



The Fortnightly!

- Friday 15th September 2023 -

*'Learning together in faith and love,
we shine as children of God'*



Statement to live by: I can say one good thing about myself.

Welcome Back to School!

Welcome back to our children and a special welcome to all of our new families who have joined our school family this year! I hope you have all enjoyed a fun filled, restful summer. Our children have been an absolute credit to you all! Despite the long six week summer holiday, they have all returned to school with beaming smiles, determination and a hunger to learn. We couldn't ask for any more than this!

Many thanks for all the well wishes and support I've received from so many of you already as I embark on this new chapter here at St. Michael's Catholic Primary School.

Looking to the year ahead, we have many planned events to look forward to (*see diary dates already sent out via WeDuc*)

As always, thank you for your continued support, understanding and encouragement. Our door is always open!

Best wishes and prayers,
Mr NW Reeson
Headteacher

It's going to be a super year!

Our 'Fortnightly' school newsletter... As suggested in its name, our new newsletter will be issued every fortnight rather than weekly going forward and will be called 'The Fortnightly'. Please do keep up to date with happenings in and around school by reading the Fortnightly when it is issued. **Good to know!**

Healthy School... As a healthy school we love learning about keeping ourselves fit and well in different subjects across our curriculum. As a result, can we gently remind families that water bottles should contain water only.



Thank you for your understanding and support with this.

Parking... As school returns we kindly ask parents/carers to be considerate and mindful of safety when parking to ensure our children, neighbours and the whole school community remain safe.



Thank you for your cooperation!

X... We now have **462** followers and posts will be coming out more often! Why not follow us if you don't already? It's free and easy to set up. Go on, give it a try and click the link...

[@St_MichaelsRC](#)



X (formerly Twitter)... As already communicated, we have been reviewing how this communication channel is used in school and what the impact is for all stakeholders. We have concluded that we could be making better use of X to showcase our wonderful pupils, their work, their broad and balanced curriculum and their successes on a more regular basis. Therefore our aim is to start posting a little more and to allow us to do this, we are asking for consent for your child to appear on X. Please complete the following form

Curriculum Evenings... These are an opportunity for parents/carers to meet with your child's new class teacher and explore the curriculum your child will be covering in the coming year. It is also a chance for staff to go through some 'housekeeping' and for you to ask any questions you may have. *Dates / times can be found on the letter already sent out via WeDuc or below in the diary dates.*

We hope you will be able to attend!

Secondary School Applications... If your child's date of birth falls between 01/09/2012 and 31/08/2013 (i.e. they're in Year 6), you will need to apply for a secondary school for September 2024. Please see details below...

- Application period - 11 September 2023 until 31 October 2023
- If your application is received after 31 October 2023, it will reduce your chance of being offered your preferred school
- Apply online ([click here](#)) and you will receive an email confirmation, once your application has been received
- National Offer Day - 1 March 2024

If you apply online, you will receive an email confirmation about your child's school place sooner than if you apply by paper application form.

Please don't forget to make your application!

School Telephone... As you are probably aware, we have been having technical difficulties with our telephone lines this week. We hope that by the time this newsletter is released, they will be up and running again. If not, we do have a temporary number which is [07572900356](tel:07572900356). **Thank you for your patience.**

Open-door policy... Here at St Michael's, we see education as a valuable partnership between school and home. With this in mind, our staff are always available to answer your questions or concerns throughout the academic year. If you would like to talk to a class teacher about something, please make an appointment and we will always be happy to accommodate this. **Happy to help!**

Home - School links...

Email:	Address:	Telephone:	Website:	Twitter:
smi@smi.bwcet.com	Durham Rd, Houghton le Spring, DH5 8NF	0191584 0542	stmichaelscatholicsschool.co.uk	@St_MichaelsRC

Headteacher: Mr. N.W. Reeson

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about LIVE STREAMING

Live streaming involves broadcasting and watching videos online in real time, often on social media or via platforms like YouTube and Twitch. Viewers can interact through comments, chats and reactions during the broadcast: such instant engagement makes this an exciting way to share experiences, learn from others and build digital communities. Despite the many positives, live streaming also creates a potential platform for unsuitable content and poses some risks to children: it's essential to keep privacy and safety in mind and comply with each site or app's age restrictions.

AGE RESTRICTION
 13+
 16+ 18+
 Age varies by platform

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Despite their age restrictions, some platforms don't require proof of age at sign up - meaning that anyone can register for an account (and potentially pretend to be older or younger than they actually are). In many cases, this means that young live streamers can never be totally certain exactly who they are broadcasting to and who is engaging with their live stream.

DISCLOSING PERSONAL INFO

A characteristic of live streaming is the ability for videos to be instantly shared worldwide. Without the correct privacy settings enabled, a child could inadvertently reveal personal information or their location, making them vulnerable to online predators or identify theft. It's wise to regularly check the privacy settings (and what data is being shared) on any apps your child has signed up for.

ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN

As the video streams are live, children might encounter (or inadvertently share) inappropriate content. Most live-streaming apps have rules to prevent this and monitor their services, also providing report buttons where content can be flagged for review. It may not be dealt with instantly, however, meaning that your child could be further exposed to harmful content during a live stream.

UNAUTHORISED RECORDINGS

Each live streaming platform stores completed videos for different periods (Twitch saves broadcasts for 60 days, for example, while Facebook and YouTube remove them only at the creator's request). Deleting a video, though, doesn't always stop it from being shared: in some cases, streams have been illegally recorded (or screenshots taken) by certain viewers and redistributed on other sites.

ROGUE CONTENT CREATORS

Children can also watch other people's live streams, which could potentially contain anything at any time (such as nudity, drug use or profanity). Most apps claim to monitor live streams and will stop any that don't adhere to their guidelines - but with millions of streams per day, it's complicated to regulate them all, so children could be exposed to inappropriate content without parents knowing.

DANGER OF GROOMING

There are increasing reports of children being coerced into performing "suggestive acts" by strangers on some live-streaming apps. Due to the lack of verification required for certain apps, almost anyone can sign up to these services (including anonymously or under a fake identity). It's vital, therefore, to ensure the correct safety measures are in place before your child begins live streaming.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PUT PRIVACY FIRST

Through the streaming app's settings, switch your child's account to 'private', so only their friends and followers can see their broadcasts. You could also turn off the live chat, shielding your child from any upsetting comments - although viewers' feedback is often seen as an integral part of the fun. Identify any nearby items (such as school uniforms or visible landmarks) that could give away your child's location.

MANAGE MULTISTREAMING

Some apps and sites let users stream their content through multiple social media platforms at once. A broadcast on SteamYard, for example, can be shared on YouTube, Twitch, X and Facebook if the accounts are linked. The privacy settings can differ on each of these, so we'd suggest only streaming via one platform at a time to maintain greater control over who's watching your child's videos.

GET INVOLVED YOURSELF

Research suggests a significant number of streams show a child on their own, often in a supposed safe space like their bedroom. If your child wants to live stream, ask if you could be present because you're interested in how it works. You could even set up your own account to gain a more detailed knowledge of what your child talks about in their live streams - and who they're broadcasting to.

TALK ABOUT LIVE STREAMING

Try to start with positives before discussing potential risks. You could ask which live streaming apps your child likes and how they use them. Do they just watch streams or create their own? Explain why it's unwise to reveal personal information while streaming (even to friends). If you feel your child's too young for live streams, explain your reasoning to them and perhaps agree to review this decision in the future.

CONSIDER THEIR ONLINE REPUTATION

As the broadcasts are live, it often causes the misconception among young people that whatever happens in their video simply 'vanishes' once the stream ends. However, videos can stay online indefinitely or be recorded by other users. It's important that your child understands what they do and say in a live stream could potentially damage their online reputation and, quite possibly, be seen by prospective future employers, colleges or universities.

Education for All ... As we are sure you are already aware, this academic year we welcomed Mrs. McInnes to the St. Michael's team. Mrs. McInnes is our new school SENDCo. We know that many of you have already met and spoken with her but if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

If Mrs. McInnes is not available, Miss. Foster (Assistant Headteacher) and Mrs. Bajrami (Assistant Headteacher) will be happy to help.

Sunderland Council SEND Local Offer... Sunderland are committed to providing up-to-date and relevant information on Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) services and the support on offer in Sunderland to children, young people, and their families. [Click here](#) for more information on the Sunderland Local Offer.

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's needs, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance and then our SENDCo, Mrs. McInnes.

Safeguarding leads at St Michael's...



Mr N Reeson
Headteacher



Miss E Foster
Assistant
Headteacher



Mrs K Bajrami
Assistant
Headteacher

Mr Kemp
Safeguarding Governor

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please speak to a member of staff



Coffee Morning...

A Coffee Morning will be held in the school hall on 29th September from 9am. We welcome any donations which will be sent to the MacMillan charity.

We would love to see as many of our parents/carers coming along to have a 'cuppa' and a catch-up.

Please show your support if you can, thank you!



St. Michael's Feast Day...

On Friday 29th September we will celebrate the Feast day of our school saint, St. Michael.

Michael's name means "Who is like God?" St Michael's name is mentioned four times in the Bible: twice in Daniel and once in both the Book of Revelation and the Epistle of St Jude. In the book of Revelation 12:7-9, we read of a great battle which took place and Michael was the defender.

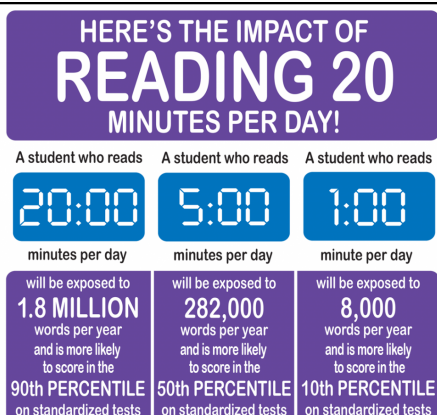
Michael became the great champion of faithfulness to God and the victor over evil. Today, he is our protector. He guards the people of God and defends the souls of the just.

To remember this special day for our school, we will be holding a whole school mass at St. Michael's Church at 10am. **All are welcome!**



Importance of Reading...

Some useful information and statistics about the importance of 20 minutes daily reading at home.



School Library Support... Do you love books? Have you got an hour or two free each week? Do you want to support our wonderful school? If so, we are looking for a team of volunteer school librarians to look after our wonderful school library! Please get in touch with the Main Office if you are interested.

Please note that you will have to apply for a DBS but we can sort this out for you; it's really easy!

TravelWise Week 18th- 22nd September 2023

TravelWise Week is a world-wide, week-long Travel Challenge where everyone is encouraged to Travel Wisely!

TravelWise Week promotes active travel, public transport, and other cleaner and healthier transport choices, and ends in World Car Free Day when we are encouraged to find an alternative mode of travel for just one day.

TravelWise Week provides the perfect opportunity to raise awareness around the impacts of travel choices on people's health and wellbeing and, most importantly, on the environment.

We would like you to get involved by either walking to school (where possible) or parking further away from school and walking in. Please share how you have travelled during TravelWise week by tagging [@St MichaelsRC](https://www.instagram.com/St_MichaelsRC). We would also like to get the children involved by designing a poster of how you could travel sustainably for 'World Car Free Day' on Friday 22nd September 2023.

Please send any posters into school by Wednesday 23rd September with your child's name and year group clearly on the back.



Upcoming event ...



GILPIN SINGERS

ARE HOLDING A

CANCER CHARITY CONCERT & COFFEE MORNING

REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE PRIZES

23 September 2023, 10:30 am (start)
St Michael's Roman Catholic Church
Durham Road, Houghton-le-Spring DH5 8NF

All donations will support **Cancer Research** and a **Sensory garden**
for cancer patients at **City Hospitals Sunderland**

Supported by Houghton 41 Club





Attendance at school... We want every child here at St. Michael's to have the best education possible, but to do this, they need to be attending and arriving on time, when they are well enough to do so of course. We actively encourage all pupils to aim for 97% attendance at the VERY LEAST, as every day and every lesson counts. Colds, sore throats and other bugs are commonplace as we move towards Autumn and we have always maintained that if your child feels well enough, they can still attend school.

We are hugely appreciative of those families who make every effort to attend school on time and we thank you for your continued support in enabling your child to **shine as children of God!**

Class...	Attendance figure...	Class...	Attendance figure...
Reception	98%	Year 4	98%
Year 1	97%	Year 5	98%
Year 2	99%	Year 6	99%

- Important Dates -

	Date	Class	Event
Autumn 1	Monday 25 th September 2023.	Reception, Year 1 & Year 2.	Curriculum Evening 4:30-5:30pm. In your child's classroom.
	Tuesday 26 th September 2023.	Year 3 & Year 4.	Curriculum Evening 4:30-5:30pm. In your child's classroom.
	Wednesday 27 th September 2023.	Year 5 & Year 6.	Curriculum Evening 4:30-5:30pm. In your child's classroom.
	Friday 29 th September 2023.	Whole School.	Coffee Morning in the School Hall from 9-9:45am. Donations to MacMillan.
	Friday 29 th September 2023.	Years 1 – 6.	School Mass at 10am in St Michael's Church to celebrate St Michael's feast day. All are welcome to join us.
	Tuesday 3 rd October 2023.	Year 6.	Reading Café from 9am in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us.
	Thursday 5 th October 2023.	Whole School.	National Poetry Day.
	Friday 6 th October 2023.	Year 5.	Class Mass 10am in St Michael's Church. All are welcome to join us.
	Tuesday 10 th October 2023.	Year 5.	Reading Café from 9am in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us.
	Wednesday 11 th October 2023.	Whole School.	Flu Vaccinations.
	Monday 16 th October – Friday 20 th October 2023.	Year 6.	Derwent Hill Residential.
	Friday 20 th October 2023.	Year 4.	Class Mass at 10am in St Michael's Church. All are welcome to join us.
HALF TERM Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October 2023.			

Assemblies and Collective Worship – Parents Invited

Class	Curriculum Celebration Assemblies		Class Liturgical Prayer	
Reception	Tues 9 th July 24	9.00am	Thurs 14 th March 24	3.00pm
Year 1	Tues 2 nd July 24	9.00am	Thurs 1 st Feb 24	3.00pm
Year 2	Tues 21 st May 24	9.00am	Thurs 18 th Jan 24	3.00pm
Year 3	Tues 23 rd April 24	9.00am	Thurs 16 th Nov 23	3.00pm
Year 4	Tues 30 th Jan 24	9.00am	Thurs 27 th June 24	3.00pm
Year 5	Tues 5 th Dec 23	9.00am	Thurs 20 th June 24	3.00pm
Year 6	Tues 26 th Mar 24	9.00am	Thurs 25 th Jan 24	3.00pm
Year 6 Leavers Assembly	Thursday 17 th July 2024		2.00pm	
Year 6 Leavers Mass	TBC		TBC	

Important Information: From time to time, due to unforeseen circumstances, the dates/events mentioned in the Fortnightly may have to be changed /cancelled. If a change/cancellation does occur, you will be notified as early as possible.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Proud to be apart of..



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust
Through Christ, in Partnership