



The Fortnightly!

- Friday 29th September 2023 -

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



Statement to live by: I can say how I feel.

Meet the New Headteacher Meeting...

What an amazing start to the new academic year it has been! Your children are working so hard and have settled into school life. Our staff continue to work incredibly hard to ensure your children continue to flourish. It has been wonderful being able to meet the vast majority of parents/carers on the yard each morning as I welcome children into school. However, I appreciate that some families will not have had the chance to meet me yet due to work commitments.

As a result, I will be holding a 'Meet the new Headteacher' meeting on **Wednesday 18th October at 4:30pm**. This will be an informal meeting where I will be able to share my vision for St. Michael's, talk about expectations, systems and structures moving forward and there will be an opportunity to ask questions over a cup of tea or coffee.

We will host this in our school hall and families will be able to enter through the Main Office.

I am looking forward to seeing you there if you can make it. If you are unable to attend, please remember my door is always open.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement and for the role you play in shaping your child's education.

Mr NW Reeson
Headteacher

Reception September 2024... Do you, your family or friends have a child ready to start Reception in September 2024? Why not join our wonderful, happy school and become a part of the St Michael's family! You can apply **from 2nd October 2023 until 15th January 2024** through the Sunderland Council Portal ([click here](#)). If you require any more details, advice or support, please contact the school office who will be happy to help. **Thank you!**

Curriculum Evenings...

Thank you to all parents/carers who attended the Curriculum Evenings this week in school. We have had great feedback on how useful parents/carers felt they were, enabling them to get to know their child's class teacher better and exploring what their child would be learning about in the coming year. If you were unable to attend, PowerPoints from the session will be sent home via WeDuc.

'Family Voice' outcomes...

Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

Questions...	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
I felt that the Curriculum Evening was useful as a parent/carers.	94%	3%	3%
The information delivered throughout the session will help me to continue to support my child at home.	91%	9%	0%
I feel that the information gave me a better understanding of the St. Michael's expectations, systems and structures.	94%	3%	3%
There was an opportunity to ask questions and I feel these were answered well.	91%	0%	9%
It was useful holding these meetings in the classrooms as I was able to see my child's working environment.	91%	9%	0%
I found it beneficial being able to have quality time to meet with the class teacher and other staff members.	94%	3%	3%

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!

Home - School links...

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

Headteacher: Mr. N.W. Reeson

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.



FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.



Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upcombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 16 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>



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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...

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us today for our coffee morning. It was wonderful to see so many families there and it was good being able to meet one to one with some of our families.

A **HUGE** thank you for your kind and generous donations which will be sent to MacMillan. Your support means a great deal.

If you did not manage to get to school for a 'cuppa' but would like to make a donation, please follow this [link](#).

Thank you!



PE success @ St. Michaels... We have received the Gold Active Sunderland Award and the School Games Bronze Award for 2022-2023.



Football team update... Yesterday, our B Team played some matches the results may not be great but for their first matches they represented the school well and did us proud.

The results were...

Bernard Gilpin B 4 - 0 St. Michael's

Newbottle 5 - 1 St. Michael's

Dubmire 1 - 1 St. Michael's

St. Michael's 0 - 1 Bernard Gilpin C



Great teamwork!

Happy St. Michael's Feast Day! Thank you to all families who were able to join us at church for the Feast of St. Michael. It was wonderful gathering together to celebrate this very special day for our school. We're sure you would agree with us when we say that the singing, reading and offertory carried out by our children was amazing. Well done!

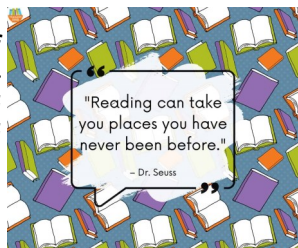
St. Michael, pray for us!

Reading Café... Families will have noticed an event called 'Reading Café' on our list of diary dates. We have our first Reading Café taking place next week, Tuesday 3rd October, with Year 6 and their families. During our Reading Cafés, families are invited into our school hall to share some valued reading time with their children and to partake in a 'menu' of reading activities.

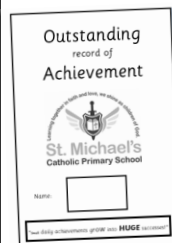
Our Reading Cafés will typically only last around half an hour and we fully understand that not all families will be able to make these but the open invitation is there to join us if you can.

At St. Michaels we continually strive to encourage reading and to foster a real LOVE of reading. Reading, put simply, is the key to everything we do in school and enables successful learning to be unlocked.

Thank you for all of your support and encouragement with reading at home!



Celebrating Successes at St. Michaels... To reward positive behaviour and attitudes within school, we have various rewards in place...



Outstanding Records of Achievement– These are awarded by staff on a weekly basis when children demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours. These are celebrated in Celebration Assembly each Friday. Outstanding Records of Achievements start in Reception and will build up each year until the children leave in Year 6 which should be a wonderful keepsake!

House Points– All children within school are in a house linked to saints. Children collect points for their house for outstanding attitudes to learning.



Class stickers– Each class has stickers which are awarded for positive behaviour across school.



Class Attendance– Each Friday, in our Celebration Assembly, we announce the class with the highest attendance that week.



Hot Chocolate with the Head– After half term, a child from each class will be chosen by staff based on their positive behaviour and attitudes to have hot chocolate with the Headteacher.



Upcoming event ...

Come and Join Us for a Trust Primary School Celebration - FREE LUNCH FOR EVERY CHILD, Thursday 5th October

On Thursday 5th October, we are holding a Trust Primary School celebration at our school. ALL children will be provided with a nutritional lunch **FREE OF CHARGE**.

The MENU on the day will include a selection of the following:

- Pizza
- Sausage Roll Bites
- Chicken or Quorn Nuggets
- Potato Wedges & Dips
- Selection of Sandwiches & Wraps
- Vegetable Sticks & Humous
- Scrumptious Salad Bar
- Fresh Fruit
- Ice Cream Pots

To make the day extra special and to celebrate "Heroes and Superheroes" the dining area will be decorated, and all children will be given an activity puzzle to do.

We will also be holding a **free raffle** and every child taking a school lunch will be given the chance to win some wonderful prizes, including:

- Amazon Vouchers, worth £10
- Smyths Toys Vouchers, worth £30
- Recorders
- Toys
- Other super-prizes including an iPad and £50 vouchers.

We hope this will be a wonderful day for our Trust family and we encourage all children to take part. If you haven't done so already, please complete this form ([click here](#)) to indicate if your child will be taking part. **Yummy and exciting!**

Thursday 5th October 2023

Trust Celebration

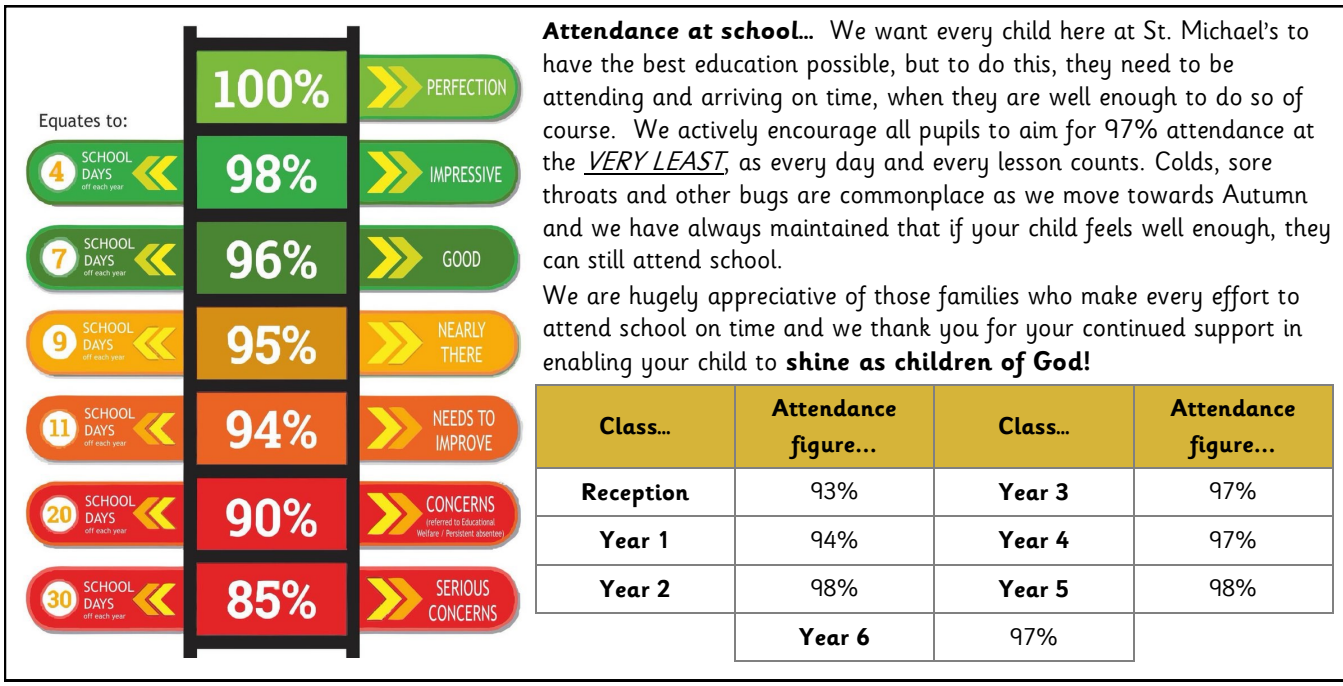
Come and join us!

FREE Raffle and a winner at every school

FREE Resources for everyone

Let's celebrate our wonderful family together!

FREE LUNCH



Class...	Attendance figure...	Class...	Attendance figure...
Reception	93%	Year 3	97%
Year 1	94%	Year 4	97%
Year 2	98%	Year 5	98%
	Year 6	97%	

- Important Dates -

	Date	Class	Event
Autumn 1	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.
	Wednesday 18 th October 2023.	Families invited	Meet the New Headteacher meeting - school hall.
	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		Celebration of the Word	
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