



Stoke St. Michael County Primary School & Pre School  
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LOTTERY FUNDED



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Headteacher:

Mr Stephen Heath

28 September 2018

Dear Parent /Carer,

Dates for the diary!

Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am	Children's Colour Run at Stoke St Michael Playing Field
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> September at 11am	Up, Down and Around Fun Run at the Knatchbull Arms
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> September at 1pm – 5pm	Disney themed Scarecrow Trail followed by Music in the Knatchbull Arms – organised by the PTA and Stoke St Michael Community Events Group. Pick up your trail map from the PTA stall at the Knatchbull Arms car park.
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October at 2.15pm	Maths INSPIRE afternoon for parents
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October at 2pm	PTA - AGM – All Welcome!
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am	Harvest Assembly – Parents welcome!
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> October (10am – 1.30pm)	Celebrating World Space Week at Wells Library
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> October at 4pm	Harvest Service at the Church
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 6pm – 8pm	Halloween Disco
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October (10am – 2.30pm)	Carymoor Cosy Creatures Family Learning Day
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> November at 11am	Flu Immunisations – Reception – Year 5
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Pantomime - Croscombe will be joining us at Stoke St Michael School to watch Snow White

Macmillan Coffee Morning Event

A very big thank you to everyone came along to support our Macmillan Coffee Morning event and to everyone who kindly donated cakes. We raised £55.60 for this wonderful cause.

## Maths INSPIRE Afternoon

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October we would like to invite you to join us from 2.15pm onwards to be taught by your children how they approach and learn about Place Value in Maths. We are now connected with a Maths for Mastery Research Group (TRG) and one of our agreed objectives across the federation this year is to increase the amount of time that children spend with concrete apparatus across the school throughout all age groups and use this to represent mathematical stories. The children will be set up all around the school with concrete and place value activities ready to explain to you how they can use it. Please make sure you ask them lots of questions 😊

## Your PTA needs you! – Come along to the AGM

Stoke St Michael School has an active PTA who organise various events throughout the year to fundraise for the school. **All parents and carers** at the school are **automatically** members of the PTA and for new parents it's a great way to get to know the school and other parents. The PTA is holding their annual general meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and they would really like to see as many parents as possible come along and share their ideas and possibly their time to support our school and help raise valuable funds to benefit our children's education and wellbeing.

The PTA meets informally either at school or at someone's house for a coffee and a chat about any fundraising ideas or upcoming events. Or occasionally the pub! If you feel you would like to help out in any way please contact a member of the PTA or enquire at the school office. The money they raise from these events is absolutely crucial for the school and helps enhance the children's education and makes the school an even better place to learn and have fun.

They say: ***"It is a wonderful feeling to be able to contribute to the school and to see the children directly benefiting from the money we raise, as well as enjoying the events that we hold."***

***"We welcome any new suggestions and look forward to hearing some fresh ideas and to meeting new people."***



Stoke St Michael PTA (Send us a friend request!)

## Creative Aquatics

I would like to share with you some more information regarding our swimming and sports afternoons that the children have enjoyed every Wednesday afternoon so far. We are so lucky that our children are benefitting from this approach Here is a little background behind 'Creative Aquatics'.

## **Welcome to CREATIVE AQUATIC**

Creative Aquatic is an organisation that was established in early 2012 by multi award winning swimming teacher and coach Simone Benhayon. With over 15 years of teaching experience, Simone has embarked upon a path of changing the face of swimming to enhance the experience of swimming for both **learners** and **experienced swimmers**. Simone Benhayon has been teaching swimming in various countries around the world as well as establishing her own business and Swim School in the United Kingdom (Somerset) - Creative Aquatic. Creative Aquatic has been awarded Swim School of the Year in the UK.

Creative Aquatic's ethos being 'Fun Swim Fun' means that swimming is first and foremost about fun in the water, which then develops into safety and a love that will then transfer through to each individual's life. Each child is taught the fundamentals of swimming and water safety through innovative ways and focuses on relationship building with each pupil throughout the lessons, resulting in extraordinary outcomes in short periods of time. The approach encourages children to develop an open affinity with and for the water rather than 'swimming' being a fear-based survival activity.

In addition, Simone and the swimming teachers are **internationally unique** in their teaching style and method with regard to **breathing techniques, rhythms and patterns** that lead to a complete revelation and understanding of true movement in water. This is the beginning of a snapshot of the depth of wisdom, dedication, passion and enthusiasm creative aquatics has for supporting the growth of your children within the medium known as swimming.

### What I have witnessed at Creative Aquatics:

This Wednesday I had the utter pleasure of seeing children who have been incredibly unhappy in water in the past smile and show enjoyment of the water through careful differentiation and nurturing. The teachers, our staff and parent helpers were in the pool alongside them smiling, encouraging and enjoying their successes with them. The Creative Aquatic pool is 15 metres long by 5 metres wide and is consistently kept at 33-34 degrees to support a relaxing and enjoyable environment.

At the other end of the scale I witnessed incredibly confident swimmers being taught to reflect on their own technique and witnessed the beginning of improvements in style. The children were taught to slow down and concentrate on their rhythm and pattern, as technique, is key to developing long term strength and ability. Each group had at least a 30 minute lesson (well done to the staff for improving this with concise timings!) and an additional activity where by, this week, they walked around the beautiful lake to learn about water safety outside. Dance lessons with Jess who has a degree in Sports Science and Dance will resume next week in the dance studio next to the pool. Please do take a look at their website or take a visit and have a warm swim yourselves. Many thanks to all of you for supporting this and making sure your payments are in on time. ☺

### Harvest Assembly

We will be holding our Harvest Assembly at 9.30am on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Please join us and listen to the children sing songs and recite poems as we celebrate Harvest Festival and give thanks for the food we receive. We ask that the children each bring a donation of food produce which will be auctioned after the Harvest Supper which takes place at the village hall at 5pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October following the Harvest Service at the Church at 4pm. Everyone Welcome!

### Halloween Disco

The PTA has been busy organising the Halloween Disco! Please join us on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October for a night of Dancing and 'spooktacular' fun and games from 6pm – 8pm. More details to follow shortly. Watch this space!

### Rainbow Reading

We are so pleased with the response from the children and parents to our **Rainbow Reading** challenge. Many thanks for your encouragement and support at home with this.

**ALL** of our children here have achieved rainbow ticks.

For clarification and fairness I would like to print the original rules again below and add further explanation to the section that begins: Every time your child/children read out loud to an adult at home - This must be the reading book set by their teacher or at least agreed on between parent, teacher and child. It must be a quality read of at least ten minutes reading out loud to an adult with deep discussion about what is happening in the text. If this happens before breakfast and in the evening that is absolutely fine – we don't want to discourage the children from doing extra! You can gain up to 2 ticks a day for those days when the children just want to do more but we don't advise that you push your children to do this all of the time as the pressure could discourage them altogether. We would ideally like to see approximately five ticks a week. Some weeks there may be less and other weeks there may be many more. Please see the original plan below:

This week we have launched a '**Rainbow Reading**' challenge with the children in Acorns and Oaks class. Inside the front cover of the children's home reading record is a rainbow 100 square. Every time your child/children read out loud to an adult at home and you show this by signing and writing a comment in their home reading record, we will mark it off with our initials and then initial a square on the rainbow 100 square. The challenge is to read 100 times at home in order to receive a rainbow certificate, badge AND a rainbow treat afternoon. We will hold rainbow treat afternoons x3 times a year; one at Christmas; one at Easter and one at the end of the Summer Term. When the children complete their Rainbow 100 square they will be rewarded in our celebration assembly with a rainbow certificate; special rainbow badge to wear on their school jumper with pride and a 'rainbow ticket' to the rainbow treat afternoon, the process will then begin again. There will be a half way certificate and pencil to encourage children to persevere once they have reached 50. I wonder how many Rainbow Badges can be gained by the time the children get to Year 6! Perhaps there will be an ultimate Rainbow award 'The Pot of Gold' for when children achieve 3 or more badges. Let's wait and see! ☺

If any further clarification is needed please do not hesitate to ask and discuss this with me either before or after school in the playground.

Many thanks again for your continued support.

### Wells Library celebrating World Space Week

**Wells library** are celebrating **World Space Week** on **Saturday 6th October** they will be hosting a variety of astronomical exhibits with exciting interactive elements, such as a solar telescope, green screen and 3D printer. They have a stellar line up of very enthusiastic star-gazers who are keen to share their knowledge and their love of space. They would love for children and their families to visit the library (10am – 1.30pm) and take part in all the fun. In addition to the interactive exhibits, they are holding a competition called "**Holiday to Space**" that your children may like to enter. They would like children to create a travel brochure advertising an outer space location. Children can draw a landscape (real or imagined) from a planet/moon etc. of their choice and write a brief blurb about the location that would encourage earthlings to visit. I've attached a template that can be printed off and given to any child who would like a guideline to help them – or they are welcome to present their landscape and blurb in any way they prefer (so long as it fits on an A4 piece of paper). Children should write their name, age and a preferred method of contact on the **back** of their entry. Entries need to be received by **Wednesday 3rd October**, either handed in individually by the children or as a batch from the schools. Age groups for the competition are 6 and under, and 7-12. The prize giving ceremony will take place in the library at 12.00 noon on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October, with edible space-themed goodies!

### Celebration Assembly

On Monday afternoons at 2.45pm we will continue to hold our Celebration Assembly where we will celebrate the children's achievements from the past week and hand out certificates and prizes etc. This will encourage 'Ruby Power' in our children showing that we can all be happy and recognise others achievements. The teachers are keeping records to ensure all children are recognised for their strengths and successes at some point. We will send more information on 'Gem Powers' home next week. Parents please come along and join us.

### Carymoor Environmental Trust – Cosy Creatures Family Learning Day

Family Learning Day: Cosy Creatures! Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 10am - 2.30pm

Join us at Carymoor for a day of Autumnal outdoor fun to discover which British wild animals hibernate, why they do this and how we can help them! Help solve the mystery of the missing hedgehog, forage for autumnal fruits, make a leaf creature, build a den and lots more! For more information and to book a place visit our website:

<https://www.carymoor.org.uk/events-and-courses/family-learning-day-cosy-creatures> or e-mail [education@carymoor.org.uk](mailto:education@carymoor.org.uk) or call 01963 351350.

### Snow White – Our Christmas Pantomime

We are delighted to tell you about our Christmas Pantomime. This year we will be watching Snow White at Stoke St Michael joined by our friends at Crocombe on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December – We will update you with further details shortly.

***Please note: This means that the children will not be going on their weekly trip to Creative Aquatics on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December. If you have paid in advance for swimming and you have already paid for this date it will be carried forward to the next payment.***

Crocombe School Piano – Crocombe school piano and stool is looking for a new home. They would ideally like a donation please. Unfortunately they are unable provide transport to move it. If anyone is interested, or you know of anyone, please pop into the school office or give them a call 01749 343114.



Many thanks,

Mel Vincent  
Senior Teacher