



St Michael's C of E Primary School

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

January 2022 Newsletter

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 focusing on is JUSTICE. Justice is doing the right thing - even if it is hard. 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 31, this states that children have the right to play and rest.

Application for Primary School Places:

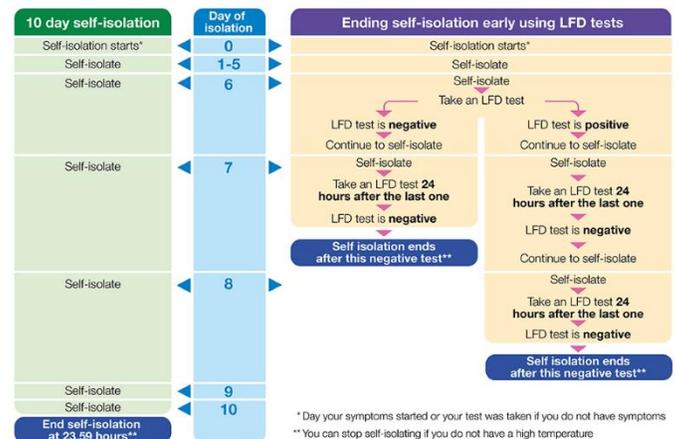
Applications for places opened on the 15th November for admission into Primary School in September 2022 and you can apply online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline

You can apply for a place if your child was born between 1st September 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

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.



UNCRC Article 31
I have the right to relax and play.



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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.

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 9th May 2022.

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 Absence Line (Option 1) by 9:30am to report their absence. If you are leaving a message, please leave clear details as to the nature of the illness and their class. Please also state that if your child has had sickness and/or diarrhoea, you understand that they need to stay at home for 48 hours after the last episode.

Mental Health

Our 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. Here is a link to a short presentation about MindUp; <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

KEY DATES	
January:	
Tuesday 4th January	First day of Spring Term
Half term	Monday 21 st - Friday 25 th February



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