St Michael's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Autumn 1 2026

Our School Values

Aspiration

Respect

Community

Resilience

Excellence

Celebration

Our school mission statement, "To Live Life to the Full," is taken from John 10:10 and reminds us of the importance of making the most of every opportunity, celebrating our gifts and living with kindness, compassion and purpose. This term, the children have been reflecting on how they can live out our mission statement in their everyday lives, both in school and within the wider community. We have also focused on our school value of Aspiration, encouraging our pupils to aim high, believe in themselves and strive to achieve their full potential. Alongside this, we have explored the life and work of St Vincent de Paul, whose dedication to helping those in need inspires us to show compassion, generosity and service to others.

Headteacher Message

As we come to the end of Autumn Term 1, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a wonderful start to the new academic year.

The children have settled into school exceptionally well, embracing new routines, rising to new challenges and demonstrating enthusiasm for their learning. It has been a pleasure to see them growing in confidence, showing kindness to one another and making such a positive contribution to our school community.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening and took the time to meet with staff to discuss their children's progress and achievements. Your continued support and partnership are invaluable in helping our children thrive.

I would also like to recognise our dedicated staff, whose hard work, commitment and care ensure that our pupils are supported, encouraged and inspired every day.

Finally, a huge well done to all our pupils for their positive attitudes and achievements throughout the term. I am incredibly proud of our whole school community and look forward to all that we will achieve together in the coming term.

I wish all our families a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

enquiries@st-michaels.school

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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

Our Student Council in Action: Building a Welcoming and Inclusive School

This half term, our children voted to elect their new Student Council representatives, ensuring that pupils have a voice in shaping our school community.

Following their election, our new Student Council members enjoyed an exciting visit to Scotswood Gardens, where they took part in Forest School team-building activities which focused on being welcoming and inclusive.

They returned to school eager to share their learning and led a whole-school assembly, encouraging everyone to think about how we can make sure that all members of our school community feel valued, respected and included. To put this message into action, classes were paired together to take part in a range of team-building activities, helping children to build relationships, develop cooperation and strengthen friendships across the school.

We are incredibly proud of our Student Council!

School Updates

Pride in Place and Puppet Celebration

This half term, our Year 4, 5 and 6 children have thoroughly enjoyed working with Moving Parts to design, create and film their own puppets. Through this creative project, the children have been able to share their voices, ideas and aspirations for the future of their community, highlighting the changes they would like to see to make it an even better place to live. The puppets and the film they have created have helped capture their views and contribute to the Pride in Place funding, ensuring that the voices of our young people are heard and considered. It was wonderful to celebrate the children's creativity, hard work and powerful messages at Elswick Pool and in our school hall, where we came together to showcase their fantastic achievements. We are incredibly proud of the children for expressing their ideas so imaginatively and demonstrating that their voices can make a real difference in shaping their community.

Reception and Year 5 Buddies

Our Year 5 buddies have made a wonderful and positive start to the year, building lovely relationships with their Reception buddies and helping them to feel happy, safe and settled in school. It was a pleasure to celebrate the beginning of these special friendships during our Buddies Assembly, and we would like to thank all the parents and carers who joined us to share in this special occasion.

School Updates

Mini Vinnies

This half term, our Key Stage 2 children have had the opportunity to apply for the special role of Mini Vinnies, showing their aspiration to make a positive difference to the lives of others. Our new Mini Vinnies were formally welcomed into their roles during a special enrolment ceremony, marking the beginning of their journey as young people committed to helping others and serving their community. They have already made a fantastic start by leading an assembly to share the work of St Vincent de Paul and the importance of showing compassion, kindness and generosity to those in need. Through their work, the children have explored our school value of Aspiration, thinking about how we can aim high not only in our own lives but also in the difference we make to others.

Eco Warriors

This half term, our Year 6 children have been given the opportunity to apply for the role of Eco Warrior, showing their commitment to caring for God's creation and protecting our environment. Our Eco Warriors have already led a wonderful assembly exploring the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Stewardship and Pope Francis' letter Laudato Si', which calls us to care for our common home. They shared a simple but powerful message: we can all make a difference through small changes in our everyday lives, reminding us that every action, no matter how small, can help protect our planet for future generations.

They have also been working alongside our school gardener to care for our Prayer Garden and school grounds by planting flowers and helping to create a welcoming environment for everyone to enjoy.

School Updates

OPAL Plea!

We would be very grateful for any donations of unwanted items that could support our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) provision and help us to continue improving the children's playtime experiences. If you have any wheelies/scooters, old doll's prams, small-world toys (such as cars, dinosaurs, farm animals and boats) or trinkets and fairy garden items that you no longer need, we would love to give them a new lease of life in school!

Thank you, as always, for your continued generosity and support in helping us make playtimes as creative, active and enjoyable as possible for all our children.

Please note that we cannot accept any items made of glass, and all donations should be handed to your child's class teacher. Thank you for helping us keep our play spaces safe and enjoyable for everyone!

PTFA

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our PTFA Games Night and helped make it such an enjoyable event! Our PTFA is always welcoming new members, so if you would like to get involved and support our school community, please speak to the school office for more information. We would also like to thank all our families for their generous donations of bottles and chocolates for the Christmas Fayre. Every penny raised through our PTFA events goes straight back to the children, helping to provide exciting opportunities, resources and experiences for everyone to enjoy.

Congratulations and welcome back!

This week, we were delighted to welcome Mr Frankland back to school following his paternity leave. On behalf of the whole school community, we would like to congratulate him and his family on the arrival of their new baby and wish them every happiness as they enjoy this special time together.

School Updates

St Michael's Feast Day

This half term, our school community came together to celebrate the feast day of St Michael the Archangel, our school saint. The children learned about St Michael's important role as a protector and defender of good, reflecting on how we can follow his example by showing courage, standing up for what is right and supporting one another. It was a wonderful opportunity to deepen our understanding of our school's Catholic identity.

Poppies

Poppies are now on sale in school in support of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, giving our children the opportunity to show their support and remember those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our school's Governing Body and would love to hear from parents and carers who may be interested in getting involved. Being a Parent Governor is a great opportunity to contribute to the life of our school, share your views and help shape decisions that support our pupils and their education. No previous experience is necessary, just a commitment to the school and a willingness to work as part of a team. If you are interested in applying for the role, please complete the candidate form attached to this newsletter and return it to the school office in person or via enquiries@st-michaels.school by Friday 6th November 2026.

Please speak to the school office if you would like a paper copy. If we receive more than one application, a ballot will be carried out. We will inform you closer to the time if we must do this.

If you have any queries about this process or would like to find out more about the role, please contact Miss Consterdine.

Attendance & Safeguarding

Good attendance is essential for children to make the most of their learning and enjoy all the opportunities school has to offer. Every day in school helps children to develop new skills, grow in confidence and establish positive routines for the future. We understand that children may occasionally be unwell, but we encourage all families to aim for excellent attendance wherever possible.

We are delighted to announce that Nursery have achieved the best attendance this half term! A huge well done to all our Nursery children and their families for their fantastic commitment to coming to school regularly. Let's keep up the great work next half term!

If you have any queries or questions about attendance, or feel you need any support, please do not hesitate to speak to Mr Frankland, who will be happy to help.

Attendance- Autumn 1	
Nursery	99.5%
Reception	91.5%
Year 1	92.1%
Year 2	94.6%
Year 3	95.7%
Year 4	96.7%
Year 5	96.5%
Year 6	96.2%
School Overall Attendance	95.1%
National	95.9%

<u>School Pick Ups</u>

For safeguarding reasons, we kindly ask that parents and carers contact the school office if someone different will be collecting their child from school. Please ensure that the office is informed of any changes to collection arrangements before the end of the school day, so that we can keep all children safe and ensure they are only released to authorised adults. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in helping us keep our children safe.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) are members of staff who have specific responsibility for keeping children safe and promoting their welfare. They are the people pupils, parents and staff can speak to if they have any concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing. If you have any concerns about a child, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team, who will be happy to offer support and guidance.

Miss Consterdine

Mrs Chapman

Mr Frankland

Miss Fowler

Mrs Jankowski

Key Dates

PE Days-Autumn 2	
Monday	Year 5 & Year 6 PE
Tuesday	Year 6 Swimming
Wednesday	Year 3 & Year 4 Dance
Thursday	Year 3 & Year 4 PE
Friday	Year 1 & Year 2 PE

<u>After School Clubs</u>

Our after-school clubs for Autumn Term 2 are now available to book on Arbor! Please log in to your Arbor account to view the clubs on offer and secure your child's place. Please note that places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, so we encourage families to book early to avoid disappointment.

<u>Reception Intake Open Evening for September 2027</u>

We are delighted to invite parents and families to our Reception Open Evening on Thursday 12th November at 3:30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to find out more about our school and all that we have to offer.

Please share this invitation with anyone in our community who may be interested in attending.

Key Dates

Learn Believe Belong Together

Upcoming Events at our school

A community of kindness for a brighter tomorrow

November 2026

Date	Time	Event
2nd November	All day	Pupils return to school
3rd November	9:15 - 10:00	Y4 Stay and Pray
10th November	9:15 - 10:00	Y3 Stay and Pray
17th November	9:15 - 10:00	Y2 Stay and Pray
24th November	9:15 - 10:00	Y1 Stay and Pray

Small Moments Big Faith

December 2026

Date	Time	Event
1st December	9:15 - 10:00	Y5 Stay and Pray
2nd December	9:15 - 10:00	Y6 Stay and Pray
2nd December	15:30 - 16:30	PTFA Christmas Fayre
7th December	9:30 - 10:30	Nursery Nativity
8th December	13:30 - 14:30	KS2 Carols by Candlelight
9th December	9:30 - 10:30	Reception Nativity
10th December	9:30 - 10:30	Y1 Nativity
11th December	9:30 - 10:30	Y2 Nativity
14th December	9:15 - 10:00	Sensory Christmas Crafts
15th December	All Day	Christmas Raffle
17th December	9:30 - 10:30	Y1-Y6 Mass at St Michael's Church
18th December	All Day	Non-Uniform Day and Christmas Parties

Christmas is a time for Kindness, Community and Hope

Christmas Break

21st December – 1st January 2027

(Children Return Tuesday 5th January 2027)

Brighter Children Brighter Futures