



# St Michael's C of E Primary School

## April 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so great to have all our children back with us again. A school is not a school without the children! To see each classroom filled with children busy learning and the playground filled with them running, jumping, chatting, playing and laughing is fantastic.

Of course, it still feels a little different and there are still things we can't do that allow us to be all together in person, but at least we are now in the building, under the same roof. It's a start to the next stage and it's very much welcomed.

### **Christian Value:**

This half term, the value that we are focusing on is Compassion. Compassion means we care about others, treat them with kindness, and feel a strong desire to help people in need. Compassion might look like giving a hug, making a card, or saying something kind to help a friend or family member who is feeling sad or upset.

### **April's Right:**

Each half term we will consider a different article and ensure the rights are being taught through our daily classroom practice. This month, we are focusing on Article 30 of the UNCRC which makes it clear that children and young people who belong to a minority group have the right to share their culture, language and religion with other people in that group.

### **Mental Health**

As a school, we aim to foster kindness and compassion across our whole school community. We would like to give the children the chance to show off their acts of kindness and every so often will be launching a kindness and wellbeing challenge. This is an optional task – if the children wish, they may complete a wellbeing template, outlining 5 acts of kindness they intend to carry out for someone. This could be a friend, a grown up at home or another family member or someone at school. Examples of kindness might be paying someone a compliment, sending someone a card and message or listening to someone if they are feeling sad.

Research shows acts of kindness can release feel good chemicals such as dopamine, that contribute to our own mood and overall wellbeing, so it's a two way street! No act of kindness is too small and any child's kindness will be acknowledged and celebrated in our Friday assembly.

### **School Spaces:**

We have some spaces for child admissions in our current Froglets, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes. If you know of anyone looking for a school place for their child, please let them know we have spaces! We would love to welcome some more children to our school and would be only too happy to give anyone interested more information or a guided tour.



**UNCRC Article 30 – I have a right to speak my own language and to follow my family's way of life.**



### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Parking**

CAR DRIVERS - please DO NOT use the Church Street entrance in the morning as a drive by, drop off area - this is not safe. Please ensure you park in a safe, designated area and walk your child to school.

### **Safeguarding Leads**

Members of staff who are Safeguarding Leads are as follows:

**Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is:**

**Mrs Kate Arnold**



**Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL)**

**are:**



**Mrs Alix Harding Mrs Isabel Amey Mrs Claire Foin**

If any parent has a safeguarding concern or query about ANY child within our community, please email for advice.

**IF ANY ADULT FEELS A CHILD OR ADULT MAY BE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER YOU MUST CALL MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) OR 999**

"If you are worried about a child or young person in Devon and want to speak to someone, or if you are a child or young person worried about your own safety please contact the MASH on 0345 155 1071 or email [mashsecure@devon.gov.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk) and give as much information as you can."

Devon Children and Families Partnership



**UNCRC Article 30 – I have a right to speak my own language and to follow my family's way of life.**



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

**Dates:**

<b>KEY DATES</b>	
<b>April:</b>	
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Last Day of Spring Term
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> (inclusive)</b>	Easter Holidays
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	First day of Summer Term
<b>May:</b>	
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Bank Holiday
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> – Friday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Half Term
<b>July:</b>	
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Summer Holidays begin



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