



# School Newsletter

Friday 25th September 2020

[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

We are just so happy to be back and see the children—whilst some things around school are very different to the way we usually work, the children have adapted really well. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new families who are joining us for the first time.

Many of the staff have had to change the way we work, not least myself. I now enjoy delivering 'Hot chocolate from the Head' to the classrooms for our stars of the week, along with leading Worship and 'Storytime with Mrs Robson' via video link to each classroom. The children love seeing the other classes appear on their screen, each beginning and ending with a whole school wave.

Our new reception children have settled fantastically considering some of them have not been in pre-school since March, which is a very long time when you're only 4.

We welcome Miss Hampton and Mr Hayward to the staff of St Michael's who are our apprentice Teaching Assistants and will be working in classes throughout the year.

Many of the important dates have been set which can be found in the dates section of the newsletter. You should have already received your child's class newsletter to let you know what your child is learning about in school this term and how you can support your children at home. After lockdown, I am sure that you have become experts at this!

Over the summer our boilers and several kilometres of pipework were replaced. We were also able to install a toilet into the Reception class, which has already made a huge difference. Thank you to South Gloucestershire LA who supported these projects and we look forward to working with them this year to extend the the space in our Reception classroom by the addition of a conservatory as well as improving the EYFS and Year 1 outdoor area.

Our theme for this term's worship is:  
**Friendship**  
Father Malcolm and Jo Strange continue to record Weekly Worship for the children.



### **Parent Consultations**

Parent consultations will take place during the week of 12th October. Whilst we are unable to hold these in school face-to-face, it is still important that we still have the conversation to review how the children have settled back into school life so that we can both work together to fully support them. There will be an online booking system for parents to sign up, details will follow shortly as we are in the process of setting this up. Meetings will be held either via Googlemeet or by telephone.

### **Reading Scheme**

As part of our drive to improve reading across the school, we have invested significantly in our reading scheme. I am sure that the children will love reading their new books—strangely, there is no better smell than a crisp new book!

Some of you may remember Mr Hext, a neighbour who used to come in to hear the children read on a daily basis. He very kindly gifted the school a considerable donation from his estate when he passed away which has contributed to the purchase of our new books.

### **Congratulations Mrs Waller!**

I am delighted to share the news that Mr and Mrs Waller welcomed Noah into the world on 31st August a beautiful addition to the family. We send them our love and best wishes!

### **Harvest Festival**

This year we are celebrating 'Harvest' in school virtually. Our Year 3 and 4 children will be leading the service. We are hoping to record the service so that it is available for parents to view.

### **Year 3 Charity Fundraisers**

A huge congratulations to Millie Harris who donated her hair to the Little Princess charity and Henry Bateman who started a plant growing project over lockdown to raise money for Paul's Place. They carry out the St Michael's values in their own lives. We are very proud of them!

### **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.

### **Staffing**

I am so pleased that we have been able to support the children and the teachers by making sure that every class has a teaching assistant every morning at the very least. Teaching assistants do not always get the recognition that they deserve, but we are blessed with the most fantastic teaching assistants at St Michael's.

## Absence

If your child is absent, you must phone the school office. If your child is suffering any of the three Covid symptoms (high temperature, a continuous cough or loss of sense of smell or taste) they MUST be kept at home and you need to arrange for them to be tested. 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.

### 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 Covid-safe after-school tours for new parents. Please contact the office on 01454 867105 to book a tour.

Please 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 on 01454 773781

### Pantomime

Unfortunately we received an email yesterday to say that the pantomime at the Hippodrome has been postponed until next year. We are so disappointed but understand the decision entirely. We are booked for next year 2021—oh yes we are!

### TERM DATES 2020-2021

**Term 1:** Tuesday 1 September 2020 – Friday 23 October 2020

**Term 2:** Monday 2 November 2020 – Friday 18 December 2020

**Term 3:** Monday 4 January 2021 – Friday 12 February 2021

**Term 4:** Monday 22 February 2021 – Thursday 1 April 2021

**Term 5:** Monday 19 April 2021 – Friday 28 May 2021

**Term 6:** Monday 7 June 2021 – Wednesday 21 July 2021

### INSET DAYS 2020-2021

#### **Tuesday 1st September 2020**

School Closed due to building work

#### **Wednesday 2nd September 2020**

School Closed – INSET

#### **Monday 2nd November 2020**

School Closed – INSET

#### **Friday 12th February 2021**

School Closed – INSET

#### **Friday 28th May 2021**

School Closed – INSET

#### **Wednesday 21st July 2021**

School Closed – INSET

### DATES

9th Oct—Harvest Festival

Week commencing 12th October—Parent Consultations

W/C 26th Oct—HALF TERM

2nd Nov—INSET Day

15th Dec—Infant Christmas Parties in bubbles

16th Dec—Christmas Lunch

17th Dec—Junior Christmas Parties in bubbles

18th Dec—End of term 2

### Contacting teachers

Due to the change in arrangements for drop-off and collection, it is not always possible to speak to your child's teacher. If you have a query please contact them on the following email addresses, though please be aware that they would not be able to respond during school hours due to being in class teaching.

Reception—[jo.wilton@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk](mailto:jo.wilton@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk) and [sariahithier@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk](mailto:sariahithier@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk)

Year 1—[steven.bailey@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk](mailto:steven.bailey@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk)

Year 2—[Amy.Marriott3@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk](mailto:Amy.Marriott3@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk)

Year 3—[emma.hillocks@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk](mailto:emma.hillocks@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk) and [Rebecca.harriman@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk](mailto:Rebecca.harriman@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk)

Year 4—[Leanne.peachey@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk](mailto:Leanne.peachey@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk) and [office@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk)

Year 5—[Laurence.clee@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk](mailto:Laurence.clee@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk)

Year 6—[Sarah.duncan@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk](mailto:Sarah.duncan@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk)

### Parent Support Advisor

The school employ our own parent support advisor , Chris Cranney, who works with parents on a confidential basis, independent of the school. During Covid, contact would be made over the phone. If anyone would like some independent advice relating to something at home or school then please contact me so that I can put you in touch with her. She has worked with many families at St Michael's for a number of years.

### Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club is back open and is available everyday from 7:45am.

### Warm Clothes

The weather is getting much colder but we still need to try and keep the rooms as ventilated as possible. Please make sure that the children have plenty of layers and shoes, trainers or boots that will keep their feet warm.

### Support for Parents

We have been working closely with St Michael's Church throughout this period and they have been working hard to make sure that the Winterbourne Community have access to support when needed in these really tricky times. If you are struggling with anything and need a good listening ear or a bit of company, the Church have a group of 'trained listeners'. This could either be over the phone or online, whichever suits. Please contact Jo Strange direct if you feel this would be useful on 07854710507 or email [jofourleaf@gmail.com](mailto:jofourleaf@gmail.com)