
January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week is Community Engagement Week. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to 'give back' to their local community of Elswick and beyond. Each class has agreed on an activity to support a local service or charity. Early Years will be spreading their joy by delivering cakes to local shops and services. Year 1 and Year 2 are teaming up with Newcastle Eagles to raise money for their Hardship Fund, a charity that aims to engage the young people of Elswick to support them to live healthy lifestyles, have fun, make friends and develop transferable skills. Year 3 are collecting food for the West End foodbank. Their food parcels will be delivered to the centre to help local people in our area who are struggling to afford food this month. Year 4 are helping our local parishioners of St Michael's by cleaning our beautiful church and Year 5 and 6 have set themselves a huge task! As two classes, they are attempting to run a marathon in one day. They are asking for a small sponsorship towards this with all money raised being split between The Westend Women and Girl's Club and The Soup Kitchen for the homeless.

Throughout Spring term, we are continuing to develop and embed links with community services such as Edible Elswick, Tabitha's Place and St Joseph's Residential Home. Thank you to our fantastic pupils, they are a credit to their families and to our school.

Children's Mental Health Week- Find Your Brave

This week in school we have highlighted the importance of looking after our own mental health as part of Children's Mental Health week. The theme is 'Find Your Brave'. Pupils have been discussing their emotions and ways that they can be brave to overcome difficult situations or feelings. We have talked to our children about things they can do if they are feeling sad and given them some 'self-help' techniques to use.



At St Michael's, our children's mental health and wellbeing is the top priority. As well as our weekly PSHE lessons, pupils have a range of opportunities to discuss their feelings with other pupils and staff. We have a number of pupil mentors in school. These experienced members of staff work with children of all ages and abilities who may need to overcome difficulties that they may be experiencing at any time. Supportive one-to-one listening time allows our children to be heard. Mentors help our children to analyse and reflect on situations, develop coping strategies, set realistic and challenging goals, develop emotional resilience and work with children to develop life skills. Mentors work closely with pupils and their parents to ensure a strong network of support is in place. If you are concerned about your child's mental health or need support in this area, please contact Miss Consterdine, our Assistant Headteacher, Pastoral and SEN lead or our Welfare Officer, Mr Tolan.

'Live life to the full' John 10:10

'Live life to the full' John 10:10 is the ethos of St Michael's. These words from John's gospel underpin everything we do in school. St Michael's is a happy place where pupils thrive and reach their potential spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally. We want our pupils to excel in every area of their life, which is why we aim high and dream big. Talk to your children at home about how they can live life to the full every day.

Achievements at St Michael's



Exciting news at St Michael's. Following a moderation, St Michael's has now received the Healthy Schools Award. This award recognises that our school is working to ensure our children grow healthy, safely and responsibly. Well done to everyone involved!



Since September, our Year 5 Green Ambassadors have been campaigning to improve the environmental awareness of St Michael's. They have improved the school environment by introducing daily litter picks as well as improving recycling by educating their peers on types of material, materials can be recycled and the importance of reusable plastics.

St Michael's Stay and Play sessions

Do you have children aged 0-4?
Come along to our fantastic.

Stay and Play!

at
St Michael's RC Primary School
Clumber Street North
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7RE
0191 273 9383

Every Tuesday: 9-10am

Nursery Rhymes  

Refreshments  Songs

Stories  Games 

Do you have or know someone who has a child aged 0-4 years? If so, come along to our free Stay and Play session. You don't have to have a child in our school to join in the fun- everyone is welcome!

Our friendly and relaxed sessions run every Tuesday in the school hall 9am-10am. There are a range of activities on offer, including arts and craft, story time, toys, games and nursery rhymes for children. It's also a great social opportunity for parents to have a hot drink and make new friends.

Parent Teacher Family Association (PTFA)

A big thank you to our PTFA group who meet regularly to support our school. The PTFA are holding a Friendship Disco in the school hall on Wednesday 12th February 3.15pm-4.30pm. Tickets are £3 per child or £5 for a family ticket. The ticket price includes pizza and a drink. There is also a tuck shop available. Ticket sales end on Friday 7th February as numbers are needed for catering. All money raised will go towards buying a new shed for the Key Stage Two yard. Thank you for your continued support.

Language of the Month

Every month at St Michael's we celebrate a different spoken language. In December, our Polish pupils shared their language, in January it was our Italian pupils turn and now in February, we are celebrating Russian. As part of our Language of the Month, our pupils teach their peers key phrases and share their own traditions. It is a great way to celebrate our diverse community.

Volunteer Parent Readers

We are looking for volunteers to listen to our children read next half term. Your skills would be very much appreciated. There are so many reasons to volunteer, not only do you support our school, but volunteering provides the opportunity to develop your skills and experience too. If you feel you could support the school in this way, please leave your details at the school office.

Attendance & Punctuality

Over the last term our whole school attendance percentages have risen. Thank you for working with us to ensure that your child's attendance has contributed to the good attendance last term. It makes a huge difference to your child's academic and personal development by coming to school as often as possible.

There are still a number of families who take holidays during term time. We do not authorise term time holiday. We only authorise a day absence from school as a result of illness or in exceptional circumstances. We consider exceptional circumstances to be a one-day absence as a result of a special family occasion such as a funeral or a wedding. Two weeks term time holiday results in sixty hours of lost learning.

Good punctuality is also essential for your child. Our school doors open at 8.45am, this enables pupils to enter school in a calm manner to prepare them for their day ahead. I would like to thank the overwhelming majority of you because your child's attendance is very strong.



Attendance information:

90% attendance sounds good but means that your child misses on average:

- One half day every week.
- Nearly four weeks every school year.
- Over one school year in a school career.

2 weeks holiday in term time every year with no other absences means that your child:

- Can only ever achieve 95% attendance
- Will miss about two terms in a school career

Being just 5 minutes late every day adds up to missing about 3 days of school every year.



Finally, I would like to thank you, our parents, for your continued support at our many school events. I am determined to ensure that we work together as a school community to continue to develop so that our pupils have the best education, an education that they truly deserve. I am very excited about the future of the school.

If you have any queries, questions or concerns, please contact me or speak to the school office.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'C. Chapman'.

Mrs C Chapman
Headteacher