



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the Spring Term at St Michael's. We hope you had a lovely Christmas and we wish you all a very healthy and Happy New Year.

Christian Value

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

This Month's Right



Each month, we consider a different article and ensure the rights are being taught through our classroom practice. This month we are focussing on Article 1 Every child has the right to know their rights.

Uniform

All the children have come back looking super smart, however, can I please remind you our school uniform is: -

- School sweatshirt or sweat cardigan with school logo (or Froglets logo for Nursery children).
- White polo shirt or short sleeved shirt.
- Grey/black shorts/trousers/skirts/pinafore dress. Nursery children may also wear black jogging bottoms.
- Children can wear gingham dresses in the summer (school colour blue).
- School shoes must be worn to school. These can be black/brown sensible shoes, not trainers. But at break and lunchtimes children can wear trainers for running around if they wish.

Please could we remind everyone that children need a coat every day at school, especially at the moment. We are trying to take the children outside as much as possible, even when there is a little rain, so they do need a coat (labelled with





their name) in school. Please could you also ensure that long hair is tied back for health and safety/ hygiene purposes. **During the colder days your child may wear a base layer under their uniform to help stay warm, as we are ensuring that all rooms are well ventilated. An extra jumper can be worn, in school colours under their school jumper.**

Application for Primary School Places

Application for Primary School Application for a Primary School Place Applications opened on 15th November for admission into Primary School in September 2021 and you can apply online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline You can apply for a place if your child was born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August, 2016. Applications must be in by 15th January 2021 or they will be considered as late and you may not get a place for your child in a school of your choice. Please make sure you apply for 3 schools of your choice. If you only apply for one school and do not get a place, your child will be placed in a school where there is a space, which may not be a school you would choose.

Attendance and Requesting Absence

All schools have a duty to monitor the attendance of the children at their school, to ensure regular and punctual attendance. It is also monitored by the local authority and scrutinised closely as part of Ofsted inspections. We continue to monitor our attendance weekly. At the end of last term our attendance was 97.03%; thank you for helping to keep our attendance rate high. If parents wish to make a request for an absence, permission must be sought from the school at least 3 weeks in advance using an 'Absence Request' form (S2) which outlines the legal information you will need to consider. Please be reminded that, by law, the school is unable to authorise holidays unless circumstances are deemed

exceptional and, if the school refuses your request and the child is still taken out of school, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where your child has 10 or more unauthorised absences from school (5 days or more), we are





obliged to report this to the Education Welfare Service, which may then lead to a penalty notice being issued by the local authority.

We would also like to remind the parents of children in Year 6 that your children will sit their SATs in the week beginning the 10th May 2021. Please could we ask that you do not make appointments or take any holiday in this week.

Illness & Medication

If your child is unwell, please phone the school office by 9:30am to report their absence. If you are leaving a message, please leave clear details as to the nature of the illness. If your child has had sickness and/or diarrhoea, they need to stay at home for 48 hours after the last episode.

Mental Health

Our new mental health approach, MindUp, is now happening in all classes and we are introducing daily brain breaks to calm our minds and bodies across the day, in order to decrease anxiety and stress and to be in a better place to learn. A recent Parent Pay communication provided a link to a short presentation about MindUp; if you missed this, the link is <https://youtu.be/HFcdaNEIWPY>

Please enjoy finding out about this very exciting and important initiative that will support our school community's mental health.

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

