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## Newsletter - September 2018

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 for the new school year.

This term we have 48 new entrants who have joined our Reception classes as well as several 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 some new members of staff to St Michael's.

Mrs Danni Aplin-Moore has joined us to teach in Nursery, Mrs Victoria Humphrey is teaching in Reception and Mrs Claire Moules is teaching in Year 2 with Mrs Barons. We would also like to welcome Mr Tim Horton who is teaching in Year 6 four mornings a week.

### 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.**

### Parent/Carers Regular 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 with Mrs Forward. They run every Wednesday morning between 9.00am and 10.00am in the Pound House, so come along and bring a friend!

If you would like to see Mrs Forward for a more individual chat, please contact her through the school office.

### Uniform

Children need to wear plain black sensible school shoes. **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 19<sup>th</sup> October, when the donations are being collected. More information about suitable donations will be sent nearer to the time.

### **Illness & 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. Please leave clear details as to the illness, not 'poorly' or 'under the weather'! If your child has had sickness and/or diarrhoea, they need to stay at home for 48 hours after the last episode. Please do not send your child in with medication in their bag. If your child needs medicine within school hours, please go to the school office and complete the necessary paperwork.

### **Fantastic Food Day**

On **Thursday, 4<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 4<sup>th</sup> October. The children will have the chance to win a prize - one from each class.

### **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 contact details can be obtained from the school office.

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 2018**. 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 **13<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 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**.

### **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.

### **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 and 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.

### **Parents Drop-In**

On **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**, you are invited to drop-in to your child's class between 3.15pm and 4.30pm. This is an opportunity to meet their teacher and find out a little more about their new year group. There will be a further Parents' evening later in the term where you can make an appointment to meet and discuss your child's progress.

### **Work Showing**

On **Wednesday, 7<sup>th</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 19<sup>th</sup> October** and opens again at **8:50am** on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November**.

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

Dates for the term		Class Assemblies (Usually Fridays but subject to change)	
<b>October</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Bikeability for Year 5 and 6	5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3
2 <sup>nd</sup>	FS - Early Years Parents' Meeting 6-7pm	12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parents' Drop In 3.15 - 4.30pm	19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6
8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	1:15 pm Harvest Experience at St Michael's Church Year 3		
9 <sup>th</sup>	UK Parliament Visit to Year 6		
10 <sup>th</sup>	Individual Photos		
19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am Harvest Service at Church		
19 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term holiday starts at 3:15pm		
<b>November</b>			
5 <sup>th</sup>	School opens 8.50am	9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4
5 <sup>th</sup>	Local studies week		
5 <sup>th</sup>	Bikeability for Year 5 and 6		
7 <sup>th</sup>	Local history workshops		
7 <sup>th</sup>	Work showing 3:30 - 4:30pm		
13 <sup>th</sup>	Drama Day - Year 1		
16 <sup>th</sup>	Enterprise Day - to raise money for Children in Need and school.		
26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 to Buckfast Abbey		
<b>December</b>			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Choir to sing at Tesco		
10 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' evening 3.30 - 6.30		
11 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' evening 3.30 - 5.00 <b>FS and Year 6 ONLY</b>		
21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am Christmas Service at Church		
21 <sup>st</sup>	School finishes for Christmas holiday at 3:15pm		
<b>January</b>			
7 <sup>th</sup>	School opens at 8:50am		