



## St Michael's Pre-school - Newsletter

We hope you all enjoyed the Easter break! It is lovely to have the majority of our children back at pre-school ☺ I would also like to welcome Edward, George and Sienna who have joined us recently.

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](mailto: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**

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your continued support in keeping our pre-school safe during what has been an extremely difficult year for us all. Even though restrictions are being eased it is still vitally important that we still adhere to government guidelines and the pre-school's Covid 19 Risk Assessment & Policy and remain vigilant with our children's health.

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

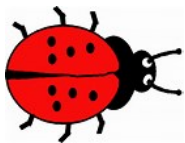
All but one of our staff have now received their first vaccination and all staff are testing twice a week.

### **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.

This is a seven week half-term.

### **Mini Beasts**



As the children are showing a real interest in mini beasts, this half term we will be looking at worms and how they live in our Wormery, finding mini beasts in the garden 'bug hotel' and even watch as 'trio' come alive in water and watch them as they grow in our water tank. We plan to take the children, in small groups, on a mini beast walk. We did this last summer and the children really enjoyed it. Not only did we find mini beasts but the children also discovered lots of shapes in the environment along with numbers and letters.



### **Gardening Week**

The week beginning the 26<sup>th</sup> April we will be having a 'Gardening Week' where, if they would like, the children can bring in seeds/bulbs to plant. We will also be planting some wildflowers to attract some butterflies and bees and encouraging the children to explore our outdoor environment as well as having discussions on growth and decay.

### **Living Eggs - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

Living Eggs provides a life-cycle education programme that enables children to see chicks hatching from their eggs. Living Eggs Ready Hatch is a two week comprehensive programme providing all we need to successfully hatch Chicks in our pre-school. The children will be able to see every day what is happening. Living Eggs is a very reputable company who keep the Chicks health and welfare at the heart of their programme. Further information to follow.

### **Baking**

After looking through some cookbooks the children have also expressed an interest in baking - so a busy fun half-term is going to be had by all.

The above is just an outline 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.

### **Parent Consultations**

For those of you who did not have a Parent Consultation at the end of last term, these will be arranged with you over the next couple of weeks.

### **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.

### **Photographer**



We are hoping to be able to get a Photographer in to take the children's photos after half-term. I will keep you notified re dates.

### **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.

### **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.

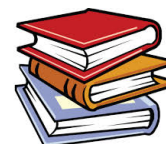
### **Morning Drop-off**



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.

### 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.



### 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.

### 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.**



### 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.

### 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.

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**