



St Michael's C of E Primary School

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

January 2023 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 40 of the UNCRC. This says that when a child or young person gets legal help, they should get it without being discriminated against in any way. Their best interests must be considered.

Application for Primary School Places:

Applications for places opened on 15th November, for admission into Primary School in September 2023 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 2018 and 31st August 2019. Applications must be in by 15th January 2023 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. 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



UNCRC Article 40

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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 6th May 2023. 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.

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.



OLIO connects neighbours with each other and with local businesses so surplus food can be shared, not thrown away.

This could be food nearing its sell-by date in local stores, spare home-grown vegetables, bread from your baker, or the groceries in your fridge when you go away. OLIO is super easy! To make an item available, simply open the app, add a photo, description, and when and where the item is available for pick-up. To access items, simply browse the listings available near you, request whatever takes your fancy and arrange a pick-up via private messaging. Visit: www.olioex.com to read more.



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Scooters and Bikes:

We would like to remind those who scooter and ride bikes to school to remember to wear helmets and to walk their bikes and scooters around the school site. They must not be ridden around.

Mental Health:

As a federation, we recognise the importance of our school community's emotional health. To find out what we offer as a school in order to support this, please go to www.st-michaels-pri.devon.sch.uk Click on the parents tab and use the drop down menu to select Emotional health. You will find our school's named people to contact, should you have any concerns over your child's emotional wellbeing. You will also find a tiered explanation of support that we offer and signposting to useful websites for mental health for all the family. There is information too on our MindUp and Jigsaw curriculums, which work together to help children manage those big and difficult feelings that we can all experience. We teach children to help manage their emotions through mindfulness, developing emotional literacy and understanding how our brains can affect our thoughts, feelings and behaviour.

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 for your diary:	
MindUp re-launch day Friday 6 th January	Friday 6 th January: All children are invited to wear something that makes them feel good for the day.
Half term:	13 th – 17 th February



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