

School Newsletter



Parent Update



Upcoming Events

Dear Parents/Carers,

Unbelievably we are already over half way through this academic year... time flies when you're having fun!!!

I'd like to start by thanking everyone who attended our recent parents' evenings- they were extremely well-received and your support is vital in helping your children achieve their very best. I'd also like to thank all the people who completed our annual Parents' survey. Pleasingly, the feedback was not only overwhelmingly positive but there were also lots of great suggestions of what we can work on next. I've included a summary of the findings within this newsletter and I'll be working alongside the School Council to produce something similar to round up what was captured in our pupil questionnaires which took place at the end of last term.

The pupils looked fantastic in their World Book Day costumes last week! We really appreciate all the effort it took to make them and the day was a real joy to behold. It was especially lovely to be joined by so many children after school for 'Once upon a Cookie'. I know the majority of you will be in the thick of the '5 stories before bedtime' shift but I no longer have that at home so it was absolutely gorgeous to be able to share some bedtime stories with Year 2 on Thursday! As always, thank you to our fabulous PTFA for all the help in organizing the event and for giving up their time to make it so memorable for our children!

We've got some great events coming up over the next few weeks with Year 3 and 2 family lunches, Year 5 Easter performance as well as our Madagascar club 'ramping up' rehearsals as they prepare to perform for us all at the end of April. Look out in a couple of weeks for our annual Easter Egg hunt as well!

Thanks again for all your continued support,

Mr. Barnard

Date	Details
Monday 23 rd February	First Day Term 4
Monday 23 rd February	World Thinking Day (Scout uniform)
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day (Dress up as favourite character)
Tuesday 10 th March	3.1 Family lunches
Wednesday 11 th March	3.2 Family Lunches
Thursday 12 th March	3.3 Family Lunches
Tuesday 17 th March	Reserve RE
Monday 30 th March	Reception Family Phonics 2.45pm
Monday 30 th March	Easter Egg hunt week around school
Tuesday 31 st March	2.1 Family lunches
Wednesday 1 st April	2.2 Family Lunches
Thursday 2 nd April	2.3 Family Lunches
Thursday 2 nd April	Year 5 Easter Performance (2pm)
Thursday 2 nd April	Last Day Term 4

Thought of the Term



Achievements

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shelby's fantastic reading with her wonderful reading buddy Tabitha.• Harrison's gorgeous handwriting.• Rayyan's superb writing.• Ella's super writing.• Millie's wonderful maths.• Colby's brilliant writing.• Mila's incredible maths.• Macie, Thomas, Immy, Will, Leonora, Lorenzo and Rose's excellent Highwayman writing.• Remy's remarkable phonics learning.• Emily's amazing dragon and WBD costume.• Keron's quality geography learning and sudokus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roman's magnificent mental maths.• Alice's super colourful semantics writing.• Jeeva's awesome diary.• George, Roman and Vinny's fantastic Ferris wheel.• Daisy's delightful diary entry.• Harry, Jiaan, Lotta, Tan and Isla's brilliant creativity• Bernardo's cracking writing.• Mia's beautiful handwriting.• Ayla's tremendous story writing.• Toby and Emily's spectacular science learning.• Harper's fantastic fractions.
--	--

Congratulations! – New School Governor

Congratulations to Ellice Day on joining us as a new School Governor!

We're delighted to welcome Ellice to the team and look forward to the experience and perspective she will bring to the role.

There will be another governor vacancy available in May, so please keep an eye out for the advert if you're interested in getting involved and supporting our school community.

Please Help!

One of our families unfortunately experienced a house fire last year. Thankfully, they are now able to move back into their home soon.

As they start rebuilding, they are in need of a few household items. If anyone has any of the following items they would be happy to donate, it would be hugely appreciated.

Please feel free to message the office if you are able to help. Thank you so much for supporting this family during their fresh start.

- Fridge Freezer
- Freezer
- Bowls/dinner set
- Bath towels
- 4 single bed quilts
- 1 double bed quilt
- 1 super king quilt

Parent Survey

Thank you to the 127 parents and carers who shared their feedback in our February survey. Your insights are vital as we work together to make St. Michael's the best it can be for our children. Here is a summary of what you told us:

What We Are Celebrating

A Happy and Safe Environment The overwhelming majority of you agree that your children are **happy and feel safe** at St. Michael's. Parents described the school as a "supportive, family-like environment" with a "strong sense of community". Our dedicated staff are frequently praised for being approachable, caring, and for knowing the children as individuals.

Progress in Core Learning We are delighted to see that the focus on **Reading and Maths** is having a noticeable impact, with many parents commenting on their child's visible progress. Tools like **Spelling Frame and Times Table Rockstars** have been a particular hit, making spelling and multiplication practice more engaging and effective for many students.

Enrichment and Personal Development From the "amazing" Year 4 camp to our school productions and sporting opportunities, you value the breadth of experiences offered. The **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)** initiative has been praised for encouraging active, creative play, and our "Reading Buddies" scheme is fostering wonderful connections across year groups.

Parents' Evenings Recent in-person appointments were very well received, with parents finding them "informative and helpful" and appreciating the chance to see their child's books and discuss specific targets.

You Asked, We're Listening: Areas for Development

While the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, you have highlighted some areas where we can improve further. We are committed to addressing the following:

- **Behaviour and High Expectations:** A few parents raised concerns about **low-level disruption** in some classes and felt that "neurotypical children" who always do the right thing should receive more recognition and "stretch". We are reviewing how we balance restorative approaches with firm consequences to ensure every child can learn in a calm environment.
- **OPAL and Wet Weather:** While many love the outdoor play, we also heard that children coming home wet after being out in the rain is a concern for some. We are looking at refining our "all-weather" approach to ensure it remains sensible and appropriate during poor weather conditions.
- **Screen Time and Homework:** We've noted your feedback regarding the volume of **screen-based homework** (such as Spelling Frame, TTRS and MyMaths). We are exploring ways to provide a better balance with the possibility of some more traditional, paper-based activities.
- **Communication:** While weekly updates are appreciated, some of you find the number of **ClassDojo messages** overwhelming or feel that important information is sometimes shared too late. We are working on streamlining our digital communication to make it easier for you to manage.
- **Facilities:** Concerns regarding **playground drainage** and the need for more after-school club spaces have been noted and are under consideration with our Senior leaders as well as Governors.

Next Steps

The leadership team and governors will use this feedback to inform our school development plan for the remainder of the year. We are incredibly proud of our students and grateful for the partnership we share with our parents.... Thank you again for taking the time to fill in the survey and for your continued support!



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

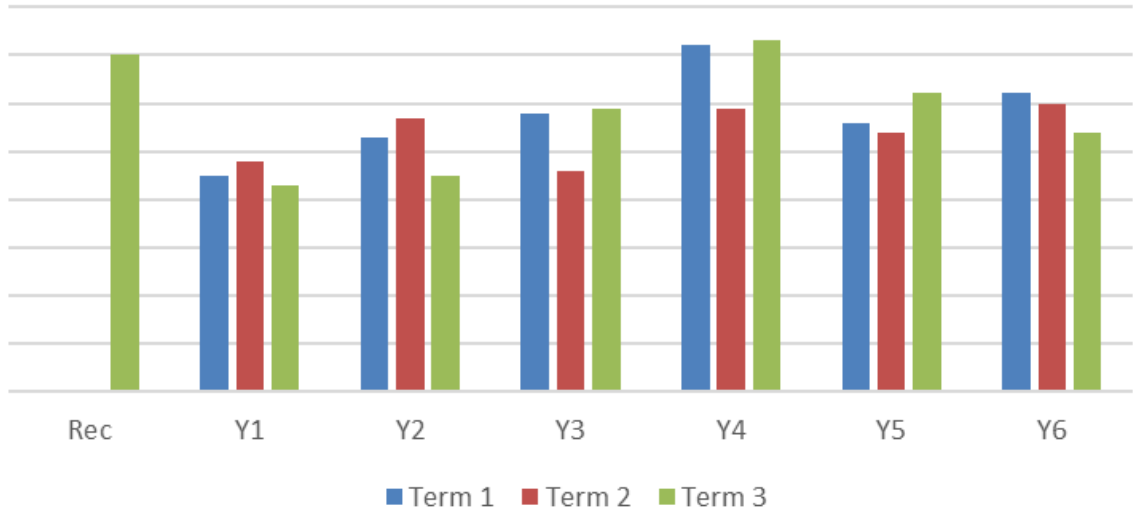
As you'll all be aware, school attendance is incredibly important and can be directly linked to higher attainment and progress levels within children. Please support us in further raising attendance levels by being on time (you are late if you are not in class by 8.50am), prioritising your child's education 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= 95.4%	Year 1= 94.2%
Year 2= 97.3%	Year 3= 96.1%
Year 4= 96.4%	Year 5= 96.9%
Year 6= 95.8%	School Average= 94.6%

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.

Reading at home

% Pupils Reading at Home 5x Per Week 2025 26



Congratulations to Year 4 who currently have the highest 5x per week reading percentage at home! They will get extra play time as a year group but they are being closely followed by Reception who achieved a great first term of 70% reading 5x per week. Class 1 will get a special treat as they were the class with the highest overall percentage (83% reading 5x per week).

Please keep reading with your child at home and recording it in their reading record- it makes such a difference to them!!!

Clubs/Activities

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

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



ST SAVIOURS
CHURCH HALL
BEESMOOR RD,
COALPIT HEATH,
BS36 2RP



AGES 4-11 YEARS
PERFORMANCE
AT 2PM

★ **£20** ★

Fun Easter DANCE Workshop!

WITH PROFESSIONAL BALLET DANCER
MISS GEORGIA

**WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL
12-2.15PM**

BOOK UP NOW!

georgiarsmart@yahoo.co.uk 07751812701



AGES 2.5-5 YEARS
£10



EMERSONS GREEN
VILLAGE HALL
BRISTOL
BS16 7AP

MAGICAL
PRESCHOOL BALLET

Easter

WORKSHOP

WITH PERFORMANCE FROM PROFESSIONAL
BALLERINA

**THURSDAY 16TH APRIL
10.45-11.45AM**

BOOK UP NOW!!

GEORGIARSMART@YAHOO.CO.UK | 07751812701



Rainbow Club
EASTER HALF TERM!

Come and join us for some Easter fun!

Crafts
Trips
Fun with food
Easter party
Easter egg hunt.

Bailey's Court Activity Centre
vickyrainbowclub@gmail.com
07588-664-474



Messy Church
Good Friday

Friday 3 April - 10.00 to 11.30
St Michael's Church Centre

Join us for a morning of crafts
and activities that take us on a journey
through the Easter story .

We will gather for 30 minutes at 11.00
for a time to worship, reflect and pray

No need to book, just come along and get involved



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@stmichaelscg.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.