

St Michael's

Church of England Infant School

Newsletter 1 6th September 2024

'A special place to learn and grow'



Our value this half-term is

LOVE



We show love and
compassion for each
other.

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the new academic year! It has been lovely to welcome families back after the summer break and to the reception team who have been enjoying meeting our new St Michael's families and getting to know the children, in their homes. We hope Dragonfly class are feeling settled and enjoying their new class. We can see new friendships are beginning to become established which is wonderful to watch.

We look forward to a new term and all that this brings! New learning, social and school events, parent's evenings and church services, to name but a few! Look out for key dates to put in your diary.

In my role as Federation Headteacher, I will now be dividing my leadership time between St Michael's and Newdigate Infant Schools. In my absence, you are in the safe hands of Miss Chapman and Mrs Moore, who begin their new roles as senior teachers. Miss Fox will be also be available in her SENCO role, should you need any advice, signposting or support.

If you have any concerns or queries, don't hesitate to talk to your class teacher, contact the office or speak to one of the leaders.

We always start the year by introducing or re-introducing the schools Bee Rules and reminding the children that we use this framework alongside our Christian value of Love, to help guide us in our choices, our relationships and our learning. Our curriculum letters will be coming out soon and a copy of the Bee Rules will be attached as well as our value poster, for you to share with your child.

Courageous Advocacy

Below is a link to the summer report from Kathryn's Mercy Home in India that you may find interesting to read. As many of you are aware we support the school by sponsoring a child's education. Currently we support Ilakiya.

[Jeyapaul 039 s report August 2024.pdf \(mcusercontent.com\)](#)

We will continue our work on courageous advocacy this academic year and as a starting point, we plan to raise awareness and support for Air Ambulance UK. A charity of interest raised by Rosie Phillip in Year 1, last year. We will create paintings with this theme as part of our 'Take One Picture' annual event. For those of you new to the school, the children paint a version of one picture using a media of their choice and we frame it. Families are welcome to purchase their child's picture and any money raised goes towards the charity.

We will be working with our 'Little Governors' (school council) to plan for other courageous advocacy focuses through the year.

This year, we will be considering how we can raise awareness and support by offering our time to others. We have been working with our Parish Priest to discuss ideas and will give you more information soon, when we have developed this.

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

Attendance and Punctuality

As you will be aware from previous correspondence, there is now new statutory guidance on improving school attendance. As a Federation, we are currently updating our attendance policy to reflect these changes and we will send this out to you soon.

As a school, we are always focused on good to high levels of attendance and we monitor this closely.

Where there are barriers, our role is to support families so that children can continue to make progress and secure good outcomes. We will work with you and our inclusion officer to help achieve this goal.

Support given for barriers to attendance do not include term time holidays. Term time holidays have become an increasingly common problem for many schools and we are no different. Until now, we have not issued fines for taking a term time holiday. However, under the new guidance, we will now be reviewing this and should we not see any improvements, we will have no choice but to issue fines. Further information on this will follow.

You may find the visuals provided below incredibly useful in highlighting the lost learning and social opportunities that lateness and less than good levels of attendance, can have.

The importance of arriving at school on time

If your child is 5 minutes late they lose	25 minutes a week	1 hour 40 minutes a month	2 hours 30 minutes a half term	5 hours a term This is equivalent to over 1 full day	16 hours 15 minutes a school year This is equivalent to over 3 days
If your child is 10 minutes late they lose	50 minutes a week	3 hours 20 minutes a month	5 hours a half term This is equivalent to 1 full day	10 hours a term This is equivalent to 2 full days	32 hours 30 minutes a school year This is equivalent to over 6 full days
If your child is 15 minutes late they lose	1 hour 15 minutes a week	5 hours a month This is equivalent to 1 full day	7 hours 30 minutes a half term This is equivalent to over 1 full day	15 hours a term This is equivalent to 3 full days	48 hours 45 minutes a school year This is equivalent to over 9 full days
If your child is 20 minutes late they lose	1 hour 40 minutes a week	6 hours 40 minutes a month This is equivalent to over 1 full day	10 hours a half term This is equivalent to over 2 full days	20 hours a term This is equivalent to over 4 full days	65 hours a school year This is equivalent to 13 full days



Have a lovely weekend!
Nicola Cleather
Federation Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Ladybird Class Start Date – Monday 9th September 2024
(Part-time)

Ladybird Class Start Date – Monday 16th September 2024
(Full-time)

Year 1 and Year 2 Curriculum Café (Formerly 'Meet the Teacher') – Monday 23rd September 2024 – Time to be confirmed.

Year R Curriculum Café – Tuesday 24th September 2024 – Time to be confirmed.

Harvest Workshop at Church – Sunday 6th October 2024 at 10am, (Service to follow at 11am)

Feeling Good Week – Commencing Monday 7th October 2024

Harvest Festival (At Church at 9.30am) – Tuesday 22nd October 2024

End of Term – Thursday 24th October 2024 at 3pm

Inset Day (School Closed) – Friday 25th October 2024

Half Term - Monday 28th October 2024 to Friday 1st November 2024

Back to School – Monday 4th November 2024

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

Odd Sock Day – Tuesday 12th November 2024

Parent's Evening – (during school hours, afternoon – timings to follow) – Tuesday 12th November 2024

Parent's Evening – Thursday 14th November 2024 (Evening slots – timings to follow)

Children in Need – Friday 15th November 2024

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

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

Storytelling Evening – Friday 6th December 2024 (Date and Time to be confirmed)

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