

School Newsletter



Parent Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you're all having a wonderful time enjoying our sunny weather and bank holidays! I'd like to start this newsletter by congratulating our magnificent Madagascar cast- they were absolutely incredible! I know it has been a week or so since their performances but I am still in shock with how brilliant they all were... and I've still got the songs in my head! Thank you to everyone who made it such a fantastic experience and I know it is something the children will never forget!

I'd also like to wish all our Year 6s 'Good luck' for their SATs which they'll be sitting this week. Whatever you feel about testing 10 and 11 year olds, I know you'll all join me in saying how proud we are of your achievements and how hard you have worked throughout your time at St. Michael's. Like everything else, we know you'll take the tests in your stride and complete them with confidence and composure... as well as a lot of additional breakfast as I think Mrs. Stephens has bought out pretty much all the cereal and loaves of bread Lidl had!

This term has also seen our Reception school places offered for September. As per previous years, we are again full and can't wait to welcome another 90 children into our St. Michael's family! We will be holding our New Reception Parents' Evening on Wednesday 10th June at 6pm. That week will also be a busy one as our Sports days are scheduled for Tuesday 9th June (EYFS at 9.15am and Y1/2 at 10.30am) and Wednesday 10th June (Y3/4 9.15am and Y5/6 1.15pm). As always, we hope we'll see as many of you as possible on those days.

I cannot finish this newsletter without giving a shout out to our amazing OPAL team who have been making lunchtimes legendary! Mrs. Paines, Ms. Leach, Mrs. Smith and all the Play Rangers have been having as much fun as the children and it is such a treat to see so much joy and happiness on our playgrounds and field.

Have a great rest of term everyone!

Mr. Barnard

Thank you's

Sadly, Mrs Philips will be leaving her role as a SEND Teaching Assistant at the end of this term. She has provided wonderful support to our children in Years 2 and 3, and she will be greatly missed in this position. However, we are delighted that she will continue to be part of our school community in her role as a Play Ranger.

This week marks Saraswathi's final week with us as a Governor. We would like to extend our sincere thanks for all of her support and commitment during her time as our Maths Link Governor, as well as for her contributions to both the Curriculum Committee and the Full Governing Body. Her dedication and involvement have been greatly appreciated by the whole school community.

Saraswathi's Parent Governor position will be advertised in September. If any parents are interested in finding out more about the role, please speak to Mr Barnard, who would be happy to provide further information.

Upcoming Events – Term 5

Date	Details
Monday 1st June	First Day Term 6
Wednesday 3 rd June	Egyptian Day – Year 3
Tuesday 9 th June	Reception Sports Day (9am-10.30am)
Tuesday 9 th June	Year 1&2 Sports Day (10.30-12)
Wednesday 10 th June	Year 3&4 Sports Day (9-11.30am)
Wednesday 10 th June	Year 5&6 Sports Day (1.15-3.15pm)
Monday 15 th June	PTFA Secret Present Room (Fathers Day)
Tuesday 16 th June	Reserve RE
Tuesday 16 th June	Reserve Sports day Year 1&2
Wednesday 17 th June	Reserve Sports day Year 3-6
Thursday 18 th June	Endeavour Music Festival (school choir)
Tuesday 23 rd June	Class 1 Family lunch
Wednesday 24 th June	Class 2 Family Lunch
Thursday 25 th June	Class 3 Family Lunch
Friday 26 th June	Year 1 WOW day
Wednesday 1 st July	EYFS Stay and Play
Monday 6 th July	Art Week
Tuesday 7 th July	Year 2 trip to Westonbirt
Wednesday 8 th and Thursday 9 th July	Year 6 Performances
Thursday 9 th July	EYFS Stay and Play
Monday 13 th July	Year 6 Leavers Service (2pm)
Wednesday 15 th July	Cattle Country Year 6 trip
Tuesday 21st July	Last Day term 6

Thought of the Term



As we head towards summer this thought of the term is inspired by our production of Madagascar.

Because the Sun is shining and there should be no whining

So just Relax, Be Cool and Chill out with our Bestest Friends!

Achievements

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ruben and Elijah's exquisite writing• Araiz's wonderful instructions• Lottie for being a fabulous role model to our younger children• Sudharsh's creative writing• Mohammad's fabulous artwork• Annika's amazing troll writing• Luca's fabulous colourful semantics work• Finley's mind-blowing map knowledge• Henry's phenomenal story telling• Chester, Vinny and Cooper's collaborative masterpiece• Tyler's fantastic writing• Rayan and Lilou's inventive descriptive writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• THE WHOLE CAST AND CREW OF MADAGASCAR!!!• Leo's incredible instruction writing• Benny and Immy's brilliant maths learning• Marvis for being such a good friend• Ava and Lillie-Rose's great creativity• Sienna, Megan and Ella's spine-tingling maths• Keron's super time learning• Alfie's tremendous months and weeks work• Seb, Joshua and Daniel's awesome Ichthyosaurus• George's cracking writing• Preesha and Ronnie's Mary Anning booklets• Alice's kind-hearted nature
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Lost Property

Lost Property- please label all clothing items and we will only be leaving lost property out until the end of each week on the benches by 3.1 and then it will be bagged up and repurposed if it doesn't have a name on it.

Smartphone free childhood

Smartphone Free Childhood- We will be running parent workshops in Term 6 on giving your child a smartphone free childhood. We are currently 13th in the Bristol region for the number of parents supporting a smartphone free childhood and would love to get into the top 10. Please follow this link to learn more and sign up to the pact: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

Reading at home

Term 4 Reading at Home Percentages- Congratulations to Class 3.2 who have the highest amount of children reading 5x per week at home as well as Year 4 who have the combined highest percentage of children reading 5x per week at home. The results were as follows for Term 4:

Current	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
EYFS			70%	59%
Y1	45%	48%	43%	40%
Y2	53%	57%	45%	46%
Y3	58%	46%	59%	60%
Y4	72%	59%	73%	65%
Y5	56%	54%	62%	56%
Y6	62%	60%	54%	49%

Please make sure you are filling in your child's reading records and hearing them read at home as research shows this makes the biggest difference to your child's future educational success.

Fundraising – Cancer Research

One of our lovely Reception mums is taking part in the 10k Race for Life in support of Cancer Research. As a Stage 4 cancer patient and below-knee amputee, her determination is truly inspiring. She would be so grateful for any donations, no matter how small, to support this wonderful cause.

Please find the link below if you would like to read more or make a contribution.

<https://gofund.me/2809befd6>



Hi! My name is Ruth and I'm the Education Mental Health Practitioner based at St Michael's on a Tuesday. I work for a partnership project between the NHS and Off the Record called the Mental Health Support Team (MHST- [Mental Health Support Team - OTR](#)), providing early intervention support for emerging mental health needs and support the wider school community with things wellbeing-related. Hopefully, I'll be running some coffee mornings later in the year, but for now I wanted to re-introduce myself and let you know of some great resources out there for supporting your child with their wellbeing:

- Happy Maps- this website is full of articles, advice and storybook recommendations to help children explore things like their emotions, managing change, self esteem and much more. <https://www.happymaps.co.uk/>
- Place2Be 'Parent Smart' – short articles and videos from trained therapists about supporting your child's mental health and wellbeing. <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>
- 'Togetherness'- The Solihull Approach – All parents in South Glous have access to online parenting courses on topic such as understanding child development and mental health and wellbeing. The access code for South Glous residents is 'CONCORDE' - <https://togetherness.co.uk/mul/south-gloucestershire/>
- Young Minds- Lots of resources and advice on different topics including a parent helpline (0808 802 5544.) or webchat. <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>
- Sometimes the most powerful thing we can do for children is to look after our own mental health- if you are struggling with anxiety or low mood, you can speak to your GP or make a self-referral directly to NHS Talking Therapies - <https://vitahealthgroup.co.uk/nhs-talking-therapies/bristol-north-somerset-and-south-gloucestershire/> . If you are worried about your child then speak to their GP or let someone at school know.

Attendance at St. Michael's

As you'll all be aware, school attendance is incredibly important and can be directly linked to higher attainment and progress levels within children. Please support us in further raising attendance levels by being on time (you are late if you are not in class by 8.50am), prioritising your child's education and avoiding holidays during term time (the Local Authority have issued several fines to our parents in the past two months for taking holidays when children should be in school). Our attendance figures so far for this year are as follows:

Reception= 95.3%	Year 1= 94%
Year 2= 97.2%	Year 3= 96%
Year 4= 96.3%	Year 5= 96.8%
Year 6= 95.9%	School Average= 95.9%

School attendance is so important, not just for academic achievement but also for social and personal development. As I mentioned at the beginning of this newsletter, only 21% of children who are classed as persistently absent reach the expected levels for reading, writing and maths. To put that another way, if you are absent for 10% of school across an academic year, that is the equivalent of your child missing 114 lessons! This is a horrifying statistic and I know everyone will do their best to make sure their children don't have any unnecessary absences during term time.

E-SCOOTERS: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



E-scooters and other powered transporters have grown in popularity recently. However, while it may be tempting to purchase one of these transport devices, you should make yourself familiar with the law surrounding them.



WHAT IS THE LAW?

The current law is clear: you cannot ride an e-scooter or any other powered transporters on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement.

WHERE CAN THEY BE USED?

A privately owned e-scooter or powered transporter can only be used on private land, with the landowner's permission.

Some areas in England, including parts of the Avon and Somerset force area are undergoing a government trial where hired e-scooters are allowed (but regulated) on public land and roads.

All of these trial schemes have terms of use that riders are expected to abide by. A user agreement may be revoked if the rider breaches the terms of use. Trial e-scooter schemes are only open to UK driving licence holders.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I'M STOPPED BY POLICE?

The scooter may be seized and destroyed. You could also be liable for prosecution for driving without insurance.

If you don't hold a provisional or full licence and are stopped riding an e-scooter, you could be prosecuted for driving other than in accordance than with a licence, as well as having no insurance.

Penalty points can still be issued where a licence isn't held. These points would take effect when you apply for a driving licence.

FIND OUT MORE:


www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/escooters

Clubs/Activities

For more information on Clubs and Activities coming up please use the link below.

[St Michael's CofE Primary School - Clubs & Activities](#)

BRISTOL NORTH SWIMMING CLUB SWIM SCHOOL



CAN YOUR CHILD DO THE FOLLOWING?

- ▶ FLOAT TO LIVE
- ▶ TREAD WATER FOR 30 SECONDS
- ▶ SWIM IN NORMAL CLOTHES
- ▶ SWIM 100M CONFIDENTLY

WHERE ARE WE?
Our swim school is based at Winterbourne Academy Sports Village

WHEN DO WE SWIM?
We run lessons on a Sunday between 3 PM and 5:30 PM (Dependent on stage)


SWIM ENGLAND STATE THAT ALL CHILDREN SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THESE 4 THINGS TO ENSURE CONFIDENCE AND TO STAY SAFE IN AND AROUND WATER

HOW MUCH ARE OUR LESSONS?
Our weekly lessons start from £28 a month, please get in contact for further pricing

WHY BRISTOL NORTH?

- Badges and Certificate Awards
- Term time only lessons
- Household discounts*
- Experienced teachers 30+ years of teaching
- Small classes
- Main pool lessons for all swimmers
- Clear pathways from swim school to competitive squads and racing.

SCAN HERE TO REQUEST A TRIAL!



www.bristolnorthsc.org.uk

@Bristol_north_sc Bristol North Swimming Club





MAY FOOTBALL CAMPS

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL – STOKE GIFFORD

Join us at St. Michael's Primary School in Stoke Gifford for two days of football fun during the May Half Term!

CAMP DATES:
Tuesday 26th & Wednesday 27th May

ABOUT OUR FOOTBALL HOLIDAY CAMPS:

- Develop football skills & confidence
- Boys & girls: Rec - Year 7, of all ability levels!

2 DAYS OF FOOTBALL FUN!



SCAN HERE TO BOOK!



BOYS & GIRLS REC - YEAR 7



Y1 - Y7 (9:00am - 3:30pm) Rec (9:00am - 1:00pm) | £23.00 per day
Location: St Michael's Primary School, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8SG

Rob@prioritysports.co.uk 01275 261 004 www.prioritysports.co.uk/book

Open Mornings at Abacus Pre-School.

Baileys Court - Wednesday 25th March 10am-11am
 Thursday 23rd April 10am-11am
 Thursday 14th May 10am-11am.
Baileys Court are open 8:15am-3:15pm
 Address: Baileys Ct Rd, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 8BH

Meadowbrook - Tuesday 24th March 9:30am-10:30am
 Wednesday 22nd April 9:30am-10:30am
 Tuesday 19th May 9:30am-10:30am
 Address: Three Brooks Ln, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 8TB

Stoke Gifford: Wednesday 1st April 10:30am-11:30am
 Wednesday 6th May 10:30am-11:30am
 Wednesday 3rd June 10:30am-11:30am
 Address: 1 Rock Ln, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8PF
 Meadowbrook and Stoke Gifford are open 8am-4pm.

Come along and visit our **GOOD** rated settings.
 Term time only - Monday-Friday.
 Children aged 2-4 years old.

Please email
 enquiries@abacuspreschool.co.uk or call
 01454 867285 to book into your preferred
 setting open event.



abacus QUALITY CHILD CARE FOR 2-4 YR OLDS

Baileys Court | Meadowbrook | Stoke Gifford | Emersons Green
 Bradley Stoke | Bradley Stoke | Rock Lane | Resound Centre

We strive for the highest standards of care in a calm and caring environment, through a play based curriculum.

FUNDED sessions available to eligible 2, 3 & 4 year old children

outdoor play area | creative indoor play | interactive technology

Ofsted Registered

For further details and to book a viewing contact on:
Tel: 01454 867 285
 enquiries@abacuspreschool.co.uk | www.abacuspreschool.co.uk

Denmark Road High School

Be part of the Denmark Road experience.

Join us for our Open Morning
 30th April or 4th June
 8.45-10.30

All welcome.
 No booking required.

www.denmarkroad.org

GEM'S PIRATE PRAISE Party

Featuring Gemma Hunt from Cbeebies Swashbuckle

A morning of interactive, all singing, all dancing, story-telling pirate fun, where faith and adventure set sail!

Sunday 14 June
 10.30am
 St Michael's Church Centre
stmichaelsbristol.org

Swim4SureUK

Have Lesson Spaces Available at the following locations:

Barley Close School - BS16 9DL
 Mon, 4-8pm, Sat 9-1pm

New Siblands School - BS35 2EG
 Tue, Wed, Fri 4-8pm

✓ Fully Inclusive
 ✓ Small class sizes: 1:1, 2:1, 3:1 ratios
 ✓ Swim England Affiliated!

enquiries@swim4sureuk.com

Attendance Guide

Absences

Please report all absences via the Arbor app before 9am on the day of absence.

Medical Appointments

Please report these via dojo, the Arbor app or phone the school office prior to the appointment.

Holiday/Absence Requests

Please complete an Absence request form for your child. The form is on the school website to download and complete and can be emailed to the admin@stmichaelssg.org.uk

Guidance for Penalty Notices

There will be a national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period for when a penalty notice must be considered.

The rules mean you will no longer be able to take your child out of school for one week's holiday without a penalty notice being issued.

The penalty notice is a fine of £160 per parent per child. Penalty notices are issued by the local authority and must be paid within 28 days of the date of issue. The date that the payment is due by is recorded on the Notice.

For a first offence within a rolling 3-year period (beginning after 19th August 2024), the amount is reduced to £80 per parent per child, if it is paid within 21 days of issue.

If a second penalty notice is issued within a rolling 3-year period, there is no reduction for early payment, meaning that the amount will be £160 per parent per child.

If a parent then commits a third offence in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will need to consider other enforcement options available to them.

Granting approval for term-time absence

Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence to pupils during term time unless they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'.

Examples of what we define as 'exceptional circumstances' are listed below:

- Forces Personnel on leave from a foreign posting.
- Exceptional significant family events or circumstances – these will be considered on an individual basis with you (an example might be the wedding or funeral of a family member living abroad however only the days of travel and the day of the wedding would be considered to be authorised).
- It may also be appropriate to make allowances for parents who work for the emergency services and are only granted leave at certain times.

One of our key focuses as a school this year is reaching our attendance target of **97%**. We consider establishing good attendance habits as an important part of pupils' development and this can help them greatly in later life. Research shows that low attendance has a negative impact on children's learning as they miss key teaching opportunities during the week.



Below 90%

This is equivalent to more than 19 days absent in the school year. This will have a significant impact on their learning. In the last academic year, 87 children (13.9%) had attendance below 90%.

90% - 95%

A 95% attendance is equivalent to 9 days absent in the school year. This is a cause for concern as a child's learning will be negatively impacted.

Above 95%

This is equivalent to 8 or less days absent in the school year. This is providing the children the very best chances of success in their learning.

It is also really important for all children to be on time for school each day. All doors open at 8.40am with the register opening at 8.50am. Arrival after this time will result in a late mark. Additionally, they will miss out on important learning and social opportunities.

Polite Notices about Parking and Playground

Please DO NOT park in the school car park in the morning or at home-time. The car park is for staff, visitors, taxi and parents with disabled badges only. This is for the safety of our pupils and adults. We really appreciate everyone's co-operation on this and the gate will remain closed from 8.35-8.55am each day as well from 3.15-3.30pm in order to keep our children safe. This will be reviewed by the Property Governors at the end of September. Stewart, our site manager, will be on hand to assist so please remember to be kind and respectful as he is there to keep our children safe.

Please DO NOT park in the doctor's surgery car park and ensure you are parking responsibly on the neighbouring roads (particularly Beaufort Crescent as there have been residents concerned for the safety of our children).

We have also had several residents and parents concerned about the parking on the yellow and double yellow lines along Ratcliffe Drive. Please park with consideration for the safety of others.



Please note that NO dogs are allowed in the school grounds.

Please could children NOT ride their scooters or bikes in the playground.

Please could children NOT go into playground sheds after school.