



St Michael's C of E Primary School

OUR VISION: 'Working together, growing together, for all to flourish.'

December 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head into December, we usually would have shared with you dates for your diaries.

However, we have once again had to adjust our normal plans for the Christmas period this year, but the children in our Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 are working on something special and we will share the details nearer the time.

We are committed to try and make Christmas as enjoyable as possible for all of our pupils and make sure that it remains a special time for them.

Christian Value:

This term, the value that we are focusing on is PERSEVERANCE. Perseverance is the quality of continuing with something even though it is difficult. We celebrate this in our whole school assembly on a Friday and on the Values Blog.

Our 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 12, this states that children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously.

Application for Primary School Places:

Applications for places opened on the 15th November for admission into Primary School in September 2021 and you can apply online at

www.devon.gov.uk/admissiononline

You can apply for a place if your child was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August, 2018. **Applications must be in by 15th January 2022 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.

COVID 19 Symptoms

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above, stay at home and [arrange to have a PCR test](#) to see if you have COVID-19.

PE Kit

PE KIT should be worn to school on the days your child(ren) has PE. Please can I remind you that they should be wearing the correct kit (listed below). If, on particularly cold days, they wish to wear under armour as a base layer, that is fine as long as it is navy or black.

- Plain white T shirt or T shirt with school logo
- Plain black or navy shorts
- School jumper



UNCRC Article 12
I have the right to be listened to and taken seriously.



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- Plimsolls or trainers (younger children need to have Velcro fasteners)
- A tracksuit may be worn in cold weather (navy or black)

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 1.** 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.

School Christmas Lunch

This year, the children's Christmas Lunch is on Wednesday 8th December. Remember your child will automatically get a Christmas Dinner unless you opted out via Parentpay. There will not be any other options available, so if your child does not want to have the Christmas lunch they can bring a packed lunch from home. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper instead of their school jumper, on that day. All other uniform should be worn as usual.

Christmas Jumpers

For the last week of term (Monday 13th - Friday 17th), we would like to invite the children to wear their Christmas tops/jumpers to school each day if they wish. All other uniform should be worn as usual.

Staffing

We are pleased to welcome back Mrs Alice Blackmore from maternity leave. Mrs Blackmore will resume her role of class teacher and will be based in Year 3 in Willow Class from January, job sharing with Mrs Kathryn Wilson.

This means that very sadly, we will have to say goodbye to Mrs Vicki Connell. I know that she will be missed by the staff and children and hopefully she will continue

working within the Federation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work.

RSE

Relationships and Sex Education will be taught during this month, as well as in the Spring and Summer Term. Each year group will be revising what has been taught the previous year.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to those parents who completed the questionnaire that we sent out. We really appreciate your feedback and will endeavor to act on it. If you have marked disagree or strongly disagree as an answer, a member of the leadership team will be in contact to discuss how we can solve this.

Mental Health

Our school community's emotional health is very important to us. Being a parent is an amazing thing, but it can also be challenging at times. Did you know.....?

A UK charity called Young Minds offers great support to both children and parents who might be finding life difficult.

YoungMinds.org.uk(<https://youngminds.org.uk>)

provides an A-Z support guide with advice on a wide range of issues, from anxiety to self-esteem. There is also signposting for counselling and a Parent's Survival Guide too. You may find this useful and of course please do talk to us at any time, if you have any concerns about your child's emotional health. We will do our very best to help.

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



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KEY DATES	
December:	
8 th December	Christmas Dinner Day Christmas Jumper Day
17 th December	Last day of Autumn Term
Tuesday 4 th January	First day of Spring Term



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