



St. Michael's Nurseries

Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



Autumn 2023



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It is hard to believe just two weeks ago we dashed out for sunscreen in the Autumn Heatwave, and now it has turned so chilly!

Please, please could you ensure your child's coats are clearly named, (we have many duplicate coats here!) and also to send in a warm hat (named) - remember we love being outdoors so need to have the right clothing to enjoy the elements.

We have had a fun half term with children and staff both busy enjoying the Autumn activities.

We have staff updating their Paediatric First Aid during the evenings and we are pleased to have welcome staff from other nurseries to train with us, Stepping Stones, Exmoor and T&D Childcare.

Sarah and Gaynor are working their way through a Maths Champion Training, which will see our nursery go through audits, research and training for staff this year and Emma H had completed Portage Awareness Training to enhance our SENDCO provision. Staff have also enjoyed attending the Early Years Conference, attended a Little Einsteins Science Course and Team Leader Superheroes Training.



You may recall Amanda recently moved from her Team Leader role, as she focussed on her own catering business this Summer. Amanda will now step across to our team of bank staff, giving her much needed family time and a rest after a busy tourist season. So it is not 'goodbye' to Amanda, but 'good luck and see you soon', and thank you from our team, the children and their families for everything you do for us at St. Michael's. Amanda will be enjoying sunnier climes for a few months as she takes a well deserved break!

We are delighted to welcome Libby to our team as she begins her apprenticeship with us, and also welcome Ellie-May to our setting, she is a first year student from Petroc.

Emma H has established her role as SENDCO over the last few years, continuing to study and make relationships with outside agencies, as well as implementing the Speech Therapy programme we run here at St. Michael's. Lucy will return to the nursery this term and Emma will be working with parents where some additional support may be beneficial.



As you know we continue to develop our setting, and this term we are looking forward to the arrival of a new office/parents' meeting room with a cloakroom for Dragonflies children - this will be installed mid November when we might experience disruption in our carpark for a few days.. we will advise you nearer the time of the plan.

We've heard from George's Mummy and we are so proud to be able to share that he has been awarded his 8m swimming certificate!

Every year, we carry on the tradition of celebrating St. Michael's Daywe wear pink (a nod to our past school uniform), we enjoy roast lunch with pink pudding, we enjoy dragon stories and a treasure hunt! It is always a fun day for the children and the team, but this year has been exceptionally poignant and memorable because the nursery celebrates it's 25th year - a special SILVER anniversary! Also, 30 years of Kindergarten dating back to the school, and 10 years since our Sticklepath Nursery opened!



We have a rich and precious heritage. St. Michael's Independent School was relocated from Sussex to Tawstock during the second World War. Since the sad closure of the school in 2012, we are proud to continue with keeping these special traditions alive.

The nursery itself was created by the vision of one special person who, in 1998, stood by the front door ready to welcome the first babies from 3 months old. That special person is Sarah Sexon and she continues to this day to lead the team, providing high quality childcare for over 110 families registered.

Sarah is a kind and compassionate manager with over 37 years experience working at St. Michael's. She's always there to inspire and support the team and goes above and beyond the confines of her role. Deputy Manager Emma Hedge agrees stating "Sarah is St. Michael's! She is always supportive and enables us all to thrive.





How Do We Support Pre-Writing?

Writing is an important lifelong skill and outlet to effectively communicate, express emotions, instruct, inform, create visions and improve one's ability to read.

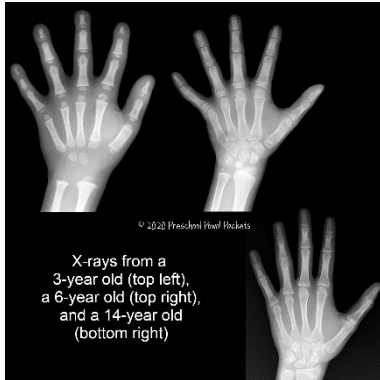
'Research shows that for writing to develop, you should provide young children with opportunities to build their physical strength and control in the core, upper body, hands and fingers.' <https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/literacy/writing>

This is known as 'pre-writing' skills and these include sensorimotor input, (messages) that then create a response, (motor output). These skills all contribute to the ability of effectively holding and controlling mark making tools such as pencils and pens.

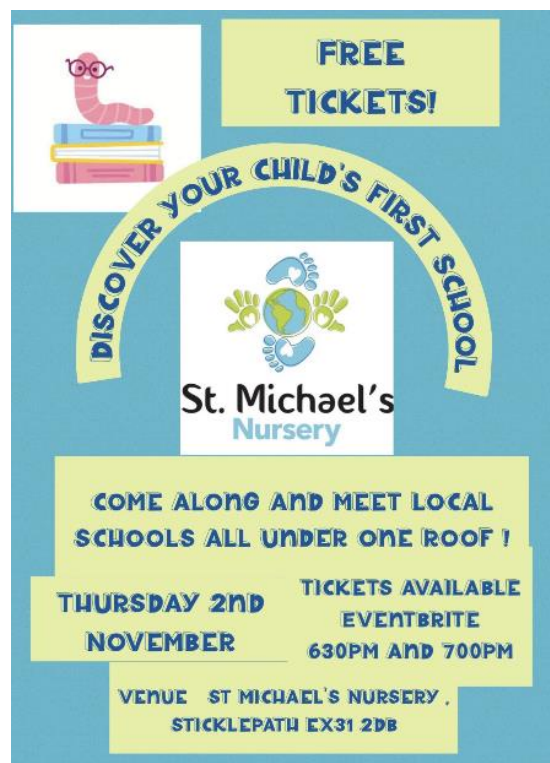
At St. Michael's, this ethos is woven into our everyday practice right from our youngest children in Ladybirds, through to our school leavers in Kindergarten. We believe that creating opportunities and providing resources through child led explorations, 'invitations to play' and 'provocations' effectively supports the children's learning and development.

Read more about what we do to support this skill here....

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/writing-readiness>



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COME ALONG AND MEET LOCAL SCHOOLS ALL UNDER ONE ROOF!

THURSDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

TICKETS AVAILABLE EVENTBRITE 630PM AND 700PM

VENUE ST MICHAEL'S NURSERY, STICKLEPATH EX31 2DB

LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES



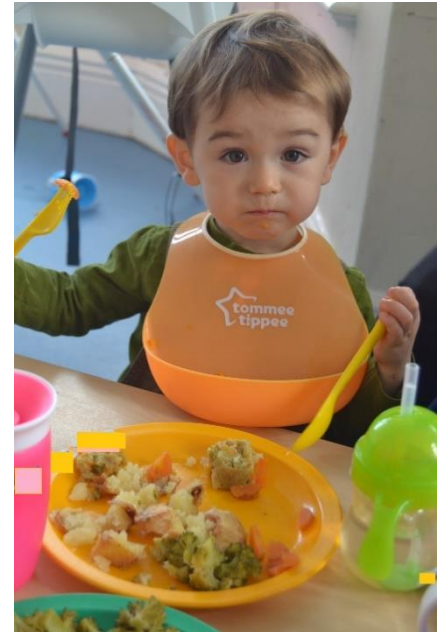
We are so proud of all our little Ladybirds and Butterflies. We start the new term welcoming lots our new friends and the children have settled really well. Gold star to all the parents/carers too!

The theme at the start of this term was 'All About Me'. It's such a wonderful opportunity to find out about the children. It's an important time where friendships are forming, relationships are building, confidence is growing and children are settling into the new rooms and routine.

We have been looking in the mirror and pointing to our nose, ears, eyes and mouth. We talk about the colour of our eyes, the length of our hair and we notice similarities and differences.

We love to sing and clap along with songs, explore the playroom, enjoy sensory trays and enjoy delicious meals cooked by Liz.

For many of us, it was our very first St. Michael's Day and since it's the Nursery's 25th SILVER anniversary, we think that is something rather special. Zoe took the most gorgeous photos of the children sitting on the flag. As the tradition goes, we enjoyed a roast lunch and pink pudding.



DRAGONFLIES



For St. Michael's Day, the children really enjoyed the puppet show, the treasure hunt and they made a fantastic collage of a person in pink!

We have been enjoying going up into the woods and especially exploring the mud pit. This is a time when Ladybirds are starting to gather to over winter. We have been finding lots near the 'Tell me Tree' and we have been using paints to find the same colour as the ladybirds.

We have enjoyed threading, using the blocks to make large towers, rolling tyres, running games and looking at books about leaves.



KINDERGARTEN



Hedge's Bakery has officially opened starting with 'Portrait Pizzas' where the children were encouraged to think about their features of themselves and each other. They have also made Peach Cobbler, Vegetable Soup, Bread Hedgehogs and Gingerbread People.

Emma noticed that many of the children are Star Bakers in the making because without instruction, they were kneading and rolling out the dough confidently. The children really thought about their creations and the features that they wished to highlight using dried fruit. Emma Hedge recounts, "the children used dried fruit to decorate and one child even used the fruit to represent the character's eye brows."



We have also been measuring ourselves on a large piece of paper and marking it off. We have been comparing and talking about height. Another popular activity was making blackberry paint and using the paint to print with.

We have been talking about Harvest and we have made lovely little hedgehogs using a fork to create the spikes. It was lots of fun rolling the toy tractors through the drippy, brown paint to make tracks in the fields.



ECO-HEROES - NEWS



Our Eco Philosophy is simple.... Leaving as small a footprint as we are able and passing on that simple message is at the core of St. Michael's environmental policy.

We aim to do this by challenging ourselves on everything that we as a Nursery consume and use, from what we eat, what we use, to what we play with.

Education is where it starts. We teach this through stories, puppet shows, props and visual aids, visitors, music, posters, bug hunts, recycling trips to the bins on site, videos of author Emily Hobson Martin reading her Hilda's Planet stories, growing plants, harvesting vegetables, learning about fungi and decay, the wood wide web, the sensory experience of sand, water, soil, grass, herbs and other natural resources.

Did you know that the collective noun for Ladybirds is 'loveliness'? We went on a Ladybird hunt in the woods and we were delighted to find lots getting ready to gather to 'overwinter'. When Katie Fox asked what we call lots of Ladybirds together, one little girl shouted, "I know, a lovely mess!"





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



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

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St. Michael's Nursery

COME ALONG AND MEET LOCAL SCHOOLS ALL UNDER ONE ROOF!

THURSDAY 2ND NOVEMBER **TICKETS AVAILABLE EVENTBRITE 6:30PM AND 7:00PM**

VENUE ST MICHAEL'S NURSERY, STICKLEPATH EX31 2DB

Dates for your Diary / Notices:

Half Term (for term time only children) October 23rd – 27th

Children in Need Day wear Pjs /something spotty/dress up clothes ! Friday 17th November

End of Term (for term time only children) Friday 15th December

Nursery Closes for Christmas 6pm Friday 22nd December

Nursery reopens (and term restarts) Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Christmas events will be sent out in due course – a fun filled calendar to follow!



St. Michael's Nursery

In partnership with
Devon
County Council



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