



St. Michael's Nurseries

Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2026



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February Newsletter 2026

We love the month of February – snowdrops are showing off at their best, daffodils are peeking out of the ground, there's a half term, sunshine and showers, (although it's fair to say we've had more showers), muddy puddles and cosy dens. Of course, nationally it's a month where we celebrate our apprentices, our T Level students, Valentines Day where we discuss feelings and friendship and this ties in with Children's Mental Health Week. Read on to find out more....

Appreciating our Apprentices!

February saw us celebrating National Apprenticeship Week. Apprenticeships are an ideal way to study while earning a wage and also having day to day advice and learning from our qualified and experienced staff.

We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to gain skills at a high standard and to be listened to and supported.

We are lucky to work with

Tracy as our assessor from Puffins Training. Three apprentices are studying towards Level 3 Early Years Educator: Harriet, Madi and Libby.

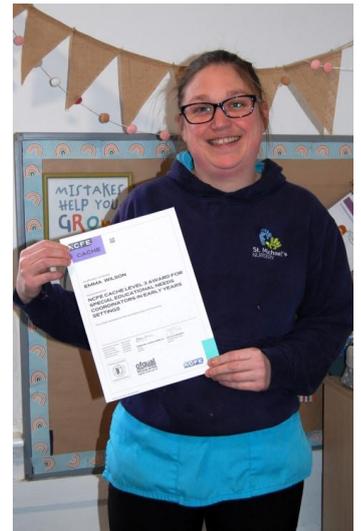


<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/celebrating-our-apprentices-and-t-level-students>

We have seen many of our apprentices flourish into professional, talented, caring and skilled nursery nurses over the years. Some have gone onto higher education, primary teaching, the field of medicine and even a published children's author!

St. Michael's Nursery is investor in people and our team are regularly undertaking inhouse trainings, webinars, conferences, courses and networking in their continued professional development profiles.

Emma, (who works in our 0-2 years Ladybirds and Butterflies room), undertook her apprenticeship in 2013 with us and returned to study to gain her level 3 SENDCo qualification. She will work closely alongside SENDCo Emma Hedge.



NATIONAL T LEVEL DAY!

On Thursday 12th February, we celebrated National T Level Day. We are pleased to offer work placements for Early Years Educator T Level Students from North Devon College. We were delighted to receive a Winners award for 'Outstanding Contribution to the Development of T Levels' in 2025.

Our current T Level students are Abi and Tanzin.

Find out what they have to say about T Levels here....

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/celebrating-our-apprentices-and-t-level-students>



A little Note About Numbers

You will have noticed our staff coming and going on their shifts throughout the day and we thank them for their flexibility to make our day run smoothly. Staff numbers are booked to meet the needs of the nursery, ensuring staff; child ratios maintain as is requirement.

To help us keep to ratio and also to ensure staff are not having to stay later than their shift, please could families collect on time.

To remind you of the sessions;

Morning 8am to 1pm

Afternoon 1pm to 6pm

School day 8.45 - 4.15

Full day 8am to 6pm (please arrive by 5.55 for handover)

We also ask the same for arrival times, with families not arriving before their booked hours. Thank you.

HURRAY, HURRAY, IT'S PANCAKE DAY!

We enjoyed delicious pancakes for our pudding last Tuesday. Some children squeezed their own piece of lemon on their pancake. "Yummy!"

In Forest School, we enjoyed pancakes around the campfire. Perfect on a chilly day in the woods!



Valentines, Kindness and Compassion Children's Mental Health Week



A big part of our ethos here at St. Michael's is well-being and mindfulness.



At Nursery, it is so important for us to make children feel that they belong. That they have a safe and secure space. To explore the world around them and build friendships. Our fantastic team are dedicated and know how important this is.

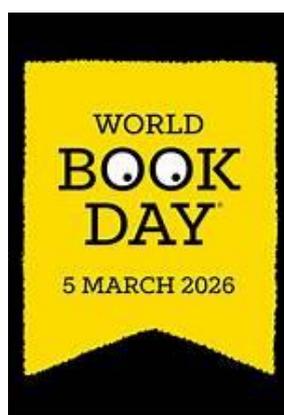


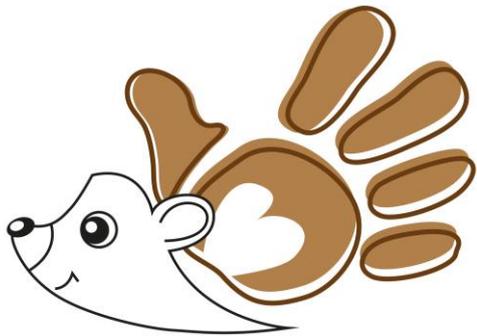
We have been finding out what the children love about their life, talking about their families, their friends, pets and all the wonderful things that they enjoy doing. We have been making bird feeders, reading books together, pretty petal love potions, bird watching, completing jigsaws and listening to one another at circle time. This all builds respect, friendships, empathy and compassion.



<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/story-bears-sing-about-friendship>

World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March. We welcome your child to dress up as a book character if they wish.





Hedgehogs Bakery with Emma Hedge

In Hedgehogs this month, we have been cooking well-being fruit smoothies, Chinese New Year noodles and friendship chocolate cake.



Clare from Story Bears visits us weekly. We really look forward to the sessions as they are fun, colourful interactive and we never know what is in the box!

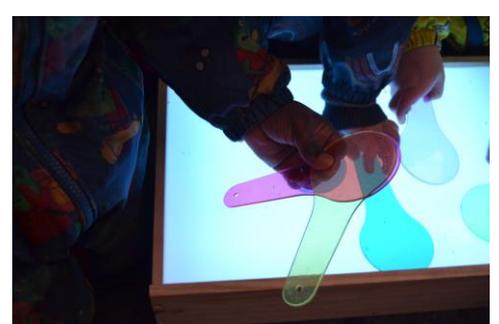
We have great fun stomping around, balancing on our tippy toes to the music, using musical instruments, catching bubbles and shaking the parachute!



LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES



Our little Ladybirds and Butterflies love to explore the sensory table. They have had great fun pouring the coloured rice using little scoops, great for strengthening those hand muscles, developing hand eye coordination and dexterity. They have also been printing paper hearts and making little 'love bug' handprints.



DRAGONFLIES



Lots of creativity going on.... playdough, cookery, painting, printing, mud creatures and dancing to name just a few of the fantastic things we have been doing this month. We have enjoyed plenty of stories about kindness, love, families and friendship. We dance to songs and clap along to music. We take it in turns to have a go during group games. We learn about the natural world and kindness and compassion to nature. We help one another and look after our playroom.



KINDERGARTEN



We've had a very creative month making friendship bracelets, petal potions, painted roses, prints, family portraits, large scale painting and card making.

We have been discussing things we love to do and what things make us happy. We have learnt the Makaton sign for 'happy' and 'sad'.

We love to dance and play group games to music. Our favourite at the moment is Musical Chairs. To calm down we love to stretch out using yoga poses and listen to a story whilst watching the colourful effects on the ceiling from the projector.





GREEN FINGERS GARDENING CLUB

The Green Finger Gardening Club has been preparing the areas for Spring. All the flowerpots have been sorted into different sizes, watering cans have been counted, and the gardening tools have been brushed ready for plenty of planting in the coming months.

FOREST SCHOOL



A fantastic month noticing the changes of the season. We have seen changes on the undergrowth, buds starting to appear and it has been a little milder too.

The children have been den building, learning to carry sticks in a safe manner. We have built the most challenging obstacle course and some children wanted to build a plank to walk across the 'sea'.



We had the most delicious pancakes cooked on the campfire on Pancake Day. The children helped to split the wood safely. It was a fun afternoon!



Notices:

Westcountry
Dental and Implant Centre

ARE TAKING ON
NEW NHS PATIENTS

To Register your children
please contact us on:
01271 345006
Westcountry.dental@nhs.net

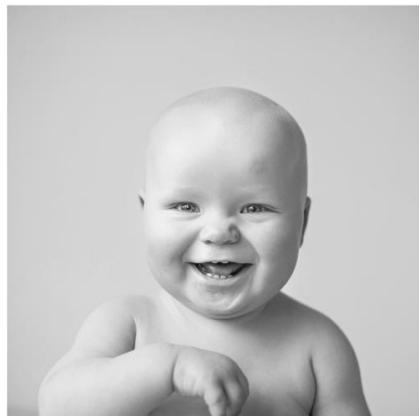


We are looking forward to welcoming Kim back working with us again soon.

Kim is a qualified Primary School Teacher and Forest School Leader. She's busy planning some fantastically fun sessions!



Arrange your baby's first dental visit before their first birthday



<https://www.facebook.com/ccsdentalhealthcare>

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available: Mail, FaceTime and Safari, for example. However, you can choose which apps and Features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games, as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.

How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features	How to Restrict Game Centre	How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases
1. Open Settings	1. Open Settings	1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time	2. Tap Screen Time	2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions	3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions	3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)	4. Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)	4. Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
5. Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear (or disappear) on your child's device	5. Scroll down to Game Centre	5. Select 'Allow or Don't Allow' for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)
	6. Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends Only in the settings for each feature	

National Online Safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety

Funding

As you know, families may be eligible for Working Extended Funding , from the term after their child is 9 months old – depending on the date parents return from maternity leave.

It is important to apply in good time to gain your funding code, and from then it is really important you renew your account every three months to avoid the code expiring.

Thank you to everyone for returning your funding forms , the transferring of a high

percentage of our children to further funded hours has been a big task !

Don't forget to use your Tax Free Childcare if you are eligible as this can be used for any payable fees (up to



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20% of your fees paid by HMRC). Did you know this can be used for babies until they are eligible for funding, and also for children's after school club at their school , and for holiday childcare too. Ask your provider for more details. Donna and Sarah are happy to help with any funding / tax free childcare questions.

Please visit our fees and forms page on our website for lots of information, latest updates, fees and policies.

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/feesandforms>



St. Michael's Nursery

In partnership with
Devon
County Council



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St Michael's Nursery

Sustainable Business Award