



The Fortnightly!

- Friday 19th January 2024 -

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



Statement to live by: I am going to make good changes for the New Year!

Welcome back...

Welcome back after what I trust was a relaxing and joyful break during the festive period. As the new term begins, children have been enjoying sharing holiday stories with their friends and settling back into their routines seamlessly, continuing from where we left off at the end of the Autumn term. The warmth of welcoming smiles at the school gate from parents/carers, and children adds to the positive atmosphere. Our staff are eagerly anticipating the upcoming year and we are excited about the various opportunities available for our children here at school.

As you may know, the Department for Education (DfE) has designated school attendance as a nationwide priority. Attendance in our school has consistently been a top priority. We have already communicated policy changes from the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust (BWCET) in recent correspondences via Arbor. While procedures within our Trust family may have changed, I will continue to keep parents and carers informed about any attendance figures that may raise concerns. It is essential for parents/carers to understand that the new Policy approach is supportive, aiming to work alongside you and provide assistance in enhancing attendance for every child in our school. It is crucial for everyone to know that we recognise the possibility of sickness and illness occurring unexpectedly—this is simply part of life.

We see 2024 packed full of opportunity and exciting work ahead and I see our community as one which works together for the success and happiness for all of our children. Thank you all for your continued support in all we set out to achieve here at St. Michael's.

Mr N.W. Reeson

Year 6 SATs Information Meeting... Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the Year 6 SATs Information Meeting on Tuesday 16th January. If you were unable to attend, we will be sending out the various resources and information which was shared at the meeting so everyone remains informed about these important assessments. As communicated in the meeting, if you have any concerns whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Luke. **Thank you!**

Year 4 Multiplication Check Meeting... It was wonderful being able to welcome Year 4 families into school for our Multiplication Check meeting on Wednesday 17th January. We know that a lot of information was shared and therefore if anyone has any queries about this, please speak to Miss Clements. For those unable to join the meeting, information will be sent home soon. **Thank you!**

***NEW* BWCET Attendance Policy...** As mentioned above and already communicated via Arbor, we now have a new Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust (BWCET) Attendance Policy. You can find this on our school website or by clicking [here](#).

Good attendance is good for all!

Bookworm Reading Points... It has been wonderful seeing some children this week reaching their 100th Bookworm Reading Point and gaining their first certificate from class teachers. For these children, the next milestone is 180 points where your child will gain a Headteacher certificate and then if they get to 200 points, they will be entered into a prize draw to possibly win one of three **BIG** prizes. Naturally, each child will arrive at these milestones at different points so don't worry if they haven't yet—there's time! We cannot stress enough the importance and joy of being a confident, fluent reader. This really does unlock the curriculum and true potential for children! Research shows that reading for only 5 minutes per night with your child has a huge positive impact. **Keep up the great work!**



National Handwriting Day... On Tuesday 23rd January, children across school will be celebrating National Handwriting Day by taking part in a competition. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and Most Improved!



Good luck!

More on reading... Reading Plus is an adaptive literacy solution that improves fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, stamina, and motivation for pupils in Year 3 upwards. Used in more than 7,800 schools, Reading Plus is helping more than one million children become proficient readers. The programme is progressive and personalised around your child's reading ability to allow them to gain in confidence and continue to challenge themselves.

At St Michael's Primary School we use this programme as part of our reading sessions from **Year 3 to 6** with each child receiving different slots during the week.

Did you know this programme can be used at home?

Did you know you can collect Bookworm Reading Points for using this at home? (include a comment in your child's reading diary)

Did you know Reading Plus gives certificates and these are awarded each week in our Celebration Assembly?

Please click [here](#) to access Reading Plus and your child will already know their login details. If there are any issues, please speak to your child's class teacher.



Home - School links...

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Headteacher: Mr. N.W. Reeson

Parental Workshops/Meetings... At St Michael's Catholic Primary School, we recognise that, as parents/carers, you are your child's first educator and remain vitally important to your child's learning journey. Therefore we want to continue to work with our supportive parents/carers ensuring our children continue to flourish academically, socially and emotionally. With this in mind, we have planned various Parental Workshops / Meetings and more will follow later in the year...

Year 6 SATs Meeting – Tuesday 16th January at 5.00pm. Venue: Year 6 Classroom. Audience: Year 6 parents/carers

Year 4 MTC – Wednesday 17th January at 5.00pm. Venue: Year 4 Classroom. Audience: 4 parents/carers

Early Years Maths Workshop – Wednesday 24th January at 4.00pm. Venue: Reception Class. Audience: Reception parents/carers

E-Safety Workshop – Tuesday 6th February 3.30 - 4.00pm. Venue: Year 5 Classroom. Audience: All parents/carers.

Safeguarding at St Michael's Catholic Primary School...

Safeguarding the children in our care is one of the school's main responsibilities, one that St Michael's take very seriously. As you are already aware from previous updates, our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Reeson. You can speak to him by phone, make an appointment via the school office, or catch him whenever you see him around school.

We have two Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL's) in school these are Miss Foster (Assistant Headteacher / Year 2 Class teacher) and Mrs Bajrami (Assistant Headteacher / Reception Class Teacher). If you are unable to speak to Mr Reeson, you can speak to these members of staff or any other member of staff about your concern(s).

The school has an updated Safeguarding policy, that can be found on the school website, or paper copies can be requested from the school office.

All staff receive annual safeguarding refresher training, as well as other training throughout the year on key areas. Our school also has a termly visit from our Safeguarding Consultant, who completes an audit of the school's safeguarding and identifies any future improvements or training needs.

Why do parents need to know this information?

- To reassure you that we take keeping our children safe in school very seriously at St Michael's.
- It's good to remind parents/carers of the key members of staff, in case new parents did not know who they were.
- To highlight the continual work that the school puts into keeping our children safe in school.



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



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.

X (formerly Twitter)... We now have **513** followers and tweets are added weekly and sometimes daily! 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](https://twitter.com/St_MichaelsRC)

Attendance at school...

Class...	Attendance figure...	Class...	Attendance figure...
Reception	93%	Year 3	99%
Year 1	97%	Year 4	97%
Year 2	97%	Year 5	97%
	Year 6	92%	

Colder Weather... Although the weather forecast seems a little less cold moving forward, we politely ask that families take extra care during colder / icy conditions. Despite our site being gritted by our wonderful Mrs Hardy when necessary, it is impossible to ensure all snowy / icy patches are fully cleared and even if cleared, that surfaces do not frost over again during the day.

Please take extra caution on school site during inclement weather and stay on gritted areas.

Let's look after each other!



Reading Café... Year 3 will be hosting their Reading Café in the School Hall on Tuesday 23rd January at 9.00am. Parent/ Carers are welcome!



Celebration of the Word... Year 6 will be celebrating their Celebration of the Word on Thursday 25th January at 3.00pm. Parents/carers are warmly invited.



Year 4 Curriculum Celebration Assembly... Year 4 will be showcasing their amazing learning and our wonderful curriculum offer in their Curriculum Celebration Assembly on Tuesday 30th January at 9am. **All Year 4 families welcome!**



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 devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

for young people

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You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosy around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though; they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos: this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

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- Important Dates -

	Date	Class	Event
Spring 1	Tuesday 16 th January 2024.	Year 6.	St Roberts Transition Visit.
	Tuesday 16 th January 2024.	Year 6.	SATs Parent Meeting at 5pm in School
	Wednesday 17 th January 2024.	Years 4.	Multiplication Check Parent Meeting at 5pm in School.
	Thursday 18 th January 2024.	Year 2.	Celebration of the Word led by Year 2 at 3pm in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us.
	Friday 19 th January 2024.	Year 6.	Year 6 Class Mass. 10am in St Michael's Church. All are welcome to join us.
	Tuesday 23 rd January 2024.	Whole School.	National Handwriting Day – in-school competition (<i>more details to follow</i>).
	Tuesday 23 rd January 2024.	Year 3.	Reading Café from 9am in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us.
	Wednesday 24 th January 2024.	Reception.	Early Maths Workshop for families in Reception at 4.00pm. Held in the classroom.
	Thursday 25 th January 2024.	Year 6.	Celebration of the Word led by Year 6 at 3pm in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us.
	Tuesday 30 th January 2024.	Year 4.	Curriculum Celebration Assembly 9am in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us.
	Thursday 1 st February 2024.	Year 1.	Celebration of the Word led by Year 1 at 3pm in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us.
	Friday 2 nd February 2024.	Year 5.	Year 5 Class Mass. 10am in St Michael's Church. All are welcome to join us.
	Tuesday 6 th February 2024.	Whole School.	Safer Internet Day (<i>more details to follow</i>).
	Tuesday 6 th February 2024.	All families	E-Safety Workshop at 3.30-4.00 in Year 5 classroom. All invited.
	Tuesday 6 th February 2024.	Year 2.	Reading Café from 9am in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us.
Friday 9 th February 2024.	Year 4.	Year 4 Class Mass. 10am in St Michael's Church. All are welcome to join us.	
HALF TERM			
Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February 2024.			
Spring 2	Monday 19 th February 2024.	Whole School.	Back to School.
	Friday 23 rd February 2024.	Year 3.	Year 3 Class Mass. 10am in St Michael's Church. All are welcome to join us.
	Tuesday 5 th March 2024.	Year 1.	Reading Café from 9am in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us.
	Thursday 7 th March 2024.	Whole School.	World Book Day (<i>more details to follow</i>).
	Friday 8 th March 2024.	Year 2.	Year 2 Class Mass. 10am in St Michael's Church. All are welcome to join us.
	Monday 11 th March – Friday 15 th March 2024.	Whole School.	British Science Week (<i>more details to follow</i>).
	Thursday 14 th March 2024.	Reception.	Celebration of the Word led by Reception at 3pm in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us..
	Monday 18 th March 2024.	Whole School.	Parent Consultations.
	Tuesday 19 th March 2024.	Whole School.	Parent Consultations.
	Thursday 21 st March 2024.	Whole School.	World Maths Day (<i>more details to follow</i>).
	Friday 22 nd March 2024.	Year 1.	Year 1 Class Mass. 10am in St Michael's Church. All are welcome to join us.
	Tuesday 26 th March 2024.	Year 6.	Curriculum Celebration Assembly 9am in the School Hall. All are welcome to join us.
	Tuesday 26 th March 2024.	Whole School.	Whole School Mass in St Michael's Church at 2pm.
	Thursday 28th March 2024.	Whole School.	School breaks up for Easter Holidays at 3:15pm..
	Friday 29th March 2024.	Whole School.	Bank Holiday. School will be closed to pupils on this day.

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