



[www.st-michaels-pri.devon.sch.uk](http://www.st-michaels-pri.devon.sch.uk)

## Newsletter - September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to what we are sure will be an exciting and enjoyable school year. The children are all looking very smart in their uniform and it is lovely to see them so full of enthusiasm.

This term we have 60 new entrants who have joined our Reception classes as well as 3 new children from other schools. A number of new families have also joined our Nursery. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all these children and their families and to wish them a long and happy time at St Michael's.

### Staffing

We would like to welcome a new member of staff to St Michael's. Miss Hannah Murray has joined us to teach in Year 4 alongside Mrs Amey.

### Cycling and Scootering

It is great to see the children cycling, scootering and walking to school. If children wish to cycle, they will need to do so with an adult. If they are 10 years of age or over, have completed a Bikeability course and have written permission, they can cycle alone.

**To help ensure children stay safe, all children who cycle or scooter need to wear a helmet. Please can we also remind you that they should not ride their bikes or scooters on the school grounds. They should also get off and push their bike or scooter when they cross with the crossing patrol.**

### Parents and Carers Drop In

If you fancy meeting up with friends and having a chat over a cup of tea or coffee, please do come to our weekly drop in for parents and carers. They run every Monday afternoon between 2.30pm and 3.15pm in the Pound House, so come along and bring a friend!

### Uniform

Children need to wear plain black sensible school shoes for school. **Trainers or canvas shoes (including VANS) are not part of our school uniform**, however, pupils may change into them for playtime and lunchtime, changing back into school shoes for class time.

Can I also remind you that if children are wearing shorts under their skirts, they must not show below the hem of the skirt. Skirts should be of a suitable length, ideally to the knee.

### Harvest Festival

As part of our Harvest Festival, we are going to be making a contribution to the local HITS food bank. If you and your family would like to make a contribution to the Food Bank, please bring items in to school on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, when the donations are being collected.

More information about suitable donations will be sent nearer to the time.

### Building work

The work on the hall roof is progressing well and it is hoped that it will be completed by the end of half term.

### Illness and Medication

If your child is ill, please phone the school office by 9.30pm and leave a message using Option 1 to report their absence. Messages must include their name, class and a full reason for absence. If your child has had sickness and/or diarrhoea, they need to stay at home for 48 hours after the last bout.

### Fantastic Food Day

On **Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October**, we are having a '**Fantastic Food Day**'. Schools receive government funding based on the number of children who are eating a school dinner on that day and we hope you will encourage your child to have a school meal on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October. The children will have the chance to win a prize - one from each class. Thank you.

### School Times

Please can I remind you that the school day starts at 9:00am, however, children can come into school from 8:50am, when the school bell rings. This allows them time to settle before the register is taken at 9:00am. Please can you ensure your children are here on time, so they have a settled start to their school day. The Nursery children will be let into school at 9:00am.

Children must not be left unattended in the school playground until 8:45am, as there is no-one able to supervise them until this time. **SMASC run a breakfast club if your child needs to be dropped off early and you can contact them after 4pm on 07816 853478.** Please could I also remind you that children should not play on the play equipment either before or after school.

### Application for a Secondary School Place

For children in Year 6, please remember that applications for a place at secondary school need to be submitted by **31<sup>st</sup> October**. You need to apply online to [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline) to ensure that your child gets their place.

Can I also remind the parents of children in Year 6 that your children will sit their SATs in the week beginning the **14<sup>th</sup> May**. Please could we ask that, during this week, you try to make appointments either for the afternoon or for after school, and that you do not take any holiday.

### Music Lessons

We offer weekly music lessons in guitar and woodwind to children from Year 2 to Year 6. These lessons take place during the school day at an additional cost.

Mr Alex Knight currently has spaces for guitar. If you are interested in finding out more information about these lessons, please contact him directly on **07896438242**.

Mr Steve Buckley currently has spaces for woodwind lessons. Please email him directly on [altobuck59@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:altobuck59@yahoo.co.uk) or phone on **01364 611553**.

### Nits

Nits are a perennial problem in school and we would like to thank all of you for continuing to support us with this issue. Please continue to be vigilant in checking your child's hair regularly and treating if necessary, particularly after you receive a letter from school informing you that there are nits in your child's class. If you condition your child's hair every time you wash it, and then comb through with a nit comb, this can often help keep nits at bay.

### **School Meals**

Please can I remind you that all school meals must be paid for in advance via the ParentPay system. This cuts down on the administration involved and therefore keeps the price of the meals low. Your help in this matter is appreciated.

### **Prayer Box**

If you would like the St Michael's Church Prayer group to say a prayer for you or your family, please pop a note into our prayer box. The note needs to say who the prayer is for and why but you can keep it simple. The box is situated in the main Reception area. The prayers will be collected weekly and will be said in church by the Prayer Group.

### **Holidays in Term Time**

Please can I remind you that all holidays taken during term time will be **unauthorised** and penalty notices will be issued by Devon County Council.

### **Work showing:**

On **Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November**, you are invited to a work showing from 3:30pm until 4:30pm. You will be able to look at all your child's work with them and your child's teacher will be on hand to answer any questions.

### **Half term holiday**

School closes at **3:15pm** on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October** and opens again at **8:50am** on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October**.

If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Karen West  
Head of School

### Dates for the term

<b>Dates for the term</b>		<b>Class Assemblies</b> (Usually Fridays but subject to change)	
<b>October</b>			
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bikeability for Year 5 and 6		
4 <sup>th</sup>	Trip to World of Country Life - Yr 1		
5 <sup>th</sup>	Trip to World of Country Life - Yr 2		
13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am Harvest service at Church		
13 <sup>th</sup>	Half term holiday starts at 3:15pm		
30 <sup>th</sup>	School opens at 8:50am		
31 <sup>st</sup>	Individual school photographs		
31 <sup>st</sup>	FS Stay and Play - 2:00pm		
<b>November</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	FS Stay and Play - 2:00pm	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 6
1 <sup>st</sup>	Work showing 3:30 - 4:30	10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5
6 <sup>th</sup>	Bikeability for Year 5 and 6	17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4
17 <sup>th</sup>	Enterprise day	24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3
20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	1:15 pm Christmas experience at St Michael's Church Year 1		
27 <sup>th</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' evening 3:30pm - 6:30pm		
28 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' evening 3:15pm - 5:30pm FS ONLY		
28 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 6 to Buckfast Abbey		
30 <sup>th</sup>	FS Nativity in St Michael's church 2.00pm		
<b>December</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	FS Nativity in St Michael's church 10.00am		
4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Christmas performance 2.00pm		
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Reception trip to Kents Cavern		
5 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm Nursery Grandparents' afternoon		
7 <sup>th</sup>	Froglets' trip to Kents Cavern		
7 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 Rec Grandparents' afternoon		
11 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 Yr 2 Grandparents' afternoon		
12 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 Yr 1 Grandparents' afternoon		
12 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Choir to sing at Penn's Mount		
13 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Christmas lunch Christmas jumper day		
15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am Christmas Service at Church		
15 <sup>th</sup>	School finishes for Christmas holiday at 3:15pm		
<b>January</b>			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	School opens at 8:50am		