



Spring 1 2026

St Michael's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Our School Values

Aspiration

Respect

Community

Resilience

Excellence

Celebration

This half term we have been focusing on the value of community. We have discussed how we care for one another and work with one another to make everyone feel that they belong. We have talked about our own unique gifts and talents and how every single person in our school community matters. As part of our work this half term, we have learnt about the work of St Oscar Romero and how he has taught us that a community is strong when everyone is treated with dignity and respect.



Come as you are



and grow with us

Headteacher Message

As we reach the end of another action packed half term, I find myself reflecting with immense pride on everything our students have achieved at St Michael's. Our children continue to demonstrate commitment, enthusiasm and resilience to their learning and we are so proud of all their hard work. I hope that this newsletter gives you a flavour of some of the achievements that our children have accomplished this half term.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff who continue to place the children in our care at the very heart of everything that we do. Our classrooms remain to be places of warmth, care and belonging which are rooted in our Catholic values. I would also like to take the time to thank our parents and families for your unwavering support over the past half term.

As we end another busy half term, please take the time to rest, reflect and return renewed. I hope that you enjoy some quality time together away from the busy routines of the school run. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 23rd February 2026 at the usual time.

Warmest Wishes



enquiries@st-michaels.school



0191 2739383

Nursery News



Reception News



Year One News



Year Two News



Year Three News



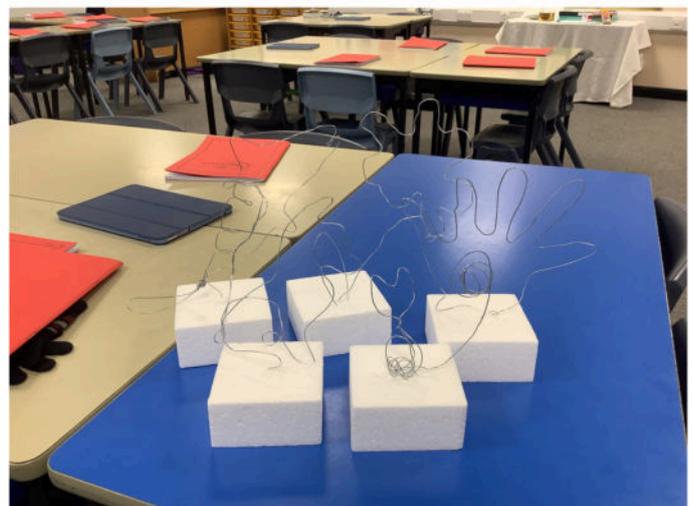
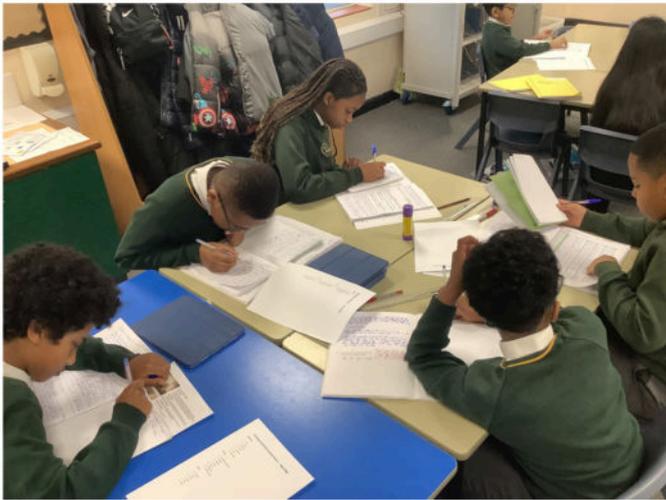
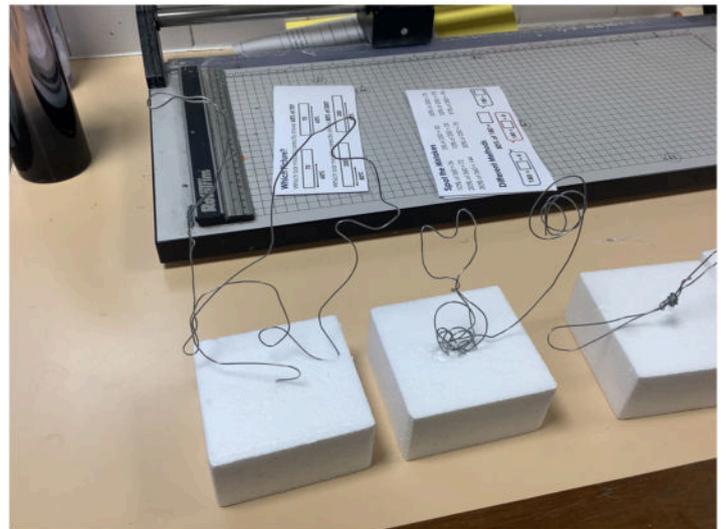
Year Four News



Year Five News



Year Six News



Sensory News



School Updates

Staff Farewell

It is with a mix of emotions that we say goodbye to Miss McElderry this week. We will greatly miss Miss McElderry's enthusiasm and warmth and we would like to thank Miss McElderry for the dedication she has shown to our staff, children and families.

Miss McElderry has been the friendly face that parents and students see when they enter our school. We thank Miss McElderry for the service she has given our school and we wish her all the best and every success in her next chapter.

Equal Access Sport Award

We are thrilled to announce that St Michael's has been recognised for our commitment to inclusivity by being awarded the Equal Sports Award. This award celebrates our ongoing efforts to ensure that every child- regardless of their gender, background or ability has equal access to high quality physical education and competitive sport. From diversifying our after school clubs to ensuring that our curriculum inspires participation for all, this award is a testament to the hard work of our PE leaders and the sporting spirit of our students. We look forward to building on this success and continuing to champion fairness and opportunity in every game we play.



Catenian Public Speaking Contest

Congratulations to Ayat in Year Six for becoming runner up in the second round of the BBCET Public Speaking Competition. Ayat prepared and delivered a 3 minute speech on a topic that is close to Ayat's heart- Artificial Intelligence, presenting a balanced argument on the pros and cons of the online world.

Navigating the high-pressure world of public speaking requires not just a way of words, but immense confidence, resilience and intellectual flair. Ayat's speech captivated the judges, demonstrating a level of eloquence and passion on a subject that Ayat feels so strongly about. We are immensely proud of the hard work and preparation that went into this success. Well done Ayat!



School Updates

Lego Robotics

Our talented Year Six students recently showcased their creativity, problem-solving skills, and teamwork at the LEGO Robotics Competition. Working together over several weeks, they designed, built, and programmed innovative robots to tackle a series of challenging tasks. The event was filled with excitement as our students demonstrated not only their technical abilities but also their perseverance and collaborative spirit. Judges were impressed by the students' inventive designs and confident presentations, and the experience gave participants a chance to apply STEM concepts in a fun, hands-on way. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication, and we look forward to seeing where their passion for robotics will take them next!



School Uniform

As we begin the next term, we would like to remind all students and families of the importance of wearing the correct school uniform each day. Our uniform is a key part of our school identity, helping to promote pride, equality, and a sense of belonging within our community. We ask that all items are worn in line with our policy, including appropriate footwear and any required PE kit on designated days.

Our school uniform is grey trousers or skirt, black school shoes and a green school jumper with the school logo. In KS2, children are expected to wear a school tie. If any families require support with purchasing any items of their child's school uniform, then please speak to either your child's class teacher or the main office.

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining our high standards and representing our school with pride.



Safeguarding & Attendance

LGfL

SIX TOP TIPS

For Parents To Keep Your Children Safe Online

SafeguardED

Most parents & carers think their children and young people spend too much time on devices. **DON'T FEEL BAD!** Lots of it is perfectly healthy anyway. Instead, follow these tips to keep them safe, happy and healthy.

Don't worry about screen time; aim for screen quality

Scrolling through social media isn't the same as making a film or story, or video calling Grandma. Use the Children's Commissioner's 'Digital Five A Day' to plan or review each day together.



Check the safety settings are turned on



Whether it's your home internet, mobile devices, consoles, apps or games, there are lots of settings to make them safer. The key ones are - can they chat to strangers, can they video chat or 'go live', are their posts public? What about safe search and Youtube? See parentsafelgfl.net for more.

Get your children to show you their apps and games



You don't need to know all about the latest app or game, but if your child shows you what they are doing and with whom, you'll probably see if it's appropriate or not. Remember 18 games are not more advanced - they are harmful to children! For parent guides to apps, including recommendations for kidsafe apps and video platforms, search for **Common Sense Media** reviews.

Don't try to hide news about scary things in the news



If you don't talk about it, your children might read inappropriate pages, believe scare stories or simply catastrophise in their heads. Why not watch **Newsround** together and talk about how they feel - there is guidance from **Childline** to help you.

Remind them of key online safety principles



There are too many to list, but remember human behaviour is the same online and offline. Remind your children to be a good friend, to ask for help if they are worried or if someone is mean.

If you aren't sure, ASK!

Your school may be able to give you advice, but there are plenty of other places to ask for help as a parent or a child, whether it is advice or help to fix something. Lots of sites are listed at reporting.lgfl.net, including ones to tell your kids about (they might not want to talk to you in the first instance).



This week we have celebrated Safer Internet Day in school. During the week, we have taken the opportunity to empower our children to navigate the digital world with kindness, caution and critical thinking. The online world offers vast opportunities for our children, but it is vital that our children understand how to keep their personal information secure and their digital footprint positive.

Thank you to all those parents who attended our parent online safety workshop. If you were unable to attend our workshop, then please find information on practical advice on setting parental controls and starting open conversations about life online. By working together, we can ensure that the internet remains a safe space for all our children.



Attendance

Well done to Year Two who had the best attendance this half term.

Our attendance shop opened again this week for those children who have had 100% attendance this half term. Well done to all our attendance winners. They enjoyed spending their attendance tokens on a variety of items in the attendance shop.

Nursery	91.5%
Reception	91.0%
Year One	93.3%
Year Two	97.6%
Year Three	93.4%
Year Four	93.0%
Year Five	92.9%
Year Six	97.3%

Parking

Pick up and drop-off times are busy outside schools. This can cause an increased safety risk to both children and parents. Parking restrictions outside schools are there to keep you and your children safe. Please support our school to ensure that we work together to keep everyone safe by parking considerably outside the school grounds.

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Any concerns about safeguarding should be reported to our designated safeguarding lead, Miss Consterdine or the deputy safeguarding leads, Mrs Chapman, Mr Frankland, Miss Fowler, Mrs Jankowski or Mrs Gurkin. A copy of our safeguarding policy can be found on our school website.

Key Dates

Date	Time	Event
25th February	9:15 – 10:00	Nursery Breakfast with a Book
26th February	9:15 – 10:00	Reception Breakfast with a Book
27th February	9:15 – 10:00	Y1 Breakfast with a Book

2nd March	9:15 – 10:00	Y2 Breakfast with a Book
3rd March	9:15 – 10:00	Y4 Breakfast with a Book
4th March	9:15 – 10:00	Y3 Breakfast with a Book
5th March	9:15 – 10:00	Y5 Breakfast with a Book
5th March	15:30 – 16:15	First Holy Communion Session (pupils only)
5th March	All Day	World Book Day
6th March	9:15 – 10:00	Y6 Breakfast with a Book
9th March	9:15 – 10:00	Sensory Room Breakfast with a Book
16th March	9:15 – 10:00	Reception Celebration of the Word
17 th March	15:30 – 18:00	Parent's Evening
18 th March	15:30 – 18:00	Parent's Evening
24th March	15:15 – 16:15	PTFA Arts and Crafts Evening
25 th March	9:15-10:00	Y6 SATS Parent Information Session
26th March	14:00 – 15:00	First Reconciliation in School Hall (parents welcome)
30 th March- 1 st April	All Day	Easter Egg Competition

1 st April	15:30-16:00	Easter Egg Exhibition
2nd April	9:30 – 10:30	Mass at St Michael's Church (Y1 – Y6)
Easter Break 3rd April – 20th April 2026 (Children Return Tuesday 21st April 2026)		

After half term, we are delighted to invite you to a "Breakfast with a Book" morning. This is a wonderful opportunity to start the day with good food and great stories! Join us in the school hall where you can enjoy a light breakfast with your child while sharing a favourite book together. This event is a chance to celebrate reading, spend quality time with your child, and be part of our school's love of books. We look forward to seeing you there for a warm drink, a tasty bite, and a magical moment of reading.

Lunchtime and After School Clubs- Spring 2

Monday	KS2 Hockey Lunchtime Club
Tuesday	KS2 Shakespeare After School Club & SATS Booster After School Club
Thursday	KS2 Mixed Football After School Club
Friday	Y2-Y6 Music After School Club & Fundamental Skills Lunchtime Club

PE Days- Spring 2

Monday	Y5 & Y6
Tuesday	Y5 Swimming
Wednesday	Y1 & Y2 Dance
Thursday	Y3 & Y4
Friday	Y1 & Y2

It is wonderful to see so many students eager to pursue their passions outside the classroom. Please be aware that due to this high demand, spaces for popular clubs are limited. We understand that missing out can be disappointing, so we strongly encourage parents to regularly check Arbor to see if any additional spaces become available throughout the term.