



St. Michael's Nurseries

Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



MAY NEWSLETTER 2019



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Newsletter 2019

Yet again, an action packed few weeks at St. Michael's with so much to tell you....



Children enjoyed learning about Eid at nursery and had fun decorating paper hands when noticing our friends wearing beautiful henna designs for their family celebrations.

We are delighted to welcome Alice back at St. Michael's with her Moo Music session – we have missed you Alice and so pleased to have you back for Moo fun and games!!!

We are pleased to see our families enjoying our interactive displays in Pink Hall. A giant heart was filled with sticky notes from children telling us what they love about themselves during the week of Mental Health Awareness Week which focussed on body image.

We created our own nursery Polling Station encouraging the children to vote on their favourite day out, the park or the beach? The winner by far was..... the beach! While in Dragonflies a child brought in blueberries to taste and the children put their hands up if they liked them. Many children told us they went to vote with their parents too, showing their understanding of democracy, one of our British Values.



We said goodbye to Mrs Reed at half term, she has had connections with us at St. Michael's since 2004 and she will be sadly missed by our team and families. We wish her well in her new job and look forward to keeping in touch.



We are delighted, although a little emotional, to see so many of our School Leavers wearing their Class of 2019 T Shirts so proudly. The children will be bringing home letters about coming events for our school leavers and their families.

We are working closely with our waiting list for the coming 12 months and ask that any of you who would like extra sessions or know that you might need to book a place for a younger (or expected) sibling to let us know as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Children who are due to claim funding from September will soon bring home forms for completion and you are able to apply upto 6 weeks before your child's 3rd birthday at www.childcarechoices.co.uk. You are also able to find information regarding Tax Free Childcare on the same website (available to use with all age-groups from babies upto school age children needing wrap around care)

Funding for Summer Term ends on Thursday 25th July, although some families may have extra funded hours to use in the summer holiday period.

Drinks in nursery - please could parents be advised if sending in drinks with your child for the day that water is the only drink permitted in nursery. Not only for dental reasons, but a more serious reason for the safety of other children. Some children in our care have diabetes and to drink a sugary or fruit drink by mistake would make them very ill. Thank you for helping with this matter.



Just to remind you we have exclusion procedures in place to prevent illness spreading further and to protect the children and staff;



Vomiting and/or diarrhoea – your child must remain away from nursery until 48 hours clear of symptoms

Raised temperature – your child's temperature must be normal for 24 hours without the aid of medication

Chickenpox – we have had recent cases 21st April and 1st June so the illness is likely to still be 'doing the rounds' at nursery. If your child had symptoms they should stay at home for the first 5 days of the rash at least and when clinically well. Due to children attending nursery with compromised immunity, chickenpox is a severe danger to them – it is essential you let nursery know if your child has symptoms.

Coughs and colds – of course children will inevitably come into nursery with coughs and colds, we just ask that they should be well enough to have fun, play indoors and outdoors and happy to eat.

We are busy promoting good hand washing with the children and have the strangest way to keep them at the soap and taps long enough to be beneficial – we sing 'Happy Birthday' twice!!

LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES



Have you seen our fantastic ice pictures? The children used ice blocks with paint to create these fantastic watery pictures.

We wished Granny Hen farewell on her retirement with a huge sing-a-long. We love all the songs and we will continue to sing them at nursery. Happy retirement Granny Hen!



DRAGONFLIES



Our allotment is looking fantastic. We have planted out radishes, sweet corn, runner beans and peas. We love using our watering cans to water the plants. We keep checking on the tomatoes in the little greenhouse. We are making a lovely transport themed display. Look at our flying balloons!



KINDERGARTEN



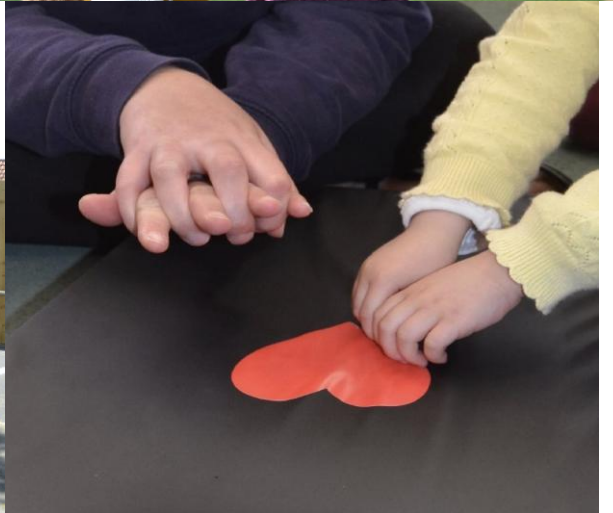
What a busy time we've had! Forest School children went to Tawstock Woods, a visit to the 'Hollow' in Holywell School and lunch in the village hall cooked by our catering team Liz and Nicola.

The children loved making friends with the cows, looking at wild flowers, making daisy chains and going down the slide.



This annual programme is designed to promote essential knowledge, skills, experience of everyday occurrences, services and skills needed throughout life.

Each day is planned to promote awareness of a particular area that is vital for the well being, knowledge & understanding for all children. We would like to thank the South Western Ambulance, Devon & Cornwall Police, the Fire Service, our friend Ruby for explaining Eid, Emma from Forest School, Aquarius Training for basic First Aid and Dougie in kindergarten for having his hair cut by Hairdresser Jodi.





Breakfast Club

Join us for breakfast here at St. Michael's. We offer cereals, delicious hot toast, yoghurts, fruit and drinks.

We are open from 8am for breakfast and transport leaves St. Michael's at 8.20am for Holywell School, Tawstock.



After School Club

Breakfast Club was funny just before we broke up for half term, some of the children were dressed ready for the 'Wild west' as part of their school WOW Day.

We have been spending lots of time in the garden making up our own treasure hunts and designing our maps. We gave the maps to our friends and they had to find the treasure – yummy chocolate coins! We have dodged showers and enjoyed picnics where possible.



JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q. Why does a giraffe have such a long neck?

A. To get away from his stinky feet! Thanks Ruby!



HOLIDAY CHILDCARE

We are offering a limited number of places for holiday childcare, for children in Reception and Year 1. If you are looking for childcare in the school holidays, we may be able to help!

Contact us at office@stmichaels-nursery.org or 01271 327074

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS AT ST. MICHAEL'S:



RUGBY TOTS

Please book directly with John by visiting the website:
www.rugbytots.co.uk/Barnstaple/Class/Details/21832



TARKA TENNIS - FULL

We are currently operating a waiting list for this extremely popular club. If you wish to put your child's name down, please speak with a member of staff. Every Friday morning for Kindergarten children down at Tarka Tennis Centre. If your child is already booked, please remember to sign the letter to REBOOK your child's place.

STREET DANCING - FULL



Street dancing is currently full. Please sign and return your letter for next term, if you wish to re-book. If you do not already have a space and you would like your child to attend, please ask to be put on the waiting list.

0 – 2 YEARS MOO MUSIC – Letters are out now for summer term -avail to Ladybirds, Butterflies and Dragonflies.



USEFUL LINKS:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends/>

<https://www.kidsandscreens.co.uk/>



On-line Safety

Online safety is an ever expanding area and you can find further valuable information on the CEOP website

'Think you know' has produced some useful conversation starters and advice to help you talk to your child about keeping safe online. www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Some good sources of information and advice for parents:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

The Professionals Online Safety Helpline is available Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm

Call 0344 381 4772 or email enquires@saferinternet.org.uk

<https://parentinfo.org/>

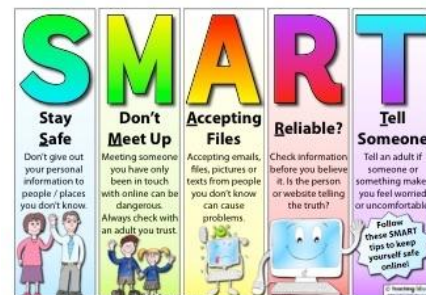
Parent Info is a free web service providing information to parents and carers.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/ShareAware>

Advice from the NSPCC: on social networks, apps and games.

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

A non-profit organization; working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children.



Dates for your Diary:

TAWSTOCK TIDDLERS & TODDLERS

'Tiddlers & Toddlers' meet at Tawstock Village Hall every Monday during term time 9.30am – 11.00am. It's only £2.00 per family & this includes refreshments. There are lots of activities, guest speakers & trips out on offer.



side by side
PARENT CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

Welcomes Parent Carers of Children and Young Adults with Additional Needs.

Come and join our friendly informal support group for an opportunity to connect with other parent carers

We meet weekly offering friendship, support and to discuss issues affecting you and your family

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS
9.30am to 11.30am
Barnstaple Youth House
6 Market Street
Barnstaple
DEVON
EX31 1BX

We also invite visitors, including support organisations to our meetings to share advice and information

If you are interested in attending or would like further information
Please contact: Tracy
Tel: 07423317634
Email: sidebysidebarnstaple@outlook.com

Find us on Facebook @sidebysidebarnstaple

WOW
WHAT OTHERS WASTE
WWW.ACTIONFORCHILDREN.ORG.UK

Scrapstore

Opening times

Tuesday 9.30am - 1.30pm
Thursday 12.30pm - 4.30pm
Friday 9.30am - 1.30pm

Telephone 07932 780436 | www.wowscrapstore.org.uk

Step by Step

North Devon Children's Centres
The Hub, Woodville Estate
Barnstaple, North Devon
EX31 2BA
Telephone 01392 415483

Our Step & Play Step-By-Step runs during Term Time Only
Tuesdays

At: Woodville Children's Centre
Woodville, Barnstaple
EX31 2BA

Our Session times are: 10am – 11.30am

A drop in group for parent/carers and their children up to the age of 5 years with additional needs. Sessions welcome.

For more information please call:
North Devon Children's Centres 01392 415483

HOW ACTION FOR CHILDREN IS WORKING WITH Devon

FREE!



Childcare payments and funding

Tax Free Childcare

You are able to sign up for this on HMRC website <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk> our nursery is registered as St. Michael's Nursery and our postcode EX31 2DB. Here you will find out the criteria to be eligible for TFC.

Parents who currently pay with childcare vouchers should consider the best option. Visit <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/tax-free-childcare> where Martin Lewis sets out which parents are suited for this option

30 hours funded childcare

To be eligible both parents (or on parent for single households) need to be working and both parents must be earning a minimum of equivalent to 16 hours NLW per week and up to under £100,000 per annum (each). Parents on sick pay and maternity/paternity pay are eligible, however students will not be eligible.

How does it work? will have read in recent press articles that the funding received by Local Authorities does not cover the cost per hour of the child attending nursery and therefore nurseries need to consider how they will deliver the funded hours in a sustainable way or choose to opt out of the extra hours. You will be pleased to hear that St. Michael's delivers the extra hours to qualifying parents from this Autumn and the costs of contributions by parents for additional services, not covered by funding, is sent out to families.

Families can choose to 'stretch' the extra hours (as some of you do with your 15 hours) and this would then create up to 22 hours per week across the 51 weeks we are open. You are able to split your funding with other settings. Claiming 30 hours would affect your Tax Credits.

My child is eligible next term, when should I apply? You are able to apply 6 weeks before your child's third birthday at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

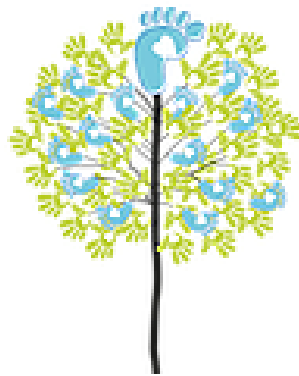
Families need to reapply every three months, and you should receive a reminder email. Please make a note of your renewal date as in the future a missed renewal will mean you miss your next term's extra funding.

What if I don't qualify for 30 hours funding?

15 hours per week remains universal to all 3 & 4 year olds (the term after their third birthday), the 30 hours is an extension of this, offering an extra 15 hours per week.

For children on universal 15 hours funding, you are able to take up to 15 hours per week, term time only, or 'stretch' your hours up to 11 hours per week throughout the year.

Families may also wish to find out from HMRC how Child Tax Credits for **Universal Credits** would be affected if claiming 30 hours funded childcare. The new <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk> website is fantastic for helpful information and includes a parents' calculator to help with the choices you make.



www.stmichaels-nursery.org