



St Michael's Pre-school - Newsletter

We hope you all enjoyed the half-term break! The first half of the Spring term has gone very well, albeit a little strange with some of our children absent. Hopefully we will see them all back very soon. We would like to welcome Alexandra, Cathal and Harry who joined us at the beginning of the Spring term. They have all settled in very well.

Please note the following general information:

Pre-school Telephone Number

The pre-school telephone number is - **07501 656410**. Please contact this number for anything to do with pre-school. This mobile phone will be held by either Maggie or Tina.

Please call this number when your child is not attending session, if you are going to be late to pick up or have made alternative arrangements for your child's collection. **Please remember if somebody else is picking your child up you must let us know beforehand and they will need the password you have given on your child's registration form.**

Pre-school Email Address

The pre-school email address is: preschoolstmichaels@outlook.com

Absence

If your child is absent and we do not receive notification from you, for Safeguarding reasons we will contact you after 10 am. If we cannot get hold of you we will on the second day of absence contact the Emergency contact that you have supplied us with. As set out in our Absence policy, holidays, festival days etc are all treated as Authorised absence. Please also ensure you provide an email/note to explain any lengthy absence from pre-school, for example, going on holiday.

Policies & Procedures

Our policies and procedures are available to see on our website and hard copies can normally be seen in the Reception area. However, as you are currently unable to enter the premises these will be available for you to see outside in our 'temporary' Reception area (Gazebo) - weather permitting.

Covid-19

You should have all received an updated copy of our Covid-19 Policy and Risk Assessment at the beginning of this term and signed our Pre-School Agreement that you will continue to adhere to current government guidelines.

Positive Cases - as you are all aware we have now had some positive cases within the setting. We have been extremely stringent in all hygiene procedures and in not allowing children or staff in if they are unwell. In children it does seem that the Coronavirus infection can manifest itself in many different forms such as a sore throat, runny nose, aches and pains, a headache, upset tummy. Therefore, in order for us to keep the children and our staff as safe as possible please **do not** send your child to pre-school if they are in any way unwell. I do understand they are very young but it would also be very helpful if you could teach them, as far as possible, to sneeze into their elbow or a tissue and to put their hand in front of their mouths when coughing.

Just a reminder of the procedures we have put in place to avoid cross-contamination as much as possible.

Children's Clothes - once again to avoid cross-contamination we ask that your child's clothes are changed daily. If you do not have enough school jumpers please don't worry just dress them in anything old.

Plastic Lunch Boxes - please where possible can you use **plastic boxes (tupperware)** as these are much easier for us to wipe clean on arrival.

Book Bags - Books Bags are not currently being sent home. We will review this after Easter.

Yellow Bags - these will only be sent home if we have changed your child's clothes for any reason or if we require you to provide more nappies/wipes.

We are continuing to operate a high level of hand washing/sanitising within the setting and all toys/resources are cleaned and changed regularly.

EYFS

As always we have a fun and exciting half-term planned. All our activities are linked to the Early Years Foundation stage (EYFS) framework. Information about this will have been in your Welcome Packs. However, if you have any questions about the curriculum please speak to a member of staff.

New Online Learning Journals

Our new online learning journal (Tapestry) seems to be working very well so far. We are getting lots of lovely feedback from our parents. It has also proved very useful to keep in contact with, and provide activities for, those children who have not attended during Lockdown.

Groups

We have recently divided the children into four groups which we have named Dragonflies, Ladybirds, Butterflies and Caterpillars. You may see some group observations on Tapestry referring to these names. The groups are mainly split according to age.

E-Safety



[learn about it](#) / [talk about it](#) / [deal with it](#)

Our children do have the opportunity to use the pre-school iPad (under teacher supervision) for activities in maths and literacy. We talk to the children about using iPads, computers and mobile phones and discuss what they should do if they ever see images they don't like. The above website is excellent for advice on E-Safety (even for children under 5 years). You may also find the above website useful for opening up discussion with older children.

WOW Moments from Home

Our Wow moment cards are always available outside or alternatively you can inform us of a WOW moment via Tapestry. They are a way of celebrating your child's efforts and achievements. They can be something as simple as learning to put on their coat, shoes, gloves, using the potty or toilet, going to swimming classes or sleeping in their bed all night for the first time. It may be a skill your child's key worker and yourself have discussed that they achieve at home that should be celebrated. Please complete the card and hand it to your child's key worker and, with your permission we can put it on our WOW tree. We also give your child WOW moments at pre-school which also go on our WOW Tree.

Morning Drop-off



I do understand that currently some of the children have siblings at schools with staggered start times. However, where possible please drop your child at pre-school for 9.00 am, so they can take part in our morning mat time where children sit on the carpet to say hello, talk about the pre-school 'rainbow rules' and find out what activities are available for them.

Book Exchange and Self Registration

The children are now self-registering when they come into pre-school by finding their picture/name and posting it in the post box. We hope to be able to send book bags home again after Easter.



Fees

As outlined in our Parent Agreement fees are payable even if your child is unable to attend due to holiday/sickness. Please ensure your child's name is part of the reference details when making payment by bank transfer.

30 Hours Funding

Please continue to check your child's eligibility for 30-hour funding. Please also be aware of your recheck dates so you do not lose your funding for the Summer Term.

Lunch Club

Please can you supply your child with a healthy lunch. We would recommend a sandwich/pasta, yogurt and a piece of fruit. **NO SWEETS.** Water is available at all times. **FOODS SUCH AS GRAPES/CHERRY TOMATOES, COCKTAIL SAUSAGES SHOULD BE CUT LENGTHWAYS.**



We do not currently have any children with a known nut allergy attending but we do ask that you refrain from giving your child any foods containing nuts in their lunch box.

Drinks Bottles

Please could you provide your child with a **NAMED** drinks bottle which will be available for them throughout the sessions.

Labelling

Please label children's sweatshirts, change of clothes bags, coats, wellington boots and hats. Many children have the same wellies, coats and obviously sweatshirts as it does take a long time to find whose is whose if they are not labelled.

Suitable Clothing and Footwear



We kindly request that children attend the session in suitable clothing for messy play activities and self-toileting (i.e. easy to pull down and up). We also request that they wear appropriate footwear; trainers are ideal. Please provide a spare set of clothes in a named bag. This is in case of toileting accidents but also children may get wet from water play.

Communication

Please keep an eye on emails/facebook as we tend to mainly communicate any messages or updates through this media. You are always welcome to talk to any one of us at any time. Whilst the current situation is going on it is slightly more difficult to chat on entry but if you have any concerns we will make someone available. However, if it is just a general query please feel free to email as these are checked regularly.

Staff Training

We are delighted to say that all staff now hold a First Aid Paediatric Certificate and have had up to date Safeguarding training. Our Designated Child Protection and Safeguarding Leads are Maggie and Tina and our Senco (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) is Sue. Staff are also continuously undertaking courses so that we are up to date on anything new that arises.

Our Plan for this Half-Term

Week 1 (22/02/21)	People Who Help Us (Weeks 1 and 2) Letter of the Week 'p'
Week 2 (01/03/21)	Introducing fruits from Handa's Surprise book and trying different fruits at Snack time throughout the week. St David's Day (01/03/2021) World Book Day (04/03/2021) Letter of the week 'p'
Week 3 (08/03/21)	Talking about Spring and New Life Healthy Eating Mother's Day (14/03/2021) Letter of the week 'n'
Week 4 (15/03/21)	St Patrick's Day. Planting Sunflower Seeds Making Fruit Kebabs Letter of the week 'k'
Week 5 (22/03/21)	Holi - Spring Festival (28/03/2021) - the festival of colours. Exploring colour, splash painting Celebrating Easter. Easter Egg Hunt Letter of the week 'e'

As always the above is just an idea of what we are planning. We very much follow what the children are interested in and scaffold their play and learning on this. Children due to join Reception in September 2021 (and others who show an interest) will also continue to be introduced to Phase 1 Phonics (Letters and Sounds). On a daily basis children are exploring numbers, colours and shapes through their play.

Finally we pride ourselves on the close relationship we have with our parents/carers. If at any time you have any worries or concerns please feel free to come and talk to us or email or telephone. We will always make time for you.

Many thanks for your continued support

Maggie & Pre-school Team