secretary@stmicheast.co.uk



Head Teacher Award Winners

- | | | |
|--------|---|---|
| Acorns | - | Dylan – for being a great friend and listening carefully during our craft lesson |
| Year 1 | - | Freya – for always following the schools expectations |
| Year 2 | - | Harry – for aiming high and really succeeding in our Jungle Spellings lesson this week |
| Year 3 | - | Freddie – for aiming high in his learning and for his contributions to class discussions |
| Year 4 | - | Harper – for his amazing communication skills with adults this week, Well done! And Abraham – for his great RE knowledge this week. |
| Year 5 | - | Robert – for showing aspiration and engagement in lessons by sharing ideas and asking questions, especially in science. |
| Year 6 | - | Alex – for aiming high in lessons and confidently justifying his opinions |



St Michael's Easthampstead C of E (Aided) Primary School

Crowthorne Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 7EH

Telephone: (01344) 420878

Website: www.stmichaelseasthampstead.com

Email: secretary@stmicheast.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs C Johnson
BA(Hons), NPQH

Dear Parents/Carers,

Spring Term Clubs – Starting Monday 13th January

Please find below, details of the clubs running this term. As last term, there will be a small charge for all school run clubs of £2.00 per session with payment up front. A link will be sent to you to access your account once places have been confirmed.

These clubs are teacher led and may be subject to change or cancelled if the member of staff has to attend training or a meeting at the same time the club would normally run. Clubs do occasionally have to be cancelled at short notice so please ensure that you are able to collect your child at the end of the normal school day if their club has to be cancelled for any reason.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL REQUESTS MUST BE BY EMAIL to secretary@stmicheast.co.uk. Please note that the clubs must be requested. Art is for the current existing members until half term.

Day	Time	Club	Year Group	Location	Staff	Max.
Monday	15:25 – 16:25	Science Club	Years 1-6	Y2 Classroom	Mrs Richardson	12
Monday	15:25 – 16:20	Tag Rugby	Years 3 & 4	Playground/Field	Miss Johnson	10
Tuesday	12:40 – 13:10	Choir	Years 3-6	Y5 Classroom	Mrs Cary & Mr Crowther	20
Wednesday	12:30 – 13:00	Blue Peter Club	Years 1–6	Y2 Classroom	Mrs Richardson	Sign up sheet on Y2 class door
Wednesday	15:25 – 16:15	Art Club	Years 3-6	Y1 Classroom	Mrs Hamman	Existing members only
Wednesday	15:25 – 16:15	Dungeon & Dragons and other board games	Years 5 & 6	The Den	Ms Lavelle	8
Wednesday	15:25 – 16:20	Tag Rugby	Years 5 & 6	Playground/Field	Miss Johnson	10
Wednesday	15:25 – 16:15	Dance	Years 3-6	Hall	Miss Fordham	10
Thursday	08:10 - 08:40	Yoga	Years 3-6	The Den	Ms Purser	8
Friday	15:25 – 16:15	Performing Arts	Years 3–6	Hall	Mr Turner & Mrs Fordham	12

"Go above and beyond with love."

These clubs are offered through outside agencies and **MUST BE** booked directly through them.

Monday	15.30 - 16.25	Basketball	KS2	Playground	Prestige Sports
Tuesday	15.30 - 16.25	Multi Sports	KS2	Playground	Prestige Sports
Wednesday	15.30 - 16.25	Girls Football	KS2	Playground/field	Prestige Sports
Thursday	15.30 - 16.25	Boys Football (Team only)	KS2	Playground/field	Prestige Sports
Monday	15.30 -16.30	Karate	Years 1-6	Hall	BCK

FOR PRESTIGE CLUBS BOOK VIA <https://www.prestigesportscoaching.com/services-4>

FOR KARATE BOOK VIA

<https://club.spond.com/landing/courses/blockandcounterk>

If your child is taking part in any lunchtime club, it would be advisable to bring a packed lunch on that day. Please note that the school will not be taking part in the Young Voices event this year due to the expense to parents.

In the event of any clubs being oversubscribed the participants will be selected via a 'first come first served' basis to ensure fairness and a waiting list held.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child is collected on time at the end of an afternoon club so please note the finish times. Attendance at clubs is subject to children behaving both at clubs and during lessons.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Johnson
~~Headteacher~~

"Go above and beyond with love."

Social Media Influencers

What is an Influencer?

An influencer is somebody on a social media platform such as YouTube and Instagram, who have a high number of followers. Influencers share their opinions/ideas and may be paid to advertise/promote products through their account.

What should I be concerned about?

Whilst there are some great influencers, there are some that choose to share content that is for example, misogynistic, racist or misleading. These opinions can be expressed or interpreted as fact, so it is important to talk to your child and encourage them to fact check and critically analyse what they see and hear online.

What we see on social media

What we see is influenced by algorithms, which predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with. Whilst there are benefits of algorithms, it can mean that once we start looking at certain content, our social media feed can become more aligned with that opinion, creating an echo chamber and therefore we do not see a balanced picture. Find out more here: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/algorithms/>

What can I do to help my child?

Talk to your child about social media and who they follow. If there is anybody that you are unsure of, then check their feed and discuss with your child if you find anything worrying.

Further information

<https://swgfl.org.uk/topics/social-media/>

Fortnite Battle Royale

Fortnite Battle Royale is rated PEGI 12 due to moderate violence, meaning it is not suitable for children under the age of 12.

What is Fortnite?

There are different versions of Fortnite, including Fortnite Battle Royale, which is free to play (although it contains in-app purchases). In Battle Royale, up to one hundred players compete against each other until one winner remains.

What do I need to be aware of?

- **Chatting and inappropriate language:** Fortnite includes voice and text chat, which may mean your child encounters strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure your child knows how to report/block any players that make them feel uncomfortable.
- **In app purchases:** Players can purchase V-Bucks so make sure you restrict purchases and do not store your card details.

Parental Controls

Fortnite provides several parental controls in your child's Epic account to help you create a safer environment for your child. The controls allow you to:

- disable voice chat
- filter language
- manage which experiences your child can access based on their age
- set a PIN to add friends
- set a PIN for purchases
- set time limits
- set appropriate privacy settings.

Also, remember to set up age-appropriate parental controls on the device your child is playing on.

Reporting/Blocking Features

As always, ensure your child knows how to use the reporting and blocking features and that they know they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

You can find out more here:

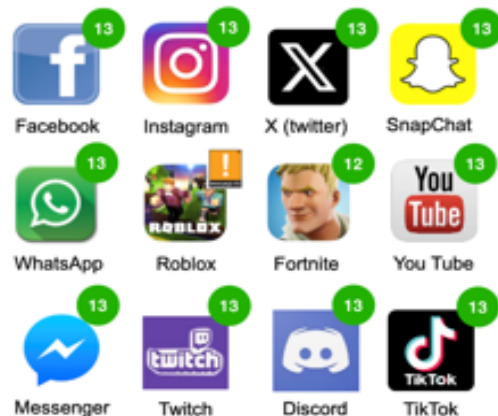
- <https://safety.epicgames.com/en-US/parental-controls>
- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/fortnite>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.
Current as of the date released 01.01.25.



Get to know age ratings

Age ratings exist to help protect your child, so we thought we'd provide you with a little reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are accessing.



Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online or using social media – make sure you check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough. In addition, the likes of PEGI (Pan European Game Information) provide further content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might view e.g. violence or bad language.

What else should I review?

It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, it is also important to review the content yourself. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access and if it would be beneficial to apply further parental controls. For example, does it include the ability to communicate with others and are in game/app purchases available?

What else can I do?

- Explain the importance of age ratings to your child and how they protect them.
- Go online together to see what your child is accessing.
- Set up parental controls on your broadband, devices and on any individual apps that your child is using. This will reduce the chances of them accessing or viewing anything unsuitable.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and as always, remind your child that if anything is worrying them then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Further information

You can find out more here:

<https://eegamesmart.co.uk/articles/how-age-ratings-help-families/>

Smartphone Free Childhood



Smartphone Free Childhood is a parent-led movement whose mission is to protect children from the dangers of using smartphones too young.

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age. Are you ready to join? Find out more here:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk>

Digital differences between men and women revealed

Ofcom have released their annual report into our daily habits. The findings show that women and teenage girls are more worried about online harms. You can read the full report here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/media-use-and-attitudes/online-habits/digital-differences-between-men-and-women-revealed/>

X (Twitter) Checklist

You should be at least 13 years of age to have a Twitter account. The SWGfL have created a free Privacy and Security checklist for you to download. The resource is available here:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/introducing-the-x-checklist-keeping-your-profile-under-control/>



TICKETS FOR SCHOOLS

TSI WORLD ARE DELIGHTED TO CONTINUE OUR INITIATIVE FOR OUR I.T. SERVICED SCHOOLS!

AS TITLE SPONSORS OF THE TSI WORLD BERKSHIRE BEES ICE HOCKEY CLUB, WE HAVE SECURED UP TO 50 FREE TICKETS AND FURTHER DISCOUNTED TICKETS TO A NUMBER OF MATCHES THIS JANUARY WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOL STAFF, PUPILS AND PARENTS TO CLAIM NOW

			
BEES VS KNIGHTS 05.01.25 18:00	BEES VS LIGHTNING 12.01.25 18:00	BEES VS TIGERS 18.01.22 18:30	BEES VS PITBULLS 24.01.25 19:30
TICKET REQUEST DEADLINE 02.01.25 23:59	TICKET REQUEST DEADLINE 09.01.25 23:59	TICKET REQUEST DEADLINE 15.01.25 23:59	TICKET REQUEST DEADLINE 21.01.25 23:59

DISCOUNTED TICKETS - ADULTS £10, JUNIORS £5, CHILDREN FREE (MAXIMUM OF 2 CHILDREN'S TICKETS PER ADULT)

TO CLAIM, SIMPLY EMAIL [TICKETS@BEESICEHOCKEY.COM](mailto:tickets@beesicehockey.com) WITH THE SUBJECT 'TICKETS FOR SCHOOLS'.
YOUR EMAIL MUST INCLUDE WHICH GAME YOU WISH TO ATTEND (ONLY ONE REQUEST PER EMAIL ADDRESS)
ALONG WITH THE NUMBER OF TICKETS YOU WOULD LIKE TO CLAIM (MAXIMUM OF 4 TICKETS).
YOUR REQUEST MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CLUB BEFORE THE 'TICKET REQUEST DEADLINE' LISTED ABOVE FOR YOUR REQUESTED GAME.
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE A RESERVATION FOR THEIR FREE TICKETS VIA EMAIL WITHIN 48 HOURS
OF THE 'TICKET REQUEST DEADLINE' PASSING FOR THEIR CHOSEN GAME.
RESERVATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE GAME OR THE SEATS WILL BE RELEASED
FOR GENERAL SALE. A RESERVATION MUST BE COMPLETED TO RECEIVE YOUR E-TICKETS FOR THE GAME!



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