

School Newsletter



Parent Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you with the sun shining as it has been such a wet term 3! Despite the damp conditions, we have still been able to celebrate lots of achievements and have witnessed countless amounts of wonderful learning!

Thank you to everyone who attended parents' evening over the past two weeks- it was great to be able to share how your children are doing as well as show off all the fantastic work in their books. I really appreciate everyone who have provided feedback on them via our parent survey- this will be 'live' for another week so please do let us know your thoughts if you can (I know you can find the link on the next page!).

One of the things I'm sure a lot of teachers will have been talking about at parents' evening will have been school attendance. We've tried to organise it differently this term so to give parents the amount of lessons missed rather than your child's attendance rate. Our current school average is 95.9% which puts us in the top 20% of schools nationally. However, we still have 63 pupils who have missed at least 1 day per fortnight since the start of the year. Although this equates to a percentage of 90% attendance, in reality this is over 60 lessons which have been missed already. When it is put in those terms, I hope it is easy to see why we feel school attendance is so important for your child's future academic success (I know I put the statistics in a previous newsletter but those who miss at least one day per fortnight are 3 times more likely not to be working at the same standard as their peers as those who have an attendance above 95%).

Term 4 promises to be another great one at St. Michael's with lots of opportunities and things to celebrate. The Year 5 Easter performance is always one of my favourites as well as the school council Easter egg hunt!

I hope everyone has enjoyed a restful half term and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday.

Many thanks,

Mr. Barnard

Upcoming Events

Diary Dates – Term 4

| 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

The theme for this term, and one of our school values, is joy (a deep sense of happiness and wellbeing). Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit so it grows naturally in our lives and is present no matter what we are going through. Joy bubbled up in the shepherd who found his lost sheep, the lame man who was healed by Jesus and the guests at the wedding, for whom Jesus turned water into wine. We will be thinking about how we can nurture joy in our lives.



Achievements

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aden’s brilliant breakfast reading • Libby’s achievement at being one of the first to complete her learning wheel in Year 4 • Millie’s wonderful writing and spellings • Betsy’s super writing • Anya, Lilou, Beth and Ryan’s magnificent maths • Alice, Amelia, Hannah, Abigail and Rudy’s brilliant writing • Mia, Freya and Fearn’s beautiful handwriting • Remy’s fantastic fractions learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amber, Erin and Edith’s delightful puppet show • Paisley’s amazing apostrophes work • Marley and Freddie’s incredible script learning • Cooper and Chester’s cracking descriptive writing • Marny, Serena and Elisa’s awesome busy time writing • Lexi and Sophie’s super writing • Harry’s fabulous reading answers • Woody’s marvellous speech marks work and Lily, Sophie, Sophie, Bruce and Ollie for being such tremendous Eco-Warriors! |
|---|--|

Annual Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who has already completed our annual parent survey as we have had over 100 responses.

Please find the link below if you haven’t yet completed it and wish to do so. The link will be open until Monday 2nd March for parents to complete.

[St. Michael's CofE Primary School Parent survey - February 2026 – Fill out form](#)

Times Tables Rock Stars!!

I have been really impressed with how many of our children in Year 2-6 have taken to the challenges they have recently been set as part of our Times Tables Rock Stars learning. This platform provides excellent practise for our pupils and I know lots of them have really enjoyed the friendly tournaments which have been set up between year groups before half term.

Congratulations to the following Classes who won their ‘Battles’ in the two weeks before half term:

- Year 3 Champions- Class 3.2 (Miss Haddon) with Harry T finishing top with 16,074 points;
- Year 4 Champions- Class 4.3 (Ms. Gundy) with Grace finishing top with 21,578 points;
- Year 5 Champions- Class 5.1 (Miss Webb) with Sophie M finishing top with 14,000 points and
- Year 6 Champions- Class 6.3 (Mrs. Stephens/Mrs. Jones) with Carmella on top with 2,186 points

I’d also like to give a following ‘shout out’ to the below children for leading the way with their fantastic times tables dedication:

| Top Coins 2025 26 | Top Coins All-Time | Fastest Fingers (per correct answer) |
|---|--|---|
| Parthiv 329,380 Carmella 237,372 Grace 209,727 Harry T 203,542 Anya 121,662 | Marty 469,126 Kayton 449,007 Carmella 415,784 Parthiv 372,086 Aryahi 371,910 | Kayton 0.58 seconds Leonora 0.68 seconds Shiloh 0.81 seconds Milo 0.83 seconds Jasrah 0.84 seconds Duncan 0.84 seconds |



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:

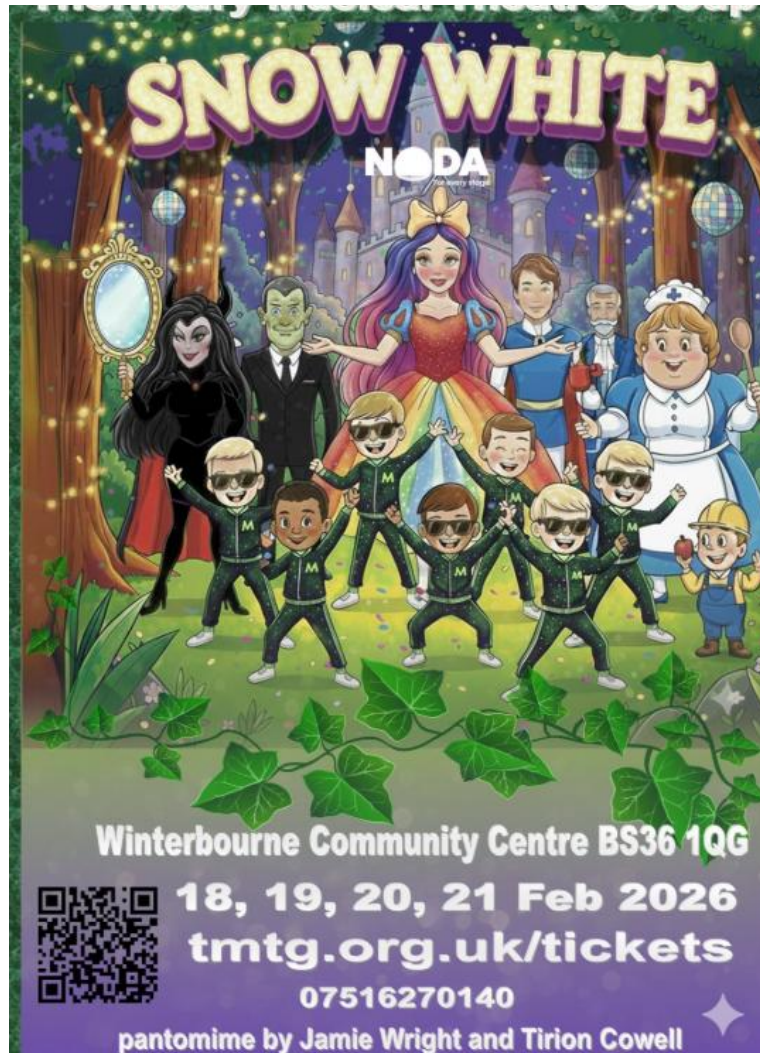
| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Reception= 95.5% | Year 1= 94.3% |
| Year 2= 97.3% | Year 3= 96.2% |
| Year 4= 96.4% | Year 5= 96.8% |
| Year 6= 95.6% | School Average= 94.9% |

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.

Clubs/Activities

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

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





**WORLD
BOOK
DAY®**



WORLD BOOK DAY COSTUME EXCHANGE



To help the environment Bradley Stoke Library are hosting a World Book Day costume exchange!

Please donate your unwanted children's fancy dress costumes to Bradley Stoke Library reception desk during staffed hours (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10-5, Sat 9:30-12:30).

They must be clean and in good condition with CE or UKCA marks (we can't accept underwear, socks or shoes)

Starting 23rd FEBRUARY anyone can come along, browse our collection and take - free of charge!*

*(subject to availability)



**Active
Libraries**


South Gloucestershire
Council



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.