



WELCOME to Early Years at St Michael's Nursery and Infant School

We hope you find this key information helpful. If you need to speak to a member of staff about anything at all, the end of the session is the best time. If you can wait until all the children are safely out then we will have time to talk to you properly. You can also contact us via the messaging function on Class Dojo. Please ring the school office if you have anything urgent to tell us.

Early Years Staff

Mrs. Stacey Hudson – Early Years Lead Teacher

Mrs. Katrina Cartner – Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Mrs. Catherine Reay - Teaching Assistant

Mrs. Natalie Cartner – Teaching Assistant

Mrs. Proudman – Teaching Assistant

Settling In

All children are individual and we understand that some children can take longer than others to settle or have difficulty in adjusting to the demands of full-time school. In these cases, a longer induction period may be required and would be discussed with yourself and your child's teacher.

We can discuss individual induction periods during your welcome meeting if you anticipate that your child would benefit from a phased start to school.

School Dinners

Reception children are entitled to a free school lunch. All meals are freshly cooked in our onsite kitchen. Menus are displayed each week on notice boards and on our website www.smhwkt.cumbria.sch.uk

Please note - as an alternative to a hot school lunch, your child may have a sandwich or jacket potato with various fillings. Please inform Mrs. Gregory in the office on Monday morning if you would like to change any of the menu choices for that week.

Snack money

We ask for a contribution of £1 a week towards snack. This can be paid weekly or at the start of the half term as a block payment.

Morning club

This is held each morning from 8am at a cost of £2 a day. Please note that **booking is essential**.

Clothing

Please label all clothing with your child's name.

Please do not send children to school wearing jewellery including earrings, as this prevents them from being able to take part in some activities. We prefer children not to have pierced earrings. If they are already pierced they must be removed before school as staff cannot remove them. Children will not be able to do P.E. if they have earrings in.

Please ensure appropriate footwear is worn and clothing is manageable for children to remove and dress themselves.

Please ensure all Reception children have a PE kit including a t-shirt and shorts. The kit should be left in a bag on their pegs throughout the week – trainers/pumps are not required.

Please bring clothing appropriate for the weather as we operate an outdoor curriculum everyday.

School Uniform

Uniform needs to be ordered online. You have a choice of 2 different websites.

1. Border Embroideries online

- Uniforms ordered from the website can either be sent directly to your home or to school. If you choose to have orders sent to your home address, a delivery charge will be applied.
- www.border-embroideries.co.uk
- Click on 'Schools On-line Ordering'

- Click on 'S-U'
- Click on St. Michael's Nursery & Infant School logo

2. My Clothing Uniform Service

- Go to www.myclothing.com
- Enter the school postcode CA14 2UY
- Choose quantity and sizes and add to basket
- Pay with debit or credit card at the checkout

Items should be delivered to your home within 14 days

Attendance and Pupil Premium

Attendance in Reception is compulsory and we encourage consistent attendance in Nursery. Attendance is checked regularly and we follow up any unexplained absences. We will also speak to you about persistent lateness.

Schools are no longer able to authorise any holidays during term time. In exceptional circumstances leave can be authorised by the Head Teacher. Please apply in writing beforehand.

Pupil Premium – this is money to be spent on YOUR child. Information about which children are entitled to it and how to apply for funding will be available at the 1-2-1 sessions at the start of term.

Safety and Medical Information

What if my child falls or has an accident at school?

Semi-significant accidents will be reported to parents at the end of the school day. However parents will be contacted if our trained first aiders feel that it might be advisable to get medical help/advice. If your child is taken ill at school, we will contact you or your emergency contact person, and ask for your child to be collected from school.

If your child is ill, please phone school by 9am in the morning to let us know. School have a duty to know where children are, if they are not in school. Therefore, if you do not phone us we will contact you or the named people on your contact list to find out why your child is not with us.

Please make sure your emergency contact details are up to date. You will receive a pack of forms to complete from the school office. These numbers also allow us to send you messages via our school texting service.

Tummy Bugs

If your child has a tummy bug, then he or she will need to stay home for 48 hours after the sickness/diarrhoea has stopped, as this is the recommended length of time for children of this age, to stop cross infection.

Collecting your Child from School

Please ensure that if there is going to be a different person collecting your child from school at the end of the day, you let a classroom adult know so in the morning or phone school before the end of the day. This is to prevent any safeguarding issues at home time as well as prevent confusion for us and your child.

If you need to collect your child during the school day, please collect them from the school office and sign them out.

Safeguarding is our highest priority.

A leaflet is available and will be shared with you during our 1-2-1 sessions.

Our **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** is Mrs Regan, Acting Head Teacher.

All staff who work in our school undergo safeguarding training every year.

What is the EYFS?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) covers the first stage of a child's care from birth to five years old. It sets the standards to ensure that all children learn and develop, as well as keeping them healthy and safe. It is the bases that we build our curriculum on in Nursery and Reception.

There are seven Areas of Learning included in the EYFS. They are:

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Young children learn and develop through **play and exploration**. The adults support this through guidance and teaching of skills.



All early years settings and schools will follow the new EYFS Framework from September 2021.

The aim of the changes is to improve the learning for all children and better prepare them for the move into year 1. To help make the right changes, evidence was looked at to find the best ways in which children can be supported to develop as they grow. The changes aim to give children the **best** start in life and set them up well for their future learning.

Star Moments

'Star Moments' tell us about anything of interest that you would like to share. For example, your child's favourite bedtime story, the day they went swimming for the first time or how they managed to get themselves dressed. Please remember that your child is unique. What he/she enjoys doing or achieves for the first time is personal to them and should be recognised whenever it takes place, regardless of when their friends did something similar.

Star moment cards will be sent home by the teacher. Please complete as and when and return to school as the moments arise.

'Parents are their children's first and enduring educators and understand their child better than anyone else.' (Surestart, 2007)

By sharing information about your child's interests, strengths, weaknesses and needs, you can help us to plan experiences and activities that will capture their interests and fire their imagination and enthusiasm. This helps children to make good progress in learning.

Assessment and Reporting

Assessment is daily and on-going through observation and some more formal assessments. All children have individual records.

There are also parent's meetings in Autumn and Spring Term.

We are happy to discuss progress at other times. Please ask.

Our Golden Rules

Please help us to uphold and promote our policies for positive behaviour through the use of St Michael's Golden Rules. Rewards and sanctions make a big difference to behaviour in our school and can be reinforced at home to encourage consistently good behaviour.

Our Golden Rules are:

- We always try to be honest
- We try to be kind and helpful
- We listen carefully and always work hard
- We welcome others and help them to belong
- We celebrate the fact that everyone is different
- We cooperate and try to be gentle with others
- We look after our school and property

Children are rewarded with stickers that they place on a teddy containing 10 spaces. When each teddy is full of stickers, children receive a prize in assembly on Fridays. We also choose a 'Star of the Week' for good work and a 'Ray of Sunshine' for keeping the Golden Rules.

