

St. Michael's Nursery & Infant School NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I am happy to tell you that the children have settled back into school life with ease; a huge well done to all! I cannot quite believe that we are already approaching the end of our first half term!



As Headteacher, I continue to hold the role of DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) for our school, supported by my Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs. Hudson). We are always here to listen and help.

St Michael's Nursery and Infant School places a high level of importance on the welfare, protection and safeguarding of all its pupils. There are posters around school with useful numbers to contact if you are worried or concerned about a child or a family. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Cumbria Safeguarding Hub: 0333 240 1727

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

It is extremely important that parents keep us up to date with at least two emergency contacts for their child. If you change any of your personal details- address, telephone number etc, please contact the school office as soon as possible.



Attendance and Punctuality

The current whole school attendance is 91%. Year 1 are in the lead with 96%! We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all parents for your continued support. Our Local Authority target for attendance is 95% so we are currently below that. We know there have been some nasty bugs going around and those, together with an ongoing pandemic, has made it tricky for lots of families. We appreciate how hard you are all trying to achieve excellent attendance. Thank you for helping us!

I am unable to authorise absence during term time unless there is an exceptional circumstance; in line with county policy. We ask that parents ensure their children are in school every day unless they are unwell and that holidays are **NOT** booked during the school term. Thank you.



School Governing Body

Last week, we held our first full governors' meeting of the school year. Mrs. Brown, our long standing Chair of Governors' decided that it was time to step down from her role and handed in her letter of resignation. I'm very happy to say that she will remain a 'friend of St. Michael's' and will still be a huge part of school life here with the children, despite no longer being a governor. On behalf of us all, I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs. Brown for her dedication and hard work over the years. Every single moment has been appreciated by us all.

I am excited to next announce that Mrs. P Wiczorek will take over as Chair after being successfully elected by the governing body. Mrs. Wiczorek is a huge part of school life at St. Michael's and I am certain that she will steer us well into the future. Thank you for committing to lead us.

The restructuring of the panel has now left one space open for a Parent Governor - if you can help us, please see below;

YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!!!! - Parent Governor Vacancies

Are you able to offer 2-4 evenings a term? Are you interested in helping to deliver the best possible education for local children to realise their expectations and aspirations?

Do you see yourself acting as a 'Critical Friend' to the School Senior Management Team, creating positive solutions for school improvements? In return you will have the satisfaction of knowing you are making a real difference.

You will have the opportunity to use and improve a range of highly transferable skills, work with new people and apply your knowledge and experience to benefit the local community.

No previous experience of being a School Governor is necessary – training on the role is available. For more information, please contact the school office 01900608111 or email admin@smhwkt.cumbria.sch.uk



Our Morning Club is up and running and busier than ever. If you would like to book a place for your child please contact the school office. The charge is £2 per child per session. Morning Club opens at 08.00am each day.



Be prepared for the school day.....

Please make sure that your child brings their book bag into school each day. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils also need to have a PE kit in school at all times. Please make sure that your child wears a coat to school every day as the weather is certainly cooling down and we have entered the wet season!



Breakfast for ALL!

We continue to offer breakfast to every single child, every single day, thanks to the support of Kelloggs. The best way to start the day!



Snack Money is £1 per week across school. Please put any monies into a marked envelope and hand it to one of the staff. This can be paid weekly or half termly. Please note that If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium, there is no request to pay. Thank you.



ClassDojo

We continue to use Class Dojo as our learning platform. If you have any trouble using Dojo, please contact the school office. Using this platform will allow you to keep up to date with our day to day school life as well as provide you with detailed Information from your child's class teacher.



Harvest Festival in St Michael's Church - Wednesday 19th October at 2pm.....

The children have been practising their performance lots in school and can't wait to show their parents and carers! Families all welcome. Children can be taken home right from the church after the performance. We are collecting foods to donate as part of our Harvest Service. If you would like to make a donation, please send the items into school by the day of the performance. Thank you.

* Please note, Nursery children are not Involved in this event due to the early stage within the year. Children accessing 30 hours should be collected from school as usual on the day of the service.



Autumn Disco - Thursday 20th October - 4.30pm-6pm

It is our Autumn Disco next week which will be held in the school hall. Tickets are £3 per child which is payable on the door and this includes a party plate and a drink. We look forward to seeing all the children at the disco for fun, dancing and party games! Please note, we will not wear Halloween dress up for this event as we are having an actual Halloween day in school on the 31st October. Nursery pupils are welcome to join as long as they are confident enough to do so.



This year, we are delighted that Halloween falls on a school day! As this is such a rarity, we want to celebrate with a whole school event. We invite the children and staff to dress up in Halloween costumes (but no face paints or masks please as we don't want to scare the little ones). We have a jam packed day planned for October 31st, which is full of fun including; a Halloween lunch, Pumpkin Judging Competition, ghastly Science experiments and much much more. If you need any help in acquiring a costume, please message Miss. Smith who will be happy to help you.



As part of our Halloween celebration day, we are inviting children to take part in our Annual Pumpkin Carving Competition. Join in and take a chance at winning some fantastic spooky prizes! Pumpkins must be in school by 09.00am on Monday 31st October as judging will commence straight away. I wonder what kind of pumpkin you will carve this year? 🎃



Nursery and Year 2 Parents

Please remember to apply for your child's place in either Reception or Junior School by the deadline of 15th January 2023. Don't forget, if you are unable to apply online, a paper based form can be collected from the school office. For online applications please visit <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lss/schooladmissions.asp>



Please spread the word about our amazing school with family and friends as we also have spaces available for this academic year. Thank you



School Menus

Each week a menu will be displayed on the school's external noticeboards. Our school menus work on a three-week rotation and each Monday morning the menu for that week will be displayed to allow parents to see what food will be served that week. Menus are also displayed on the school website www.smhwkt.cumbria.sch.uk > Parent Information> School Meals. If you would like to make any changes to the menu an alternative jacket potato or sandwich can be provided. Changes to the menu must be made on a Monday morning. Miss. Stagg will be outside each Monday to note down the changes to the menu or alternatively you can contact the school office via telephone or email.



We are currently collecting donations of the following items.....

Halloween costumes - wellies - wet suits - hats - scarves - gloves - conkers (for our Mud Kitchen) - bits and bobs for our Sensory Garden.

Thank you in advance. 😊

Kindest regards,

Mrs. C Regan

Upcoming dates for your diary.....

Face to face Parents' Meetings will take place during Autumn 2. The teachers will inform you of time slots closer to the date.

- * Wednesday 19th October 2022 - Harvest Service 2pm
- * Thursday 20th October 2022 - Autumn Disco 4.30-6pm
- * Friday 21st October 2022 - School closes for half term
- * Monday 31st October 2022 - School reopens - Halloween Celebration Day. Pumpkins to come into school for judging and dress up day (no face paint or masks, please).
- *Gymnastics after school club will continue each Monday 3pm-4pm
- * Thursday 3rd November – Mini police from Victoria Juniors are coming in to speak about Bonfire Safety.
- * Tuesday 8th November – Wheelchair basketball for the whole school.