



St Michael's Pre-school - Newsletter

I hope you are all enjoying the half-term break. The first half of the Autumn term has gone very well and all the children have thoroughly enjoyed being back at pre-school. Our new children have also now settled very well.

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 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 Leave.

Policies and Procedures

Our policies and procedures are 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 new Reception area (Gazebo) - weather permitting

Covid-19

You have all been sent a copy of our Covid-19 Policy and Risk Assessment and signed our Pre-School Agreement that you will continue to adhere to current government guidelines. Please do read this as it does contain some important information. If you require a hard copy of any of our policies please ask Maggie or Tina.

In order for us to avoid cross-contamination as much as possible we have implemented the following, most of which is already in our Risk Assessment/Policy.

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 - I know many of you have started using the fabric lunch boxes again. Please where possible can you use plastic boxes (tupperware) as these are much easier for us to clean on arrival.

Book Bags - Books are currently only being changed **once** a week to avoid book bags going back and forth between home and pre-school.

Yellow Bags - After half-term these will only be sent home if we have changed your child's clothes for whatever reason. If we require more nappies/wipes we will ask you to bring them in.

We are continuing to operate a high level of hand washing/sanitising and would ask that you teach your child, as much as possible, to put their hand in front of their mouth when coughing/sneezing. All toys/resources are washed and changed regularly.

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 transfer. This helps in identifying payments made.

Lunch Club

Lunch club is held Monday - Friday from 12.00pm to 1.00pm. All children are welcome. Please speak to Maggie or Tina if you would like your child to try lunch club or if you have any questions.



If your child is entitled to 15 hours government funding, lunch club can be included in those hours. If your child is not funded they can still stay for an extra £5 per lunch club.

Please can we ask that you provide your children with a healthy packed lunch i.e. a sandwich/pasta, a piece of fruit and a yogurt. **For extra safety, grapes and cherry tomatoes should be cut into quarters and cocktail sausages into small pieces.**

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

Due to the Coronavirus and the need to keep children as germ free as possible we are asking parents to bring in a **NAMED** bottle of water for their child which will be available for them throughout the session.

Snack

We would appreciate a weekly contribution of £1.00 to help towards giving the children a healthy snack. Please put this in the box on the table in the Reception area (Gazebo).



Labelling

Please label children's sweatshirts, coats, wellington boots and hats. Many children have the same coats etc and it does make our job incredibly hard trying to find out what belongs to who.

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 (with Velcro) are ideal.

Please provide a spare set of clothes in the named yellow bag (including trainers/plimsolls if possible). Due to the current pandemic yellow bags will only be sent home if we have needed to change a child's clothes. This is to avoid cross-contamination as much as possible.

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. We will be starting 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

Sadly due to the current pandemic parents are not allowed into the pre-school. We do not want this to disadvantage the children in any way so we will be starting a self-registration system with the children after half-term. This helps them to develop independence as well as getting them ready for nursery/reception where they will be expected to find their name/picture and self-register. We will also be encouraging them to choose a reading book to take home **once** a week



Parent Consultations

Most of you will now have had the opportunity to see your child's key worker. I hope you found these meetings useful. If you have not met with your child's key worker, a mutually convenient time will be arranged after half-term. At St Michael's Pre-School we operate an **OPEN DOOR POLICY**. This means, you should feel comfortable in approaching your child's key worker/Maggie or Tina to share information about your child. You will be emailed a link to access your child's online learning journal on Tapestry within the next couple of days.

Facebook



As many of you are aware St Michael's Pre-school has a Facebook page. This will be regularly updated with key dates and events happening in pre-school. From time to time we will put pictures up of various activities that your children are involved in. For those of you who are not on Facebook you will be kept regularly updated via email. We would very much appreciate it if you would like to leave a review on our page

E-Safety



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

Some of the children have had 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. There is further information in our Reception area (Gazebo) that you can take away and read.

WOW Moments from Home

Wow moments 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. WOW stars will be available in Reception. Please write on the star and put it in the tray provided and, with your permission we can put it on our WOW tree which will be displayed in the Reception area (Gazebo).

Our theme throughout this half-term will be 'ALL ABOUT ME' and 'OUR FIVE SENSES'

This half term we will be enjoying:

Week 1 (2/11)	Firework (splash painting, mixing colours) - Letter of the Week 'S'; Number of the Week '1'; Shape of the Week 'Circle'; Colour 'Blue'
Week 2 (9/11)	Remembrance Day (making poppies) Environmental walk - making rubbings of trees, walls etc. re: patterns and texture Children in Need
Week 3 (16/11)	Road Safety week - Brake Charity event - the older children will be taken out for a walk which will involve crossing roads using traffic lights. World Nursery Rhyme Week Letter of the Week 'a'; Number '2'; Shape 'Square'; Colour 'red'
Week 4 23/11)	Planting Bulbs 'All About Me' 'Our Five Senses'
Week 5 (30/12)	Putting up the Christmas Tree, making decorations - Letter of the Week 't'; Number '3'; Shape 'triangle' ; Colour 'green'
Week 6 (7/12)	Christmas themed activities Review of all sounds, numbers, colours and shapes.
Week 7 (14/12)	Christmas party on Thursday 19 th December 2018 (details to follow)

As well as the above activities your children will always be given opportunities to follow their own interests and we enhance their learning around these interests. Children due to join Reception in September 2021 will also continue to be introduced to Phase 1 Phonics. However, all the children are given opportunities to explore phonics if they show an interest.

Communication

Please keep an eye on emails/facebook as we tend to mainly communicate any messages or updates through this media. As stated you are always welcome to talk to any one of us at any time. However, if it is just a general query please feel free to email as these are checked regularly. Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff if you have any queries or concerns.

Staff Training

Currently five out of our eight staff hold a First Aid Paediatric Certificate and all staff have had up to date Safeguarding training. Further Paediatric training for all staff will be undertaken in December 2020. 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.

Rosie & Jim Pre-School School Bears/Activity Bags

Due to the current situation we are not currently sending home the Pre-School Bears or Activity Bags.

Noticeboards

Please do check our noticeboards situated in the Reception area (Gazebo) for information.

Dates for your Diary:**CHILDREN IN NEED****9TH NOVEMBER TO 15TH NOVEMBER 2021****NATIONAL NURSERY RHYME WEEK****MONDAY 16TH TO FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2020****ROAD SAFETY WEEK****MONDAY 16TH TO FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2020**

Working together with the charity BRAKE, the children will be taken out in small groups and taught how to keep safe when crossing the road. Further details and permission slips to follow.

Term Dates - This is a 7 Week Half Term

TERM DATES FOR 2020/2021 SCHOOL YEAR

HALF TERM:	26/10/2020 TO 30/10/2020 (Return on Mon 2nd Nov)
CHRISTMAS PARTY:	Thursday 17th December 2021 for all children (details to follow)
CHRISTMAS BREAK:	21/12/2020 TO 01/01/2021 (Return on Tues 5th Jan)
HALF TERM:	15/02/2021 TO 19/02/2021 (Return on Mon 22nd Feb)
EASTER BREAK:	29/03/2021 TO 09/04/2021 (Return on Mon 12th April)
HALF TERM:	31/05/2021 TO 04/06/2021 (Return on Mon 7th June)
SUMMER BREAK:	LAST DAY OF TERM FRIDAY 16th JULY 2021

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. We will always make time for you.

With thanks

Maggie & The Pre-school Team