



St Michael's Nursery and Infant School

Newsletter – September 2024



Welcome back to all of our wonderful children, families and staff. These first few weeks have really shown the resilience of all at St Michael's and the children have all settled into their new classes and some have settled into a brand-new school so well. We are so happy to see our amazing little school grow and thrive.

Please take time to read the first newsletter of the year as there have been some changes and some exciting dates coming up.

Attendance and Punctuality:

Our overall whole school attendance up to date is 92.5% with a target of 95%. As always, we appreciate that some absence is not avoidable, but we do stress that, unless your child has a temperature above 38 degrees, sickness, diarrhoea or any other contagious illness, they should come into school. We have access to fresh drinking water throughout the day and they will always be wrapped up warm whilst playing outside.



We understand that medical appointments are like gold dust at the moment, but wherever possible, please try to arrange check-ups etc after school hours as this interrupts their learning time and schedule. Please call the school office and leave a message for us on 01900 608111 **BEFORE 9AM** if they will not be in school as we will need to carry out a welfare visit to your home address if we have no contact.

As you may all be aware, there has been significant changes to the Penalty Charges and Fines Framework which are enforced on to schools. A copy of this is located at the end of the newsletter and has also been shared on Class DoJo.

Punctuality is becoming an issue again. Please note – If your child is to miss registration in the morning or afternoon, **THIS IS ALSO CLASSED AS AN ABSENCE** as they have missed the register which goes against their attendance, so we must stress the importance of your child's punctuality as well as attendance as a whole. We would like to reiterate the importance of your child being in school on time for their own benefit and that of their peers. We aim to start learning as soon as registration is complete, but before this, we like the children to have some breakfast and a drink to ease into the day. Once one child is late, this then interrupts the routine that the children need.

If your child is late, please come to the main entrance and sign them in with their name, date/time and reason for being late, as we need to record persistent lateness and if there are any patterns occurring.

We have also noticed more children being collected late at the end of their session, be it Tiny Teds, Nursery or main school. We must remind all parents that this then eats into the staff time, especially at lunch times, as this is their only break throughout the day.

If this happens, we may have to add them to Wrap Around Care which is chargeable.



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Class	Opening times	Closing Times
Tiny Teds	Morning – 8.30am Afternoon – 12.15pm	Morning – 11.30am Afternoon – 3.15pm
Nursery	8.45am	Morning – 11.55am Teddy Bears – 1.30pm or 3.05pm
Reception	8.35am	3.15pm
Year 1	8.35am	3.15pm
Year 2	8.35am	3.15pm

As always, we do have Panda Club available from 8am-8.30am and Koala Club from 3.15pm-4.15pm for £2.00 for anyone that may need this. Please book via the SCO Pay app, or message the school office. This is not available for Tiny Teds.

Please refer to the attendance flyer that has been sent to all families with important dates and information. If you need another – please ask.



Safeguarding:

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.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is our Head – Mrs Regan. Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is Mrs Hudson – Reception Teacher and Early Years Lead.

Cumbria Safeguarding Hub: 0333 240 1727

Please see the flyer that has been sent to all families. If you would like another – please ask.

Clothing:

Please ensure your child always comes to school in suitable outdoor clothing, including sturdy, practical shoes and coat. If you would like your child to have a spare pair of wellies and/or wet suit in school, please bring this in a separate bag with their name on.



Please ensure all other clothing is clearly labelled, especially jumpers and coats as these may be removed throughout the day and could easily get mixed up. If your child is prone to accidents or toilet training, please pack some extra clothing each day, just in case. If any spare clothing is used from school, please can this be washed and returned.



Online Safety:

Please can we remind all parents' carers to keep checking their child's privacy settings on any device they may use and amend accordingly should there be any concerns.



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School Hub:

We are finally live on our School Hub account which enables all children to order their meals online. All parents **MUST** book their meals this way if they stay for lunch (not Tiny Teds). Log in details have been sent to all families but if you require another, please let me know. To access the account, visit schoolhub.co.uk

The account allows you to book up to three weeks in advance, but please try and book at least 1 week in advance so that Mrs Miller is able to make an accurate order for food. If your child is ill, please log on to the account and cancel their meal before 9.30am.

If you fail to choose a meal for your child, they will only be given a sandwich and fruit which may not be their preferred filling or choice. This also causes disruption at the time, as this child would not have their name on the screen for a ticket, which could cause a deal of upset. If you are struggling at all, please let me know as it is absolutely essential that they have a meal order in advance. The cut off for meal orders is 9.30am.

Supervising children:

It is your own responsibility to ensure that you are supervising your child(ren) before and after school in all areas of the yard **AT ALL TIMES**. This includes the community pantry, sensory garden and scooter bay. Both gates are open for school drop off and collection which increases the risk of a child escaping. The equipment is not designed for toddlers' safety, so please do not allow smaller children to use this without being closely monitored.



Smoking and Vaping

This is a polite reminder that we do not permit any smoking and/or vaping on school premises at any given time. This includes the path way leading up alongside the car park and Church yard. If you have a vape, please keep this secure as one was dropped on the yard which could've led to a child picking this up.

Tiny Teds' cabin:



We have finally opened our Tiny Teds' cabin which has provided space for more children, therefore, we have more vacancies. Please spread the word and watch our little family grow!



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Appreciation:

A huge **'THANK YOU'** to all that have helped with donations for our little school and all that have offered to help where they can. As you know, we are a school that loves to reuse wherever possible and create a great ethic to the children to explore recycled objects and are forever grateful for you all. **Workington Rotary Club** for providing us with donations each term to supply fresh food for our families. As always, a HUGE shout-out to **all the staff** here at St Michael's who work tirelessly with a huge smile on their face to ensure your children have the best possible outcome and thrive here with us!

#TOGETHERWEGROW

After School Clubs:

Club	Teacher	Class	First session	Last session	Time
Gymnastics	Miss Natalie	Year 1 and Year 2	Monday 23 rd September	Monday 9 th December	3.15pm-4.15pm
Koala Club	Miss Blackmore	All children except Tiny Teds	Every day	Thursday 19 th December	3.15pm-4.15pm



Food Bank North Lakes:

Over the years, we have had lots of help from North Lakes Foodbank by providing us with donations and vouchers for our families. In our assembly today, Stuart from The Foodbank is coming to talk to the children all about his cause and how his team help people in our community and how we can help too, with our Harvest Appeal. As a token of gratitude, we always like to give back where we can, so we kindly ask, if you have any donations of long-life goods (a list will be added at the end of the newsletter), please could you bring these to school and we will donate these items after our Harvest Festival. Please could all donations be brought in no later than the morning of Wednesday 23rd October. Thank you.

PCSO Pape Visits:

We have lots of visits from PCSO Pape planned in the coming months. She is our local PCSO and likes to come and see the children regularly and read with them. It is a great way for the children to become familiar with her distinct uniform and know that she is there to help and likewise with any other PCSO and officers the children may need out and about.





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Primary Puppets:

The Primary Puppets team will be joining us on Monday 7th October to share a lovely show with their puppets around kindness. The children always love their shows and it is a great way for them to engage in their important stories.

Autumn Walks:

Week commencing Monday 14th October, all children across the school will be joining their class for an Autumn walk in our local town. They will explore the area and have a chat about all the changes they can see in the seasons. The walking distance and area will depend on the ages of the children.



Harvest Festival:

We invite you all to join us at St Michael's Church on Wednesday 23rd October to enjoy our Harvest Festival. The children work so hard each year in creating art work and learning lots of songs and words for this service. It is also very special, as it is the first service of the year and the first ever service for lots of the children and they all do an amazing job. The service will start at 2pm.



Autumn Disco:

Our annual Autumn Disco will be held in the school hall on Thursday 24th October from 4.30pm-6.00pm. There will be food, drinks and lots of entertainment for the children. £3.00 is to be paid ON ARRIVAL, no sooner.

Please note, we are unable to invite Tiny Teds due to their age and ratios and we are unable to allow parents to stay, but if your child gets overwhelmed, we will make contact to collect sooner.

Safety Awareness Talk:

PCSO Pape will be joining us for a special assembly on Friday 25th October. She will talk about the importance of being safe near roads as part of Road Safety Week and also the importance of safety when 'trick-or-treating' and at Bonfire Night when using sparklers and going to see fires etc. This is crucial for the children as they are so young and inquisitive, so we want to make sure they are as safe and aware as possible, but still have lots of fun.





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THE LAKE DISTRICT WILDLIFE PARK



Lake District Wildlife Park:

Year 1 and Year 2 will be going on a trip to the Lake District Wildlife Park (Trotters Farm) on Tuesday 15th October. We will be travelling via M&I Travel at 9.30am and returning at 2pm. The children will have a packed lunch provided by school, so please ensure you book their choice of sandwich via School Hub as soon as the week is available. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately in their school jumper/cardigan, joggers/leggings, trainers and a warm, waterproof coat. The trip will be added to SCO Pay and payment of £10.00 to be made through the app.





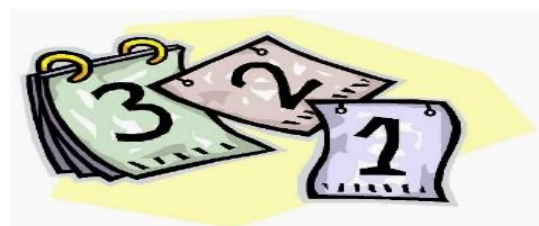
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Dates for the diary

Gymnastics for KS1	Every Monday 3.15pm – 4.15pm
Foodbank Assembly	Wednesday 25 th September
Primary Puppets	Monday 7 th October
Autumn walks	Week Commencing Monday 14 th October
Trotters Farm KS1 Trip	Tuesday 15 th October
Deadline for Harvest donations	Wednesday 23 rd October 9am
Harvest Festival	Wednesday 23 rd October 2pm
Autumn disco	Thursday 24 th October 4.30pm-6.00pm
Break up for October half term	Friday 25 th October
Return for Autumn 2 term	Monday 4 th November





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Reg Charity No 1067541

Shopping List

- * Fruit Juice UHT (1ltr carton)
- * Tinned Tomatoes (400g)
- * Tinned Fruit (400g)
- * Tinned Carrots, Peas, or Sweetcorn (400g)
- * Tinned Hot Dogs (400g)
- * Tinned Meat Balls (400g)
- * Tinned Chicken in White Sauce (400g)
- * Tinned Tuna (approx. 150g)
- * Tinned Rice Pudding (400g)
- * Tinned Custard (400g)
- * Cereal (300g – 500g)
- * Pasta Sauces (Jars)
- * Dried Pasta (500g max.)
- * Dried Rice (500g max.)
- * Milk UHT (Full Fat or Semi-Skimmed)
- * Sponge Pudding (400g)
- * Biscuits (200g–400g pkt)
- * Tea
- * Coffee
- * Jam (not homemade)
- * Tinned Beans (400g)
- * Tinned Soups (400g)
- * Tinned Spaghetti, Macaroni Cheese or Ravioli (400g)
- * Instant Mash Potato (single pkt)

No Low Calorie Foods please.

Thank You for Supporting Us



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Government rules regarding holidays/irregular absences

Following the introduction to the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for any penalty notices issued after 19th August 2024.

Per parent, per child:

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent. For example – 3 children absent in term time would result in three separate fines, per parent.

5 consecutive days of term-time leave:

Penalty notice fines will be issued for 5 or more consecutive days of term time leave.

10 sessions of unauthorised leave in a 10-week period.

Penalty notice fines will be considered when there has been ten sessions of unauthorised absence in a ten week period

First offence:

The first time a penalty notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be:
£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days.



Second offence (within 3 year):

The second time a penalty notice is issued for term time leave or irregular absence, the amount will be:
£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days.



Third offence and any further offences (within three years)

The third time an offence is committed for term time leave or irregular attendance a penalty notice will not be issued, instead, the case will be sent straight to The Magistrates Court. Magistrates fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Our Local Authority do not accept the following as exceptional circumstances:

- My work does not allow me to take holidays during school holidays, even if they provide a letter.
- My child needs a holiday at quieter times due to needs
- My holiday has been gifted and paid for and does not allow me to change the dates
- My child has Good or 100% attendance
- I will report my child being poorly – schools are expected to carry out home visits if a holiday is suspected. They will then report to the Local Authority who will issue penalty fines.