



The Fortnightly!

- Friday 1st March 2024 -

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



Statement to live by: I can learn from my mistakes and failures.

CAFOD Family Fast Day 2024... Thank you to all our wonderful families who completed the challenge set at the beginning of last week. We asked families to go without something and then donate any monies saved to CAFOD. We are thrilled to say that we raised a wonderful £107.03. We know this will go such a long way in helping this worthy cause.



Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Comic Relief 2024... On Friday 15th March we will be taking part in Red Nose day and children are invited to come to school dressed in red and possibly with a red nose. Although buying the official Red Noses raises money, children could equally use face paint to create their own if parents/carers struggle to get one. Any donations are welcome through our Just Giving page found [here](#).



British Science Week... During the week beginning Monday 11th March, we will be celebrating British Science week in school. Throughout the week, classes across school will be taking part in lots of Science learning and carrying out some exciting, practical investigations. We will also be welcoming some parents/carers and other visitors into school who work or have an interest within the field of Science. If you think you could offer your support (*it's not too late*), please speak to Mrs Weatherall (*Science coordinator*) directly.



Exciting!

Spring Parental Consultations... We will be holding our Spring 2 Parent Consultations during the week beginning 18th March. You should have already received an Arbor message containing all of the specific times and booking information. Once again, the meetings will be held in classrooms allowing you to see your child's wonderful learning environment and their English, Maths, Science and RE books will be available to view. If you have any questions, please contact the Main Office.

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Lent 2024... We are well and truly in the season of Lent; a time of preparation and anticipation for Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter. During this season we are called to pray, fast and give alms modelling ourselves on Jesus' example when he went into the desert.

Mission: *What are you going to do during this Lenten season?*



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. 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.



Attendance at school...

Class...	Attendance figure...	Class...	Attendance figure...
Reception	96.16%	Year 3	94.33%
Year 1	97.5%	Year 4	89.29%
Year 2	98.1%	Year 5	98.15%
	Year 6	96.9%	

Congratulations Year 5!

Celebration of the Word... Reception Class will be celebrating their Celebration of the Word on Thursday 14th March at 3.00pm. Parents/carers are warmly invited.



School Kitchen... We are thrilled to report that our school kitchen was inspected this week by a Food Hygiene inspector and we retained our 5* rating. More impressively, we scored even higher this time around! Well done to Mrs Thornton and Mrs Hogg for their hard work and for providing healthy, nutritious food each and every day. **A great achievement!**



Reading Café... Year 1 will be hosting their Reading Café in the School Hall on Tuesday 5th March at 9.00am. Parent/Carers are welcome!



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

Catholic Life and Mission... The staff at St. Michael's School have come together to think about how we continue our wonderful work around Catholic Life and Mission. After talking about this as staff and as classes, each year group has chosen a charity they would like to support and decided on how they intend to raise money for them. We also aim to strengthen our community links across the remainder of the academic year. Approximate timings are detailed below but we will write to specific families closer the time with more information and exact dates / timings.

#CatholicLife&Mission



Catholic Mission:		Charity		Dates:		Community Links:		Dates:	
Reception Class	St. Cuthbert's Care Good Shepherd Appeal	Spring 2	Litter Pick at the beach with families	Summer 2					
	Easter Egg Tombola								
Year One	Loaves and Fishes Foodbank, Easington Lane	Summer 1	Learning Together – invite parishioners and parents into school to do some crafts and learn from each other	Summer 2					
	Foodbank challenge – bring in something for the foodbank and enter into a draw to win a prize								
Year Two	CAFOD	Spring 2	Bingo and refreshments with parishioners	Summer 2					
	CAFOD Family Fast Day The Big Lent Walk								
Year Three	Missio families	Summer 2	Make Easter Cards and deliver them to housebound parishioners or those living on their own	Spring 2					
	Fairtrade Coffee Morning for families								
Year Four	Red Sky Foundation	Summer 2	Make Lenten Prayer cards to give out at Mass	Spring 2					
	Cake Sale								
Year Five	St. Cuthbert's Hospice	Summer 1	Visit to care home – PE games/singing/crafts	Summer 1					
	Loose change artwork/challenges								
Year Six	Significance YMT	Summer 2	Litter Pick around our local community	Summer 1					
	St. Michael's showcase (Children to make things to sell e.g. artwork, bookmarks, biscuits etc.)								

International Women's Day 2024 is approaching (Friday 8th March 2024) and Durham Women FC want to help inspire the next generation by showing them positive female role models. So that's why they're offering local clubs, schools and community groups the chance to claim **FREE** child tickets for their game with Charlton Athletic on March 17th!

As well as being able to watch the game, youngsters will be able to meet players post-match and learn more about being a professional footballer! For some lucky supporters, there will also be a half-time activity on the pitch for you to take part in!

BACK THE BLUES

DURHAM v CHARLTON ATHLETIC
SUNDAY 17TH MARCH
12PM
MAIDEN CASTLE, DH1 3SE

DURHAM **VS** **CHARLTON ATHLETIC**

SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS
OR VISIT [DURHAMWFC.TICKETCO.EVENTS](https://durhamwfc.ticketco.events)

ENTER THE CODE **IWD2024**
FOR FREE CHILD TICKETS!

Plastic Furniture Company

IPRO
WIGATE

VISION for EDUCATION



Durham University

KATEM
LOGISTICS

WIPFC
TRUST

BARCLAYS WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Top Tips for Supporting Children Who Are EXPERIENCING BULLYING

In a DfE survey, 36% of parents said that their child had been bullied in the past year, while 29% of secondary school headteachers reported bullying among students. Public Health England states that young people who maintain positive communication with their family were less likely to experience bullying – so it's important that parents, carers and educators know how to talk to children about bullying.

1. WATCH FOR BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES

Children who are experiencing bullying may become quiet, withdrawn, or anxious; however, they may also act on the pain and anger that they're feeling. A shift in attitude towards their existing friends (or not mentioning them any more at all) or alluding to new friendships which seem notably different could also be warning signs. It's important to be alert to such changes and talk to your child about them if they occur.



2. THINK THINGS THROUGH

Before acting, ask yourself if this is the right time and place to address concerns about bullying. Might your worries trigger strong feelings – perhaps from your own experiences – that could discourage your child from opening up to you? You could try discussing what you've noticed with another trusted adult who knows your child well.



3. BE OPEN AND UNDERSTANDING

Try to outline to your child the changes that you've noticed in their body language, appearance, behaviour, or tone of voice – and do so without sounding judgemental. Help them to describe what they're feeling – be it anger, sadness, fear or something else – as accurately as possible. If they say they're "angry", do they mean "enraged" or "frustrated"? This will help them to understand how they're feeling and why.



4. LET THEM SPEAK FREELY

Use open questions and a welcoming tone to encourage your child to talk. Listen closely and summarise what they've said at appropriate points (ideally without interrupting) to demonstrate that you're understanding clearly. Bullying may have undermined your child's sense of control, and they may fear that you'll judge them, overreact or impose consequences – so this conversation can reassure them being honest with you was the right decision.



5. CALL A TIME OUT

A conversation about bullying could leave both you and your child feeling distressed. It's important to recognise this and pause at suitable moments to calm down. Take deep breaths, enjoy a hot drink or even have a cathartic cry. This can reinforce trust, while also helping you both feel that you have control over the situation and the emotions that you're feeling.



6. STAY INFORMED

Make sure you know your child's school's definition of, response to and relevant contacts for bullying. This information should be in their anti-bullying policy, which ought to be available on the school's website. Class teachers or form tutors are usually the first point of contact, though there may be dedicated support teams or key workers to help your child, depending on the specific situation.



7. PREP YOUR CHILD FOR THE RESPONSE

Schools' responses to bullying vary depending on whether they're resolving disagreements and arguments, or addressing unintended verbal or physical harm and so on. It's important to work out with your child whether any harm was intentional, how much control they had over the situation and how often such incidents have occurred. Reporting concerns accurately will get the best outcome for your child more quickly.



8. SUMMARISE YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE

When you contact the school, make sure you've precisely described what your child experienced: what happened; when; where; and who was involved. This will help the school to investigate further, identifying any witnesses, as well as those who were directly involved. It can also help the school to know how your child is feeling and how they'd like the matter to be resolved.



9. LIAISE WITH THE SCHOOL

Any school has a duty to ensure that the members of its community feel safe and included. It's important for children to learn their role in this. The school must determine how best to restore these feelings of safety and respect. It's often best for schools to keep parents and carers informed of any action taken – and for families to avoid taking matters into their own hands.



10. CHECK IN FREQUENTLY

Once the issue has been resolved and the bullying behaviour has stopped, your child may still feel anxious and might find it difficult to rebuild relationships or develop new ones. Parents, carers and the school should all keep an eye on how the child is feeling and acting over the following months. Any relevant information should be shared, so that further support can be planned if necessary.



Meet Our Expert

Bob Basley is the Director of Anti-Bullying Quality Mark-UK, which challenges and supports schools to develop sustainable whole-school approaches to prevent bullying, including working with parents and carers. More than 80 schools in England and Wales currently hold the quality mark.



Use of Social Media outside of school... A gentle reminder that most popular social media platforms (e.g. WhatsApp, Snapchat, Messenger etc.) are for pupils 13 years and over and therefore our children should not be using them. However, if your child does access Social Media, we ask for your utmost vigilance. Just like their interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support. What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include...

- Monitoring their phones for the apps that are downloaded
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles
- Reviewing the messages they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine
- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times they have access to devices
- Encouraging them to share or discuss with you what they are doing.



Stay alert and vigilant!

World Book Day 2024!... At St. Michael's we believe reading is the key to success. To promote World Book Day 2024 and a pleasure for reading, we will be celebrating with a range of activities across the whole week commencing from Monday 4th March! You should have already received a letter detailing all of the exciting activities but here's a summary of what children and families can expect...

Author Visits

On Tuesday 5th March, an author will be in school to visit our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children. Although we could not secure his illustrator to come into school during this week, we are hope he will do very soon!

World Book Day—Thursday 7th March

Children are invited to come to school dressed up as their favourite book character and to bring their favourite book into school. The whole school will be taking part in various activities throughout the day. On World Book Day, we would like to invite parents/carers into classrooms from 2.55pm (*you can enter via the external classroom doors*) to end our World Book Day celebration and share a story with your child in their classroom. As this will take place in your child's classroom, and due to limited space, we can only extend this invitation to one parent/carer per child.

Year 3 Workshop

Children in Year 3 will join virtually with other Year 3 classes across the Trust to read Joanne Nadin's 'The Worst Class in the World.' Joanne Nadin will also be involved in this event!

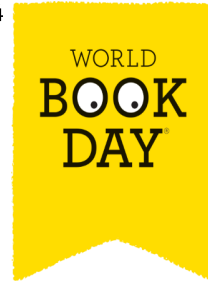
Sensory Story-telling Workshop

Reception children will enjoy a sensory story workshop delivered by Mrs Elliott on Friday 8th March.

Extreme Reading Challenge

We have set a **BIG EXTREME READING CHALLENGE!** We are challenging children to find a fun and exciting place to read a book! It could be anywhere – in an unusual place in your house, at the park, on the beach, up a mountain, in a supermarket – the choice is yours! Just remember to be safe wherever you choose. Get an adult to take a picture and send it to smi@smi.bwcet.com (include the name of your child in the email subject) by Friday 8th March 2024. Three winners will be chosen and all entries will be displayed in our school library!

We hope you're looking forward to World Book Day as much as we are!



	Date	Class	Event
Spring 2	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>).
	Tuesday 12 th March 2024.	Year 1	Year 1 to participate in an Infant Agility Challenge at Silksworth Tennis Centre.
	Wednesday 13 th March 2024.	Year 3	Broom House Farm Educational Visit.
	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..
	Friday 15 th March 2024.	Whole School.	Comic Relief—Red Nose Day (<i>see details on first page and on Arbor</i>)
	Friday 15 th March 2024.	Year 4	Year 4 Educational Visit to Tynemouth Aquarium
	Monday 18 th March 2024.	Whole School.	Parent Consultations.
	Tuesday 19 th March 2024.	Whole School.	Parent Consultations.
	Wednesday 20 th March 2024.	Reception.	Reception Educational Visit to Hall Hill Farm.
	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 Easter Mass in St Michael's Church at 2pm.	
Thursday 28 th March 2024.	All classes	School breaks up for Easter Holidays at 3:15pm.	

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