

St Michael's

Church of England Infant School

Newsletter 2 25th October 2024

'A special place to learn and grow'



Our value this half term has been

Love

Next half term, will be



We will make a peaceful school and world.

Dear Parents and Carers

First half term complete! This has been a long first half term and the children have embraced it! Our youngest children have settled so well and what shining stars they were in our church service on Tuesday. Dragonfly class read their poem and the parable of 'The Mustard Seed' beautifully. What great reading for the start of autumn term!

Through our 'Take One Picture' this term, we have raised money and awareness for Air Ambulance. We are meeting with the Little Governors early next half term, to focus on our spring and summer term ventures so we can continue to make a difference in our community and wider. We are going to be looking at ways we can make a difference by giving our 'time'. Please talk to your children over the half term break and if you have any ideas or thoughts, please bring them in on post it notes so we can share them at the next meeting and take a vote!

Later in November, we are planning give our 'time by going to church to sing to the elderly parishioners at their annual lunch on **Thursday 21st November**, in the afternoon. Look out for more information after the half term break.

We hope you found the curriculum letters and curriculum café, useful information about your child's learning. After the half term break, we will be putting out sign up sheets so you can book a parent consultation slot. This will give you an opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into their new class and to learn about their progress so far. Consultations are ten minutes so come ready with your questions! If you need additional time, please arrange a further appointment at another time.

Have a restful, half term break,

Nicola Cleather

Federation Headteacher

Hello Yellow

Thank you to all those who wore yellow to raise awareness for young people's mental health. This is an initiative by Young Minds. The children took part in a range of activities including circle time discussions on how to make ourselves feel happy and healthy and some cosmic kids yoga!

They started the day with an assembly where Mrs Moore focused on being healthy in our minds as well as our bodies. The theme was 'it's okay, not to be okay'.

If you would like further information on Hello Yellow, please go to:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Much of the advice is focused on older children but it can be useful to learn about the problems facing this generation of children and you may well have older children. We work alongside MindWorks who offer advice and signposting (use the link below). We will often send out flyers for courses and resources sent via MindWorks and we do have access to consulting with them should we need to.

<https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/>

Open Mornings

We have our Open Mornings on **Monday 4th November** and **Newdigate's is Wednesday 6th November**. Please do spread the word about our lovely schools to your friends and family!



The flyer contains two main sections. The top section is for St Michael's Open Day 2024 on Monday 4th November, 9.30am - 11am. It includes contact information for Nicola Cleather at 01272 372212 and info@stmicahels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk. The bottom section is for Newdigate Infant School Open Day 2024 on Wednesday 6th November, 9.30am - 11am. It includes contact information for Nicola Cleather at 01306 631553 and info@newdigate.surrey.sch.uk. Both sections feature photos of children and staff, and include the text 'Wrap Around Available' and 'A Special Place For Precious Years'. The Newdigate section also features a quote: 'Newdigate school feels like a family, and one that is nurturing the community's children.'

Attendance and Punctuality

Our whole school attendance this term has been: **94%**

We are still currently receiving requests for term time holidays or short breaks. As mentioned in my previous newsletter, we are expected to seriously consider issuing fines for term time holidays. We are working on updating our attendance policy and will send more information out soon. Below is some information that you may find useful.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/09/02/back-to-school-week-everything-you-need-to-know-about-school-attendance/>

Where attendance has fallen below **90%**, we will offer a telephone call next term so you are aware and so that we can talk through any barriers or difficulties.

Contextual safeguarding

One of the focuses within our safeguarding responsibilities, is to look at patterns and trends within our local context. We identify what we are currently managing as a school or schools. Our children are very young and so influences outside of the home are much more limited but we are the start of the journey and want our children to be involved in 'healthy habits' so they have an understanding and clear guideline on how to stay safe.

We have noticed that some of our safeguarding conversations are in relation to online gaming and film, video or game viewing that is not age appropriate.

Often, parents have parental controls and are working really hard to monitor this. However, older siblings, cousins, family friends with older children can view content that is more appropriate for their age group than our younger children are sometimes being exposed to.

There can then be discussions at school and exploration at home, which is difficult for parents to manage. We would like to support families in addressing this and so have put together a plan for this year that will help families. We will start by running an online safety workshop in the spring term. We will send out a parent questionnaire so that we can collate a list of age appropriate games and websites that you recommend which can then be shared with parents. For the children, we will continue to teach online safety and make appropriate gaming and viewing content a focus this year.

Safeguarding information

<https://stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk/>

Our school safeguarding leads are:

Designated safeguarding Lead: Mrs Nicola Cleather

Deputy DSL: Mrs Vickie Leney

On-line Safety Lead: Mrs Gayle Priestley (Newdigate site)

They can be contacted on our school phone number or through the email below:

dsl@stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk

If you are concerned about the safeguarding of a child at any time, please contact Surrey children's single point of access C-SPA on:

0300 470 9100

Dates for your diary

Back to School – Monday 4th November 2024

St Michaels School Open Day – Monday 4th November 2024 at 9.30am

Anti-Bullying Week – Week beginning Monday 11th November 2024

Odd Sock Day – Tuesday 12th November 2024

KS1 Athletics Festival (Year 2 only) – Tuesday 12th November from 9.30am to 11.15am

Parent's Evening – (during school hours, YR – 2-3pm, Y1 & 2 – 12.30pm – 3.30pm) – Tuesday 12th November 2024

Parent's Evening – Thursday 14th November 2024 (5-7pm)

Children in Need – Friday 15th November 2024

Church Service (At Church at 9.30am) – Tuesday 19th November 2024

Church Service (Singing to Parishioners) – Thursday 21st November 2024 at 1.45pm

Christingle Workshop (At School at 10am) – Sunday 1st December 2024 (Church service to follow at 11am)

Storytelling Evening – Friday 6th December 2024 (5-6.30pm)

School Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 11th December 2024

School Christmas Pantomime – Friday 13th December 2024

Christmas Nativity (Dress Rehearsal) – Monday 16th December 2024

Christmas Nativity (School Hall at 10am) – Tuesday 17th December 2024

Christmas Nativity (School Hall at 10am) – Wednesday 18th December 2024

Carols and Readings (At Church at 1.15pm) – Friday 20th December 2024

Last day of Autumn Term – Friday 20th December 2024 at 2pm

Spring Term Starts - Back to School - Monday 6th January 2025