

St Michael's CofE Primary

School Newsletter 5

- Let Your Light Shine -



10 February, 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you so much for your patience after our temporary fencing was erected last week. I know it is a pain not being able to walk around the outside of our school site but I appreciate your understanding and not using the inside of school as a walkway on a damp and cold morning! We should have the fencing up for the next three weeks and I was very impressed with the children's most recent fire drill as they all did brilliantly with the slightly amended plans.

I'd also like to show my appreciation for everyone who has managed to attend their parents' evening appointments. It is vital you know how your child is doing in school as well as what you can do to further support them. I've been very pleased with how many children are aiming to read five times per week and I know all the teachers have enjoyed feeding back all of the successes from the first half of this academic year.

You'll notice later in this newsletter I've included the annual Parent Survey. It has the same questions as previous years but also gives you a chance to give feedback on your parents' evening appointment. We take the results really seriously as the answers help to build our future school priorities so please take ten minutes to give us your views so we can continue to improve your child's educational experience.

As always, thank you for your continued support and I hope you all have a wonderful half term break.

Mr. Barnard



Children's Mental Health Week

The past week we have been celebrating Children's Mental health week in school. We are very fortunate to have a well-being team dedicated to ensuring children's mental health is put at the forefront of everything we do at St. Michael's.

If you'd like to know more about how we promote positive mental health for our children, please click on the link below:

<https://www.stmichaelssg.co.uk/our-school/mental-health-and-wellbeing>

If you'd like to know more about Children's mental health week and tips for families then please read the extract below or follow the link:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

TIPS FOR FAMILIES



① Encourage journalling

Just like Riley, encourage your older children and young people to express their emotions and thoughts through journalling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what is going on.

② Make space for reflection

When children and young people reflect on their different emotions, it can help them better understand themselves and what they need. Go for a walk, drive, or try some mindful colouring or baking together.

③ Be visual

Use imagery, such as emojis or flashcards to help children and young people recognise and label their feelings.

④ Practice mindfulness

Try mindful activities, and quiet family time, to enjoy being in the present moment. This can help children and young people be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique.

⑤ Communicate

Feedback is crucial for helping us see our blind spots and gain greater insight. Children and young people are no different. Creating safe and supportive ways to share your own experience with your child can help them understand themselves and their impact on the world around them.



If you're a parent or teacher, you'll find loads of useful advice to help you support the brilliant young people in your lives – from FAQs to downloadable packs. [Here4You.co.uk](https://www.here4you.co.uk)

Safer Internet Day Tuesday 11th February

This week it is Safer Internet Day and we would like to highlight some of the top tips from the Safer Internet Day Website (<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025/tips-for-parents-and-carers>). Unfortunately, there is rarely a week that goes by where we, as a school, don't have to deal with an E-Safety issue either through the use of mobile phones, group messaging or internet use at home. Please go to our school website for more information on how to keep your children safe online: <https://www.stmichaelssg.co.uk/our-learning/our-curriculum/subjects/e-safety>

Top Tips

- **Tips for Parents and Carers: Keeping you and your loved ones safe online**
- This Safer Internet Day we are starting a conversation about how to spot, respond to and report all types of scams online. Scams can take many forms and may target anyone, including young people. Use these top tips to keep you and your loved ones safe online.
- **Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family's online lives**
- The internet is amazing and can help us all to access information and entertainment. Spend time online with your child to understand how they are using technology and talk together about the good and the bad parts of being online. Talk about your own experiences and find other opportunities to get the conversation started, like stories in the news. Make sure your child knows they can talk to you about anything that they see or experience online.
- **Take online security measures seriously**
- The internet can be a tool used by criminals to target their victims, but a few [simple steps](#) can help keep you and your accounts secure. Use [strong and separate passwords](#) for online accounts and [set up two step verification](#) (2SV) where it's available. You may also be able to [set parental controls](#) to prevent unwanted online purchases and limit children's access to harmful content.
- **Look out for warning signs that someone or something online cannot be trusted**
- "It just seems too good to be true!" – Other common signs of a scam include contact that you weren't expecting or being asked for money or personal information (think: bank or contact details, passwords, or phone numbers). Scammers use [other tactics](#) to manipulate their victims into paying, like playing with your emotions, or building a sense of urgency so you are rushed into making a decision. If you aren't sure it's reliable, don't risk it.
- **Remember that anyone can be a victim of a scam**
- Scammers are good at what they do and will target anyone. We all need to stay vigilant and support those who are most vulnerable including children and the elderly by helping them recognise what to look out for. If anyone in your family has been scammed, talk openly about it. There should be no shame in being victim to a scam and it's never your fault.
- **Know where to get help if something goes wrong**
- If you or someone you know has been the victim of a scam online, you're not on your own. Help is available and you are not to blame for what has happened. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, you can report fraud and cyber crime online to [Action Fraud](#) or by telephoning 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, report to Police Scotland by calling 101. You may also be able to report via social media, if the scam has taken place there or to another relevant organisation, like your bank, if you think your account is at risk. **Remember, if you or anyone else is in immediate danger, call 999 immediately.**

Parent Survey

Unbelievably, it is that time of year again already where we send out our parent survey to help us analyse our performance as a school. It is a great opportunity to tell us everything you like as well as what we can do to further improve your child's school experience.

The survey is anonymous, so please do speak to us directly if there is something which you feel the school need to know in order to help support your individual child or your family at this time.

The survey includes a new question at the end which asks for any feedback on your Parents' evening appointments. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey once you've spent time with your child's teacher.

Thank you in advance for your time and feedback.
Team St. Michael's.

Please click on the link and it would be amazing if we can beat the 121 responses we had the last time it went out:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KOelNaT4DkqOXvW9u8-mVHNuMRirmmVlv8LQPsvVO1hUQVpKSFNGSFewTkUzVIRSQIAyQINCWU9ONC4u>

How do the School Governors check that pupils of St Michaels receive the best teaching, learn and achieve the best standards of attainment they can?

- The Governing Board of the school delegates much of its work to committees. One of these is the Curriculum and Achievement Committee. There are nine members made up of Governors, Senior Leaders and specialists. They meet three times a year. Their role is to check that the school is delivering the National Curriculum in the most effective way possible with the resources available.
- We receive regular reports from subject leads especially for Mathematics and English. Governors also visit the school to see how and what children learn. We also review reports from external advisers and the results of inspections.
- We look at the results of national tests and teacher assessments and compare these with other schools both locally and nationally. These reports enable us to compare the achievement of specific groups of pupils including Pupil premium children, those with special education needs and disabilities and those with English as a foreign language.
- We share our findings with the other members of the Governing Board and join the senior leadership team in setting the school development plan. We also review and approve relevant policies on behalf of the Governing Board.
- Our role is challenging but enjoyable and enables us to contribute to the success of the school. We are ably supported by the capable and enthusiastic staff of St Michaels.

Congratulations!

There have been lots of examples of wonderful learning over the past few days and here is just a snapshot of some of them:

Abigail, Harry and Willow's writing, Freya's fox factfile, Holly and Jasmine's creatures, Jaq and Georgia's maths, Keron's tremendous puppet making, Will C and Will L for sleeping rough for the night with Scouts to raise awareness for Julian Trust charity, Milo and Dylan's awesome homework on Cougars and habitats. Megan, Alice and Ethan's bug hotels and writing. Lillie-Roses amazing Geography. Mila's superb maths homework.

Miles wonderful writing, Alfie's handwriting and improved spelling. Partiv, Chloe and Faris' wonderful factional writing. Ivy, Mila, Lillie-Rose, Pheobe, Layla-Rae and Bella for improved reading. Priscilla and Lakshita's plastic banning sign. Jasmine, Ava and Holly's wonderful green power posters. Dylan, Marvis, Imogen and Keron for great busy time work.

Robyn for writing to Sir Attenborough. Ava, Lily, Jasmine and Holly's team work in the Chinese Dragon Dance.

Lottie for amazing arithmetic improvement. John's fractions. Harry and Archie's improved reading.

Mason and Layla-Rae's amazing maths.

Maisie's fractions learning. Jessica for earning her Blue Peter Badge. Khoben's fab joined up writing. Esme's letters and Zac's drawings. Emily and Fleur's fractions. Zayla's science classification.

Diary Dates – Term 3

Date	Details
W/C 10 th February	Parent's Evening appointments
Tuesday 11 th - Thursday 13 th February	Year 4 Family Lunches (11.30am)
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day
Friday 14th February	Last day of Term 3

Diary Dates – Term 4

Date	Details
Monday 24th February	1st day of Term 4 Thinking day: Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, cubs and Scouts can wear their uniform to school
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day (dress up)
W/C 10 th March	British Science Week
Monday 17 th March	Y6 4 th Assessment week
Tues 18 th -Thur 20 th March	Year 3 Family lunches (11.30am)
Monday 24 th March	PTFA Mothers' Day Secret Present Day
Tuesday 25 th March	Reception Family Phonics Session (2.50pm)
W/C Monday 31 st March	St. Michael's Easter Egg hunt (each day after school)
Monday 31 st March	Full Governors Body Meeting (7pm)
Friday 4 th April	Y5 Easter Performance St. Michael's Church (2pm)
Friday 4th April	Last day of Term 4

Bradley Stoke Way

improving sustainable travel options

Construction work to start in early 2025
Scheduled for completion by the end of 2026



Funded by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement

Opening Bradley Stoke up to more sustainable travel opportunities

KEY IMPROVEMENTS

-  Separate cycle lanes and footpaths – improving safety for both pedestrians and cyclists.
-  Improved bus stops – with shelters and better crossings for easier access.
-  Additional priority bus lane – minimising delays for buses.
-  Pedestrian crossings – easier movement for pedestrians and wheelchair users.

Our programme of work, starting this spring and due to complete by the end of 2026, will make it easier and safer for people walking, cycling, wheeling, and make journeys quicker and more convenient when travelling by bus from Bradley Stoke and the surrounding area towards Aztec West and Bristol.

We recognise that these works will impact users of Bradley Stoke Way and other routes.

We are committed to minimising disruption and delays during construction, while ensuring the safety of the public and our workforce around work sites.

For more information visit:
www.southglos.gov.uk/TransportSchemes



**Smart
Ballet**

FUN Half term DANCE Workshop!

FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

11-1pm DANCE Workshop
4-11 years

£20

Contact Miss Georgia to book
georgiarsmart@yahoo.co.uk / 07751812701

Iron Acton Parish Hall
High St, Iron Acton, BS37 9UH

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

A LARGER THAN LIFE PANTOMIME!

20TH – 22ND FEBRUARY 2025

WADCA COMMUNITY CENTRE
WATLEYS END ROAD
WINTERBOURNE, BS36 1QG

TICKETS FROM: WWW.TMTG.ORG.UK
CALL THE BOX OFFICE ON: 07516 270140



LITTLE FOXES FOREST SCHOOL

Easter Holiday Camps 2025



Activities

Play, make and create! Each day a different forest theme will be running. We'll be splashing in the river, exploring the forest, foraging and planting seeds and learning all about local wildlife from a local ecologist and a wildlife photographer!

The days will run from 9am - 15.00pm
The cost will be £38 for the day.



Westbury Wildlife Park Foundation
Trym Road BS9 3ET

Mon - Thurs
7 April - 10 April

For 5 - 11
Years Old



For more information head to
www.littlefoxesforestschool.com/holidaycamps

Computer
Xplorers

Half-term

Tech Clubs

AGES 5-11



ACTIVITIES

Coding
Robotics

Video Game Design

3D Modelling

Animation

Minecraft Coding



February 17th – 21st 2025



9:00am – 3:00pm

Early drop-off & late pickup available



St Michael's Centre, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8PD
&

The Harbour Totterdown, BS4 2EG

BOOK NOW



EMAIL: bristol@computerxplorers.co.uk

VISIT: computerxplorers.co.uk/bristol/book-now

FREE Triple P and Stepping Stones Parenting Programmes



Parenting is one of the hardest jobs in the world - our free parenting courses are designed to support parents to be the best they can be

Our regular 6 week programmes will not tell you how to parent, but give you a toolbox of ideas to improve your confidence in:

"The staff are amazing!
Friendly, great
communication and
make you feel at ease."

- Boundaries
- Routines
- Behaviour management techniques
- Looking after yourself as a parent



Our programmes are:

- Free to access
- For parents of children aged 0-12
- Run by professionals with SEN Experience
- Friendly and Non judgemental
- A chance to meet like minded people who understand your situation
- Flexible - run across the year, at different venues across South Gloucestershire, with day, evening and online options to attend

"We've seen a huge improvement in our confidence as parents. Since implementing strategies learned on the course, our family life is much calmer and happier."

For more information, get in touch via
family.referrals@ccp.org.uk, or to book a place please
scan the QR code



#WeAreCCP



Attendance at St Michael's

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.

Attendance

School Attendance

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

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE LAW REGARDING PENALTY NOTICES FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

What are the changes?

- There will be a new 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 new 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.
- There will be an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued. The fine is per child per parent therefore if you have 2 children in our school then both parents will be fined £160 each which will result in a family fine of £320.
- If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.
- 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

Smartphone Free Childhood

Please find below a link to the parent pact

<https://gloucestershireparentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

By signing this Pact, you're joining a growing community of parents in Gloucestershire choosing to wait to give their child a Smartphone.

We support children's well-being and when used incorrectly or without appropriate filtering measures mobile phones can be harmful to children's mental health.

The Pact is anonymous but the more who sign, the more powerful it becomes in shifting the social norm in our community. Plus they'll use the data to show the Government how much this matters to parents across the country, so that they take urgent action to protect children from the harms of smartphones and social media.

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. Gary, 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.