



# School Newsletter

Tuesday 10th September

[www.stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk)

*'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'* Matthew 19:14

A very warm welcome back to everyone and especially to those who are joining us for the first time. The children certainly seem refreshed and have been keen to share with us their highlights of the Summer holiday. The teachers are really pleased with the way that the children have settled into their new classes and are very quickly picking up the new routines.

Our new reception children have come into school fantastically. Both Mrs Wilton and Mrs Ithier are really enjoying getting to know the children and I am busy trying to learn all of their names—I'm nearly there! Our Year 6 children cannot wait to meet their buddies—the start of a very special relationship that will develop across the year!

We welcome Miss Howells to the staff of St Michael's who is our apprentice Teaching Assistant and will be working across many classes throughout the year.

Many of the important dates have been set which can be found in the dates section of the newsletter. Class newsletters will also be sent out this week to let you know what your child is learning about in school this term and will detail how you can support your children at home.

As many of you will have noticed, we have had rather a lot of work carried out over the summer. We are absolutely thrilled with our new entrance which adds another level of security to our school—we have had lots of positive feedback about this already. The PE store has been turned into a teaching area, we have a new garage door and a dedicated work station area for staff in the staffroom. Over the October half-term we are also looking to update the whole school lighting system which will decrease our costs significantly and see a saving in the future, as well as being of benefit to the environment.

Our theme for this term's assembly is:  
Thankfulness

## Hot Chocolate with the Head

This will continue this year—I must say it is one of my favourite parts of the week—the children are an absolute delight to spend time with over a cup of Hot Chocolate and marshmallows!



### **Enrichment Day**

On the 3rd October St. Michael's we are running our first enrichment day of the year. These days were hugely successful last year—if you have a skill or talent and would be interested in running a half day workshop for the children then please let the office or Mrs Waller know.

### **Start of the Day**

A reminder that the school bell goes at 8:50am for the children to make their way into class. They will begin their first activity immediately whilst the teacher takes the register. If you arrive at school after 9:00am you will need to go to the office to be signed in as the electronic register will have already been completed, and limits the disruption to the teacher and class.

Two members of staff are always on duty from 8:40am until the bell goes.

### **Holiday Absence Requests**

Already I have received a number of requests for absence due to holiday—please can I remind you to take a note of the school holiday dates and INSET days in order for you to plan any holidays around those dates. Absence will only be authorised for holiday in exceptional circumstances. Please see the school website for our policy.

### **Driving into School**

When dropping children off for breakfast club please drive onto the playground with caution and at a slow speed. There maybe children crossing for breakfast club or members of staff in the playground. The entrance to Breakfast Club is now around the back of the school via the Infant Playground.

There is one disabled space available to parents. Please note that should you need to use this space, you must not be driving in or out of the space between 8.35-9.00 and 3.10-3.35.

### **Harvest Festival**

This year we are celebrating 'Harvest' with a trip to church. We will be walking to church on Thursday 10th October. If any parents are available to help walk with us we would be really grateful. The Reception class will not join us on this occasion but will get the chance to visit St Michael's for a church service later in the year. Obviously at this time of year we cannot rely on the weather and so if it rains, the service will be held in school. Our Year 3 and 4 children will be leading the service.

### **Wet weather gear**

Please remember that the days may start dry but can be wet by the end so make sure your children come with coats as we still go outside in light rain for playtimes.

### **Parking in Linden Close**

For those of you who are new to the school and also to act as a reminder, we ask that you **do not** park in Linden Close or use it as a turning bay. We have many children and parents (as well as Rainbow Bears) that use the Linden Close entrance which is very busy with pedestrians and we wish to keep them safe! If you are parking in the vicinity of the school, please park considerately.

## Absence

If your child is absent, you must phone the school office. We are bound by our safeguarding responsibilities and duties to follow-up any unexplained absences. Please ensure that the school have 3 points of contact, if a child is absent and none of these are contactable it may be necessary to inform the police who will carry out a welfare check.

### School Photographer

Our school photographer will be in on the 4th October to take individual and sibling photos.

Do you know of any new parents to the area or have children of school age for next September's Reception intake?

We are holding two Open Mornings

Saturday 28th September 10-11am  
and

Wednesday 6th November 9:15-10:15am

Please make a note of these dates and share with friends and family.

### Rainbow Bears

(Winterbourne Early Years Pre-school)

Rainbow Bears are now opening Monday to Friday during term-time. Please spread the word and contact them if you require a place.

### Dates

Tue 17th Sept—PTA AGM 3:30pm  
Sat 28th Sept—Open Morning 10-11am  
Fri 4th Oct—School Photographs  
Thur 10th Oct—Harvest Service at Church  
Fri 18th Oct—Pre-School Autumn Event  
Fri 18th Oct—School Book Fair Week  
Wed 23rd Oct—Parent Consultations  
Thur 24th Oct—Parent Consultations  
Wed 6th Nov—Open Morning 9:15-10:15am  
Sun 1st Dec—Christingle Service at Church 4pm  
Wed 11th Dec—Bristol Hippodrome Panto  
Thur 12th Dec—Reception Nativity am  
Sun 15th Dec—Carols in the Barn on Tour 3:30pm  
Tue 17th Dec—Infant Xmas Party

### Term Dates 2019-2020

Term 1 Monday 2 Sept to Friday 25 Oct  
Term 2 Monday 4 Nov to Friday 20 Dec  
Term 3 Monday 6 Jan to Friday 14 Feb  
Term 4 Monday 24 Feb to Friday 3 April  
Term 5 Monday 20 April to Friday 22 May  
Term 6 Monday 1 June to Monday 20 July

### INSET DAYS 2019-2020

Monday 2nd September 2019  
Monday 4th November 2019  
Friday 14th February 2020  
Friday 3rd April 2020  
Monday 20th July 2020