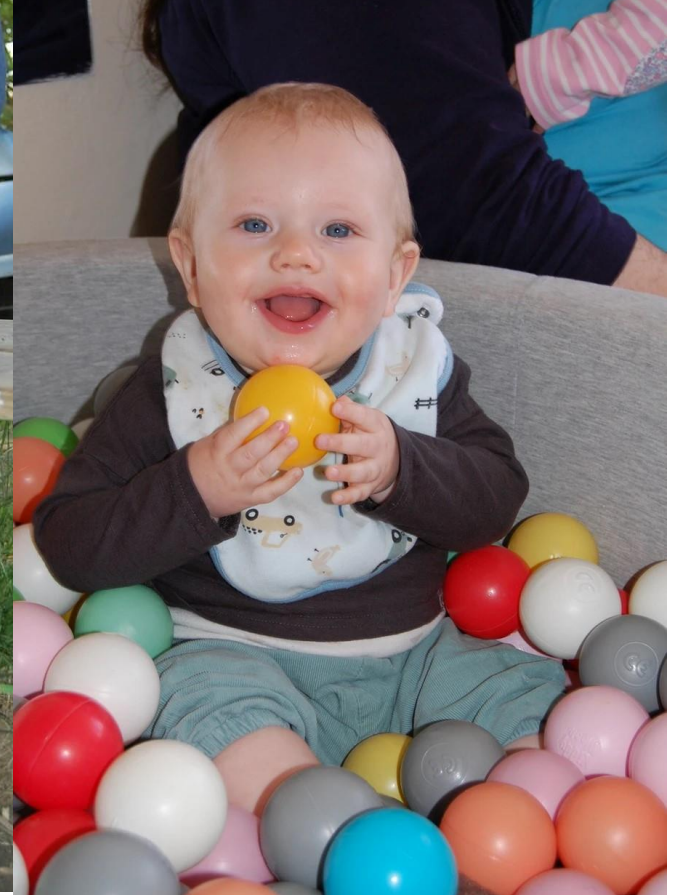




St. Michael's Nurseries

# Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



# APRIL NEWSLETTER 2026



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Where children blossom and grow

## April Newsletter 2026



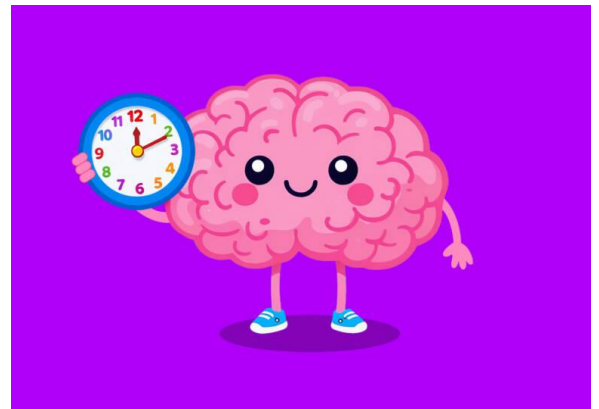
Welcome to another edition of Chatter magazine!  
A monthly round up of our time at nursery.

We have a blog news page on our website to keep you up to date with our weekly news.

[www.stmichaels-nursery.org](http://www.stmichaels-nursery.org)

### **Screen Time for Early Years**

At nursery we welcome the new Government Guidance on Screen Time in the early years, having seen with first hand experience the impact too much time with phones and tablets has on young children and babies. Please follow this link for useful information.



<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2026/03/new-advice-for-parents-on-screen-time-for-young-children/>

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Funding - parents are reminded that the deadline for applying of new funding for children starting in the Summer is TUESDAY 31st MARCH. Missing the deadline would see children not eligible until September (!) so please be sure to apply on time. For more information about funding see further in this newsletter





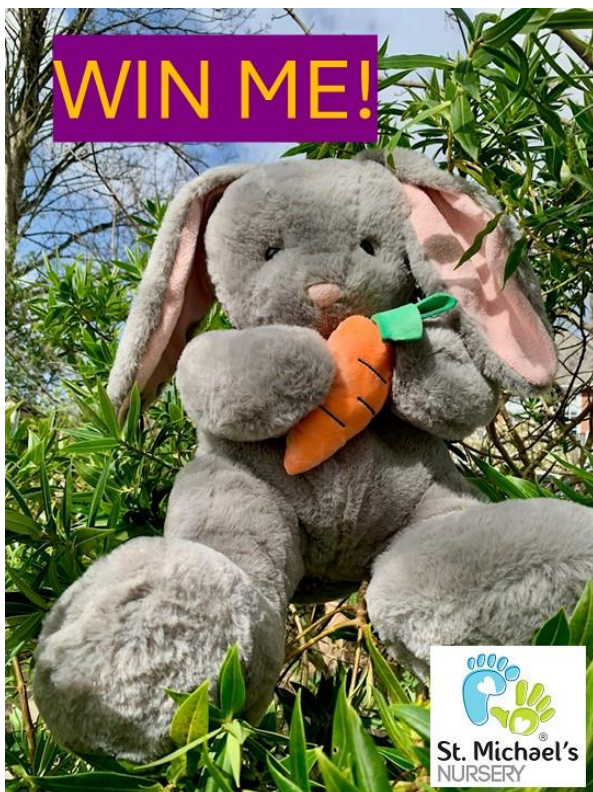
## Happy Earth Day

We are proud to be an eco-nursery and we have our own Eco-Hero committee.

We are committed to ensure that our little learners are involved in decision making, sustainable practices and we provide plenty of opportunities to learn about the environment and the natural world. 🌍

Cheeky Monkey is our official Eco-Hero ambassador and is awarded badges as the children progress their learning journey covering a range of criteria including biodiversity, wildlife conservation, recycling, marine/coast, litter and sustainability.





## GUESS THE NAME OF THE BUNNY!

Nicola is raising money for Autism Initiatives by walking 18,000 steps each day!

If you would like to take part, simply select a pre-written name on the form.

Pop your money in the box – £1.00 per guess

Once all names have been sold, we will announce a winner!

**Good Luck!**  **Autism Initiatives**  
real partnerships, unique solutions, positive outcomes

## Making our Day Run Like Clockwork!



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.

We kindly ask that children do not arrive before their booked arrival times, as we have staff matched to the bookings to ensure we remain in ratio in the mornings. You will see staff arriving at 15 minute intervals during the morning.

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 5.55pm for handover)

If you find your booked session does not cover your childcare needs, please let us know as we are able to slide a 7.5 hour day within a range, and you are also able to book extra time slots to extend your session.

Thank you for understanding and cooperation to make our day run like clockwork.



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!

## Stroll in the Sunshine



Our little Ladybirds and Butterflies have been out and about exploring the local area again. They enjoyed a walk down to the local shops. We chat along the way, pointing out things of interest such as the post box, the buses travelling by and the bluebells.



# World Art Day



World Art Day is a day that celebrates all mediums of artwork in the hope that it inspires and encourages creativity and to appreciate the arts. The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity.

At St. Michael's Nursery, children are freely given opportunities to explore their artistic development and this in turn supports their creativity, imagination and self expression. It also supports cultural awareness, artistic techniques, materials and physical development and dexterity.



Expressive arts are enjoyed here at nursery, we have dancing, puppet shows, musical instruments, sewing, weaving and we even have some budding photographers!



We believe in 'process over product' because we know that when children have the autonomy to be fully immersed and engaged in the process, they experiment, discover and create. This is when the learning happens - for example, digging, scooping and pouring, all

encourage hand-eye coordination, fine and gross motor skills and mathematical understanding.

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/world-art-day-2026>

## **St. George and the Dragon**

We have been celebrating St. George's Day who is the patron saint of England.

The children have been exploring this story with colours, collage, paint, storytelling and the sensory table.



<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/st-george-and-the-dragon>

# ECO-HEROES - NEWS

PLASTIC FREE  
NURSERIES  
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE



St. Michael's  
Nursery

## GREEN FINGERS GARDENING CLUB

We have been decorating cardboard tubes and stuffing them with wet cotton wool. Next we sprinkled on cress seeds and kept them watered. We were excited to see the seeds grow so quickly.



## FOREST SCHOOL



Highlights in Forest School this month are planting pepper seeds, bug hunts, den building and making a wormery. Children are listening to the 'tool talk' about hammer safety and they are beginning to use mallets and small hammers.

# Notices:

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**

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
5. Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear (or disappear) on your child's device

**How to Restrict Game Centre**

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
5. Scroll down to Game Centre
6. Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends. Only in the settings for each feature

**How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases**

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
5. Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety

**Playgroup**

**Tawstock Village Hall EX31 3HZ**

**Wednesdays 9-11am (Term time only)**

**Adult £1 • Child £2**  
(Any additional Children £1)

**Under 6 months Free**

**Includes drinks and snacks**



**Start brushing your baby's teeth twice a day, from when their first tooth appears**

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



**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**

**Heidi Rachel**  
HYPNOBIRTHING

Qualified hypnobirthing teacher

Empowering women and families for a calm and positive birth

CREATE A POSITIVE MINDSET,  
FEEL IN CONTROL,  
AND SUPPORT COMFORT MEASURES.

**The Royal Treatment**  
Personalised 1 to 1 sessions in the comfort of your own home

Available face to face or online  
Late pregnancy- intensive courses available

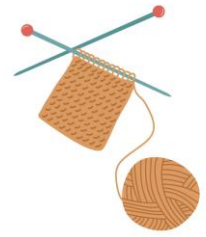
Contact me for more information

- heidirachelhypnobirthing@outlook.com
- Heidi\_rachel\_hypnobirthing\_
- @hrhypnobirth
- 07553415693

**BE THE QUEEN OF YOUR BIRTH**

# Calling all knitters!

If you have a family member who is nifty with knitting needles, our baby dolls are looking for a new wardrobe! We would supply the wool for anyone who has time to offer to knit garments at home. (We also welcome donations of unwanted wool oddments)



## Term Dates & Non-Pupil Days:

Just to remind term time only families of the summer term dates, as per emails sent out with invoices.



**Bank Holiday Monday 4th May (nursery closed )**

**Bank Holiday Monday 25th May (nursery closed )**

**Half Term week beginning 25th May**

**Summer Term ends Wednesday 22nd July**

**Autumn Term begins Monday 7th September**

**Half Term Monday 26th October to Friday 30th  
October**

**Autumn Term ends Friday 18th December**

# 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



NDNA

© 2017 St Michael's Nursery, Sticklepath, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 2DB. T: 01271 327 074 E: office@stmichaels-nursery.org.

