



St. Michael's Nurseries

Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2023



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Where children blossom and grow

October Newsletter 2023



October has come and gone and the clocks have gone back one hour. We take this time to embrace the Danish concept of Hygge meaning to slow down, live in the moment and notice those small things in life that make us happy.

We take time to listen to the children, read a story, enjoy a puzzle, sit together at mealtimes and embrace the social comfort that conversations bring. We embrace 'Shinrin-Yoku' the Japanese art of Forest Bathing, where we immerse ourselves in the great outdoors, noticing a tiny spider spinning her web or watching the clouds drift by.



Our beautiful nursery is an environment that offers children a wealth of opportunities and allows them to feel calm, supported, nurtured, safe and secure.



Every room offers a calm and reflective space if children choose to partake in quiet games or want to relax. Our outdoor areas including the secure balcony garden for our babies, offer space to breathe in fresh air and relax. The 0-2 years even have their own little nook in the large secure garden called 'Ladybird Lane'. The garden offers blankets, books, cushions, puzzles and art and craft opportunities. The woodland area has its own hut with sofa cushions and a fully stocked 'Bookworms Library'.



It has been a busy month for staff, with four of our team attending evening classes to gain Paediatric First Aid, passing their exams 10pm Monday evening!

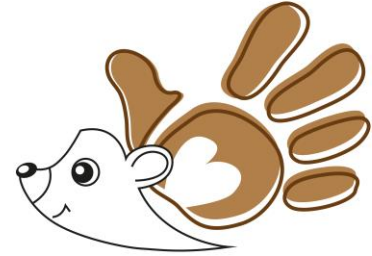
Staff attended a twilight session on Early Years Maths, including some practical activities with Gaynor which involved copious buckets of water! Leah cascaded information to the team from her Little Einsteins Science Course.



We wish Rachael good luck as she decides to venture further afield in the childcare world, however it is not goodbye, as she will be working with us regularly on our team of bank staff.

We look forward to Lucy and Danni joining Amy and Emma in Dragonflies. Lucy is a previous member of our team, who we are delighted to welcome back. Danni has been part of our nursery for three years on her student placement, qualifying this year.

HEDGEHOGS ROOM



You will have noticed we have started our redecoration programme this month and SENDCo Emma Hedge has a newly decorated space for children to play games, read stories, complete challenges, puzzles and bake. Emma is delighted with her room where children have a cosy safe space, a place to rest and reflect. Children are given opportunity to enjoy small group sessions, practising their language, communication and listening skills. Their confidence is encouraged through praise and celebration of successes. We even have a new name for Emma's room.... Hedgehogs!



Black History Month

Here at St. Michael's, our team values ways to support diversity, inclusion and equity. We recognise the importance to promote a racially and culturally inclusive practice and environment. Our setting prides itself on promoting positive relationships with people, promoting British Values and by weaving a wealth of diverse stories, music, reference books, posters, artefacts, fictional

books, dolls and musical instruments that represent a wide range of cultures, into our everyday practice, every day of the year.

This month was Black History Month. You might have seen our display of our favourite story books and also pictures for children to enjoy of the theme 'saluting our sisters', celebrating successful Black women our young children will know; TV presenters, Dancers, England Football Players and GB Olympic athletes. The children enjoyed making Peach Cobbler with Emma Hedge, a recipe originating from the American South - so tasty, a real winter warmer pudding!

Our most recent OFSTED inspection highlighted how we do this in a positive way: "Staff share books and stories in an engaging way, and children listen intently, suggesting what they think may happen and what they can see in the pictures. Staff ensure a wide range of books are available throughout the setting, many of which represent a wide range of cultures. Children who speak English as an additional language can take home dual-language books to share with their parents. This helps children to understand and value diversity.



Toy Swap is Back!

Monday 27th
November 2023
10.00am - 11.30am
1.30am - 5.15pm

Accepting donations from Monday 20th November

TOY SWAP

- SAVE MONEY!
- SAVE TOYS GOING TO LANDFILL!
- PLENTY OF STOCKING FILLERS!

St. Michael's Nursery

Schools Open Evening – Thursday 16th November

Come and meet representatives from schools in the local area. Tickets are FREE, just click on the link below....

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/local-primary-schools-information-evening-for-parentscarers-tickets-677266711967?aff=oddttdtcreato>

LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES

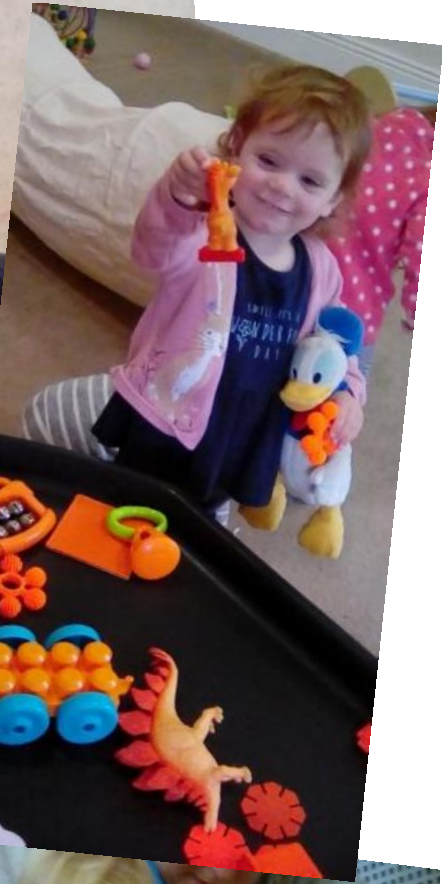


The Autumnal themed Tuff trays have been carefully planned and designed to develop a child's muscle strength, dexterity, hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills in their hands and fingers. The bright colours and objects of interest spark an interest and curiosity to explore.

We have really enjoyed making patterns with the paint when we rolled pine cones onto the paper. The orange spaghetti was very squishy and we liked to pull it apart and roll it in our hands.

We love to sing songs and clap along to familiar rhymes. We have spent many mornings outside in the garden with our older friends in Dragonflies and Kindergarten.





DRAGONFLIES



We love our beautiful garden Rooms. They open up straight onto the lawn and we just love to play hide and seek, roll in the leaves, ball games, whizz down the slide and enjoy a story or two under the trees. Inside, we have loved the sand the soil in the Tuff Tray and we have been playing with the diggers and filling small buckets. We love a story or two before lunch and after our afternoon nap, there's time for more play before tea.





We have been making fire work pictures using recycled tubes and we have been thinking about words to describe the noises of our rockets; “Whoosh” “Bang!”



KINDERGARTEN

The best thing about Autumn is kicking around in the beautiful golden leaves. Kindergarten have been doing just that this week. The children and grown ups really enjoy running races and timing each other. The love to splash in puddles, skid across the lawn, make leaf angels and roll in the leaves. Next week, we are collecting leaves to make eco-glitter, paper lanterns and sew thread through the leaves.





We love our friendly little papier mâché pumpkin pots! The children made the paper moulds and painted them orange. They designed the face and the character of the pumpkin.



Pumpkin Fun!



ECO-HEROES - NEWS



St. Michael's
Nursery



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Last year's Toy Swap was so successful, we're doing it again!

You are invited to bring along donations of good quality toys, games, puzzles, books and clothing, from Monday 20th November.

Then on Monday 27th November, between the stipulated times, you are welcome to browse and take anything that takes your fancy – the equivalent to what you donated.



Our online Swap shop is available for families to send in Baby and Children items for sale, for free, to request items and things to swap. Just to confirm we are unable to advertise car seats.

swaps@stmichaels-nursery.org



Remember...I don't need to rinse my mouth out with water after brushing my teeth



<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

- 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)

NOS National Online Safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety

NEVER ALONE

NSPCC
0808 800 5000 (24hrs)

National Domestic Abuse Helpline
0808 2000 247 (24hrs free)

Mind
0300 123 3393 (Mon-Fri 9-6)

Victim Support
0808 168 9111 (24hrs)

Cruse Bereavement
0800 808 1677 (Mon-Fri 9-5)

ChildLine
0800 1111 (24hrs)

Action on Elder Abuse
0808 808 8141 (Mon-Fri 9-5)

Respect - Men's Advice Line
0808 801 0327 (Mon-Fri 9-5 or 8pm)

Samaritans
116 123 (24hrs free)

National Centre for Domestic Violence
0207 186 8270

STICK MAN Activity sheet

Make a bug home

Spiders, beetles and other insects love to live in sheltered places with dead wood, bark, sticks and leaves. Why not make a home for the bugs in your garden?

These are the things you will need:

- A plastic plant pot
- A range of natural materials that insects might like to call home. Here are a few ideas... Sticks of different sizes, moss, bark, leaves, pine cones, stones.

How to build...

- 1 Take your plastic plant pot and fill it with the sticks you have found. The more sticks you can add to your pot the better!
- 2 Fill the gaps between the sticks with the other bits you have collected, making lots of little hiding places for the bugs.
- 3 Once you are happy with your bug home, find a nice sheltered spot for it, making sure it won't blow away or get too waterlogged when it rains. You could use some stones to keep it from moving or place it under a shrub or hedge so it doesn't get too wet.
- 4 Remember to keep checking your bug home to see who's come to stay!

Post a photo of your bug home on our Facebook page using #StickManTrail

For a chance to win a Stick Man and friends goodie bag

Forestry Commission Woods & Forests
forestry.gov.uk/stickman



St. Michael's Nursery



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St Michael's Nursery

Sustainable Business Award