

School Newsletter



Parent Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

Within the blink of an eye, we find ourselves at the end of another school term! We've seen lots of fantastic learning and events take place which have culminated in our wonderful Year 5 Easter performance! Thank you to everyone who contributed and attended as the children did us all proud once again!

Talking of performances... our Madagascar rehearsals have been going brilliantly and I can't believe we are only a month away from the curtains raising on this spectacular show. Mrs. Murray and the team have put in so much work and effort to make it a truly memorable experience for all 136 cast members and I can't wait to book my tickets (they are out now!) and revel in our children's theatrical skills and talents.

Thank you to everyone who managed to attend our open evenings on Tuesday and Thursday this week- I promise I will make sure they are communicated well in advance but, as a rule of thumb, we always have them at the end of Term 2 and 4 to coincide with the parents' evenings which run in Terms 1 and 3.

Within this newsletter we have important information on attendance rates within the school and how having poor attendance (below 95%) can have a profoundly negative impact on your child's ability to achieve in school and keep up with their class mates. We also have feedback from our most recent pupil survey as well as confirmation of our Inset dates for 2026-27.

The school council worked hard once again on producing the Easter Egg hunt around school. It was lovely to see so many families enjoying searching for the clues and recognizing all the staff bunnies on display!

I hope you all have a fabulous Easter break and I am very much looking forward to welcoming you all back at the beginning of next term.

As always, thank you for your continued support,

Mr. Barnard

Upcoming Events – Term 5

Date	Details
Monday 20th April	First Day Term 5
Thursday 23 rd April	Brass lessons start Year 4
Saturday 25 th April	Madagascar Rehearsals (All Day)
Monday 27 th April	Madagascar Rehearsals (All day)
Tuesday 28 th & Wednesday 29 th April	Madagascar Production Performances
Tuesday 28 th April	1.1 Family Lunch
Wednesday 29 th April	1.2 Family Lunch
Thursday 30 th April	1.3 Family Lunch
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5 th May	Reserve RE
Monday 11 th May	Year 6 SATS week (and breakfast)
Monday 11 th May	Mental Health Awareness Week
Thursday 14 th May	Reception Family Phonics 2.45pm
Tuesday 19 th May	Reception Court Farm Trip
Tuesday 19 th May	Full Governing Body Meeting (7pm)
Wednesday 20 th May	Tulip - Class photos
Thursday 21 st May	Last Day Term 5
Friday 22nd May	INSET DAY

Inset Days 2026-27

Tuesday	1 st September
Wednesday	2 nd September
Monday	4 th January
Friday	22 nd January
Friday	28 th May

Lunch Ordering Changes

When we return from the Easter break, there will be changes to the process for ordering school meals. Please look out for further communication from the office staff, which will outline these updates and explain any actions required.



Achievements

- Sudharsh's incredible maths work
- Imogen's brilliant writing
- Marvis' marvellous measuring learning
- Iris' fabulous science work
- Keron's super art
- Dylan, Alfie and Esme's wonderful writing
- Immy's fantastic maths work
- Willow, Layla-Rae and Georgina's gorgeous writing
- Freya's delightful nature and kindness
- Isla and Jessica's impressive maths work
- Izzy and Jeeva's super booklets

- Gabriel's great learning skills
- David and Arabella's brilliant basketball skills
- All of Year 2's mind blowing letters to me
- Ethan's excellent maths work
- Alice's amazing writing skills
- Elizabeth and Samuel's hair tingling piano playing
- Ayman's unbelievable writing
- Robin's beautiful maths learning
- Ismael's cracking measurement learning
- Ramsey's tremendous writing efforts
- Jessica and Layla-Rose's spectacular partner work

St. Michael's Primary School: Pupil Wellbeing Survey Results



Favourite Times and Lessons



PE and Art Lead the Way

Across all year groups, Physical Education and Art are consistently ranked as the most popular subjects, reflecting a strong student preference for active and creative learning.



Dodgeball and Football Fever

In Years 3 through 6, Dodgeball emerged as the stand-out PE favourite, followed closely by Football and Gymnastics.



The 'Busy Time' Era

For Reception to Year 2, 'Dusy time' is the highlight, providing essential opportunities for child-led exploration.

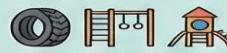


The OPAL Impact on Break Times



A Resounding Success for Play

The majority of pupils report that the OPAL programme has made break times 'better,' leading to increased engagement.



Top Play Picks

Students specifically highlighted the tyres, monkey bars, and the adventure playground' as their most-enjoyed pieces of equipment.



Social Connection Through Play

Many pupils noted that the new play opportunities have made it easier and more fun to play tag and chat with their friends.

Feeling Safe and Valued



High Levels of Classroom Safety

A significant majority of pupils across all year groups reported that they 'Always' feel safe in their classrooms.



Feeling Valued by the School

The survey shows a very high percentage of children feel valued both within their individual classes and by the school as a whole.

Strong Teacher-Pupil Relationships

In "What do you like about school?" comments, many children specifically mentioned their teachers as a reason they enjoy coming to school.

Health and Habits



How We Get to School

Walking and travelling by car are the two most common methods of transport, though many children expressed a wish to cycle or scooter more often.



The Morning Slump

A notable number of pupils across all years reported feeling "Tired" or "Very tired" when they wake up in the morning for school.



Bedtime Trends

Most children have a set bedtime routine, with the majority falling asleep between 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM on school nights.

Pupil Voice: Making School Even Better

Play Equipment Requests

The most common request for improvement is for even more play equipment and variety in the outdoor areas.



A frequent recurring theme, particularly for older year groups, is the desire to have football reinstated as a regular break time activity.



Longer Breaks and Fewer Arguments

Students expressed a desire for longer lunch and play times, alongside a wish for a more harmonious environment with fewer arguments on the playground.



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= 93.8%
Year 2= 97.1%	Year 3= 95.8%
Year 4= 96.2%	Year 5= 96.8%
Year 6= 95.8%	School Average= 96.9%

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.

Calling all Under 8 Girls!

GOALS Girls Hour

Football fun for girls on Saturdays!

Join us every Saturday 2 PM to 3 PM for a fun football session just for girls. A great chance to learn new skills and make friends!



Free to play and a chance to join our girls team for keen players!

Speak to Mr Keating for further details

17 Filton Goals, BGL, BS34 8LP



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



09:00 - 15:30

ignite sport

Years R-6

EASTER

HOLIDAY SPORT CAMPS

Little Stoke Primary School

Little Stoke Ln, BS34 6HY

- Tues 7th April
Gymnastics
- Wed 8th April
Football
- Thurs 9th April
Musical Theatre
- Fri 10th April
Nerf, Dodgeball & Archery

BOOK NOW!




South Gloucestershire Council
Delivering with you

HAF PLACES AVAILABLE

www.ignite-sport.co.uk



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



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



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.