



# St. Michael's R.C. Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs C Chapman

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12<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to St Michael's, I hope you all had a wonderful summer break with your family and friends. We are thrilled to be back at school, ready for another productive year ahead. It's great to see our pupils settling well in to their new classes and producing high quality, well-presented work in all subjects. We have lots of events planned over the coming half term, please remember to check our website and Facebook for further updates.

## Forest School

This academic year, St Michael's will be launching our very own forest school. Mrs Scott, who is currently based in Early Years, will lead on this exciting programme and has already began developing our outdoor spaces and classrooms. Forest school activities develop skills, interests and understanding through a range of activities which provide practical, hands-on experiences in a natural environment. All children across the school will have experience of forest school lessons over the course of this academic year. The lessons help to develop children's confidence and independence and will be used alongside our current curriculum to ensure our lessons are as exciting and engaging as they can be. We know our pupils are going to thoroughly enjoy these sessions.

## Homework

As part of our continuous cycle of review and evaluation at St Michael's, we are currently analysing the impact of homework on pupils' progress and attainment.

Following a review conducted in the Summer term, which included pupil work sampling, pupil voice and teacher feedback we have decided as a school to review how much homework we send home weekly.

Using research from the EEF (Education Endowment Fund) we have discovered homework is seemingly most effective when it involves practice or rehearsal of subject matter already taught in class. As a result of this, we have decided to limit the quantity of homework sent home in an effort to increase the quality of the impact of the completed work. Going forward, homework will consist of:

- times tables
- spellings
- 5 maths questions linked to a topic areas already taught in class

Homework is given on a Friday and is due back in to school by a Tuesday. If your child is struggling at home with any of their homework, please see their class teacher. A homework club runs on a Tuesday lunchtime, this is a supportive and friendly club to help support our pupils in completing any homework tasks. As always we would welcome your feedback on this. If you have any questions, please see Mrs Yeoman who is currently taking a lead on this initiative.

## Physical Education (PE) kit policy

Physical Education is an important part of our school curriculum. During PE lessons full kit is expected to be worn. St Michael's PE kit is a white t-shirt and black shorts or leggings/jogging bottoms. Appropriate footwear should also be worn such as trainers or plimsolls. We consider PE to be a very important part of our curriculum and therefore we emphasise the importance of children bringing their PE kit to school on their PE day. Year 3 and Year 4 have PE on a Monday, Year 5 and Year 6 on a Tuesday and Year 1 and Year 2 have on a Wednesday. If your child's class have extra PE sessions, you will receive notice via text and Facebook.



In the event that a child does not have full kit in school, they will still be expected to play an active part in the lesson, however won't be able to fully participate due to restrictions of their clothing. Children will also be given a PE kit reminder slip and a register of kit will be kept.

### **Lunchtime and After School Clubs- We need you!**

Here at St Michael's we offer a wide range of after school clubs and activities as we know how much our children thrive when they are given new opportunities and a chance to perfect their skills in different areas. In the Spring term, we would love to have you, our fantastic parents, grandparents and family members, to be a part of what we offer. Do you have spare time during the day or after school? Do you have skills in arts and crafts, painting, modelling, sport or cooking? Could you spare an hour of your time each week for four consecutive weeks or even offer a one-off club? If so, please speak to the school office to express interest in helping with or running a small after school club. We already have many parent volunteers who listen to our children read and are very grateful for the time they give back to the school. We know that together, we can continue to make our school the best it can possibly be.

### **PTFA**

As you know, our Parent, Teacher and Family Association raising a huge amount of money last year which contributed to buying yard equipment and yard markings. This year, the PTFA are planning events to take place throughout the year. If you would like to be a part of the PTFA, the first meeting of the year is taking place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 2:30pm. If you are unable to attend this meeting but are interested in supporting the PTFA, please give your name to the office and we will inform you of the date of the next meeting.

### **Reading and Phonics Cafes**

This half term, each class will be hosting a phonics or reading café. This is an opportunity for you to have a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit while your child's class teacher outlines the phonics and reading curriculum. You will be provided with information on how to support your child at home as there will be an opportunity for you to see phonics and reading in a lesson. The dates for the cafes are as follows:  
Our staff really do love opening up their classroom doors to you, so please do support our café events.

Nursery and Reception: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October – 9:00am  
Year 1: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October – 9:00am  
Year 2: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October – 9:00am  
Year 3: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October – 9:00am  
Year 4: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – 9:00am  
Year 5: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October – 9:00am  
Year 6: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – 9:00am

Yours Sincerely



Mrs C Chapman  
Head of School