



Dear Parents and Carers

Apart from the weather, I think we can say that the start to the Spring Term has been a positive one - all the children are dressed smartly in their uniform and are working extremely hard.

Christian Value

This term, the value that we are focussing on is **Justice**. This is the upholding of what is fair, just, and right.

Rights Respecting Article



Each half term we will consider a different article and ensure the rights are being taught through our daily classroom practice. This half term, we are focussing on Article 24: "The right to have a safe and happy environment."

Attendance

Attendance is monitored weekly, as part of our legal duties as a school. We will notify you by letter if we have a concern about your child's attendance. If you would like to discuss attendance, please talk to your child's class teacher in the first instance. We will be happy to work with you and your child to help improve their attendance at school if needed. If your child is unwell, you must contact the school via the Absence Option. We are also required to ask for as much information as possible about the nature of the illness in line with our health and safety procedures.

FOSM Post Box

Just to remind parents that if you have any communication/information for the Friends of St Michael's (FOSM) you can put this in the black post-box in the corner of the main reception area (not the black school post-box outside).

STOP - Bullying Campaign

This term we will continue looking at how we can help to ensure that children, staff and parents have a clear understanding of bullying and how it affects everyone involved. A leaflet is attached which helps to explain the STOP acronym. Staff will be discussing this with children over the next few weeks so that they are very clear in their understanding of bullying and what they can continue to do to help prevent bullying.



Healthy Schools

We are continuing to encourage the children at school to enjoy a healthy lifestyle in which they eat a healthy diet and try to stay as active as possible. We continue to encourage healthy snack choices at break/lunch times; such as fruit, vegetables, breadsticks and yoghurt etc and your support with this is much appreciated. In line with our healthy eating policy (which can be found on our school website), can we please ask that no sweets or treats are given out to class mates at birthday times. We understand that it is a lovely, generous gesture and a way of celebrating. However, we also have to be mindful that some children may have particular dietary needs or allergies. We hope you understand and appreciate your support with this.

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

The week beginning 3rd - 7th February is Children's Mental Health Week. The theme of this year is Find your Brave. Life is all about taking small brave steps every day. Bravery could be about sharing worries and asking for help when you need it, trying something new or making the right choices. Staff and Children will be exploring what it means to be brave and how this can help us in our daily lives.

Lost Property

We are still finding that a lot of items do not have names in them. Lots of the children have lunchboxes and drink bottles which are of the same design. Without clear names, this is causing confusion! Please ensure that items are clearly labelled with both **name and class**. Please also ensure that all uniform items are also named so that if they are lost, we can return them to the correct class. **If we have any 'unnamed' lunchboxes/drink containers left over at the end of each week, these will be disposed of for hygiene reasons. Unclaimed/unnamed uniform will be passed to the FOSM's for the Pre Loved sale.**

Weather Warnings - Verified Mobile Numbers Needed

If the school could not open due to bad weather conditions, we would contact you via ParentPay **Text** Message.

If the school were to close during a school day due to bad weather conditions, we would again contact you via ParentPay **Text** Message. All children would be kept safe until they were collected. We would ask that, if this were to happen and someone else was collecting your child, that you contact the school office with details. **Regular updates on the situation would then be sent via email.**

We are asking parents to ensure that they have verified their mobile numbers on their ParentPay account, especially if your mobile number has changed recently.



You may be interested to know that Devon County Council have an 'Informe' link. If you register your email address via the DCC website, you can request closure/reopening updates re: any school in Devon.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to use our 'tier' system. If you are unable to pop into school, please ring or email via the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

Mrs Kate Arnold
Head of School