



St. Michael's Nurseries

Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



MARCH NEWSLETTER 2026

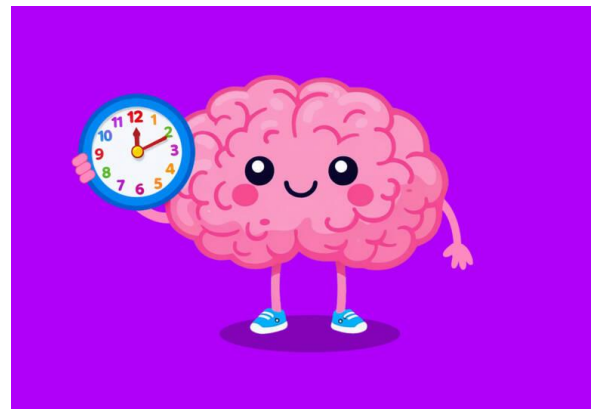
March Newsletter 2026

As we approach the end of Spring term, we look at the month of March and the fantastic opportunities, experiences and visiting professionals that we have welcomed. We have celebrated the wonderful world of books, raised money for Red Nose Day, welcomed Kim from the Learning Journey, and made delicious sweet and savoury snacks in Hedgehogs Bakery to name just a few!



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.



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Congratulations to staff this month ; Madi passed her driving test (yay!) Katie achieved Forest School First Aid and Paediatric First Aid, the whole team attended a first aid refresher evening on choking and CPR.

National Year of Reading

Go All In!

We are proud to continue to offer our Lending Library for families to borrow books for bedtime, why not take a look if you have already done so. Thank you to families who bring in donations of unwanted books, as this really helps us to offer a wide selection - we even have baby books so please take a look!

Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.

**GO
ALL
IN.**

We have launched a Book of the Month programme, with Danni behind the project, we are creating 12 book bags for the rooms to put into practice. The book is based on a traditional tale, often with a dilemma or moral , and has activities/ songs/ play ideas to support the book. The book is read daily



for 4 weeks and grows as the projects are added and children initiate questions and ideas. In March we have enjoyed Jack and the

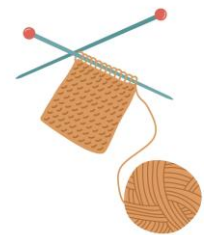
Beanstalk in Kindergarten and the Three Little Pigs in Dragonflies. You may have heard about this, the stories have become an integral part of each day and we have seen maths activities (measuring sizes and heights of each other after reading about the beanstalk growing), fantastic art activities, the wolf has appeared in role play and in garden play too. This project has been embraced by the team and we look forward to April book of the month.

You will find copies of our monthly books in our lending library too so you can follow it up at home.



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)



On Thursday 5th March, we celebrated World Book Day. It was a fantastic day full of excited children and staff ready to share stories and celebrate the wonderful world of books.

Some children in Kindergarten enjoyed a story time at Waterstones bookshop in Barnstaple. The children were so excited to exchange their book token for a book to keep! Then an exciting trip back to nursery on a double decker bus - what a morning!





**RED
NOSE
DAY**



Thank you to all our families and the team for making it a special Red Nose Day - baking cakes, buying cakes, contributing to the cause, wearing red, wearing pyjamas or comfy clothes and generally being amazing! A special thank you to the team for participating in the Red Nose Day video. Check it out on our official Facebook page if you have not seen it yet!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1DiBJPa4PZ/>



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!

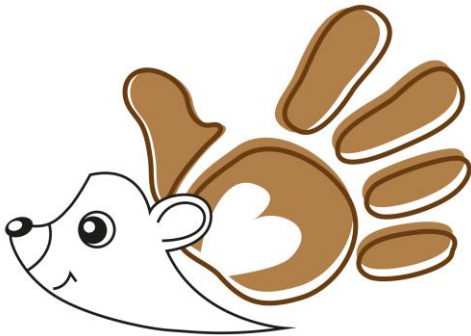
Good Luck!  **Autism Initiatives**
real partnerships, unique solutions, positive outcomes



Kim from The Learning Journey visited us during March with some fun games and activities.. Kim is a qualified Primary School teacher and Forest School Practitioner. She runs the most amazing Home Education programme and is a friend of St. Michael's.

Kim is passionate about teaching children through play and making learning FUN! Kim has a special interest in teaching children about things with a Science, Nature and Mathematical twist. With St. Patrick's Day in full swing, Kim designed the most fun, interactive and colourful session for Kindergarten.

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/learning-journey-to-the-end-of-the-rainbow>



Hedgehogs Bakery with Emma Hedge



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!

Happy Eid

Wishing all our families celebrating Eid, a very happy and joyous time.



LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES



Tuesday 17th March was St. Patrick's Day. A fun opportunity to discover colours, repeated patterns, matching, science, rainbows, stories, nature, shamrock, Makaton and messy play. Our little Ladybirds and Butterflies had fun with the colourful soft play and shamrock printing with peppers and green paint were on offer for sensory exploration.

Red Nose Day fun 2026!



Our little Ladybirds and Butterflies often enjoy a walk out and about in our community. Spring is here, we are enjoying the beautiful sunshine, spotting the birds in the sky and waving at the large lorries.



DRAGONFLIES



Dragonflies have been exploring patterns and shapes with loose parts. They have been exploring balance and developing their core strength rolling tyres along the garden and balancing on wooden boards.

The story of the month has been 'The Three Little Pigs'. The children have used their senses to explore the soft hay, the hard sticks and talking about how nursery is made of bricks – just like the house belonging to the third little pig!

KINDERGARTEN



Kindergarten had a fantastic gloopy time finding all the gold coins hidden in the gloop at the end of the rainbow. A very messy, fun sensory table that encouraged colour recognition, counting, turn taking and language development.



Torrington Dental Practice

Kim, from Torrington Dental Practice, visits us regularly to teach us all about oral hygiene. Kim makes the sessions fun and always starts with a chat about how we should brush our teeth, when to brush our teeth and how often.

The highlight of the session was when the children were invited to scribble 'tartar' on the teeth models. "This one is really, really dirty!" Once they had brushed the model teeth, the children used a UV torch pen to see how much tartar was left on the teeth. A fantastically fun way of demonstrating the importance of why we brush our teeth. Thank you Kim - we'll see you soon!

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/smiles-for-miles>





GREEN FINGERS GARDENING CLUB

The Green Finger Gardening Club has been preparing the areas for Spring. The children have been counting and sorting potatoes, finding and comparing different sizes, weights and their appearance. We have put them in a cardboard box to start the process of 'chitting'. This is where potatoes are encouraged to pre-sprout before planting them in the ground. This encourages a higher yield.

We are also making a sunflower seed bird feeder with a stick, drill and string.



FOREST SCHOOL

Katie 'Fox' has been away training in Exmouth completing her Paediatric Emergency Outdoor First Aid training for Forest School

Katie returned to her original Forest School training ground in Exmouth, run by the Outdoors Group.



Thank you to Emilia to Emilia Bishop from KIS First Aid for delivery a packed programme.
<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/first-aid-training-in-the-forest>



Notices:

All material on this website, including all programming, graphics, photos and text, is the property of National Online Safety. All information is held on a confidential server and is not to be shared with third parties, without their consent. This guide focuses on the latest iPhone which has features that allow you to restrict your child's access to apps and features.

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 manage 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

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

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- heidirachelhypnobirthing@outlook.com
- Heidi_rachel_hypnobirthing_
- @hrhypnobirth
- 07553415693

BE THE QUEEN OF YOUR BIRTH

Term Dates & Non-Pupil Days:

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

Spring Term ends on Thursday 2nd April 2026

Good Friday 3rd April (nursery closed)

Monday 6th April (nursery closed)

Summer Term begins on TUESDAY 21st April 2026

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



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

