



St. Michael's Nurseries

Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



MICHAELMAS NEWSLETTER 2026



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September Newsletter 2026

We have welcomed new children to our nursery this term and we look forward to getting to know them as we start our favourite term of the year.

It has been so lovely to hear from the Class of '26 as they start school and we have seen some great photos of them in their new school uniforms - we wish you happiness on your journey into Reception.

Gruffalo Granny

Super excited to receive our delivery of The Gruffalo's Granny by Julia Donaldson! A copy for each room, read a few times already!

Our Borrow A Book for Bedtime Library has been refurbished ready for Autumn too....it now includes a bring and borrow library for the grown-ups as well . Celebrating with everyone our reading for pleasure 😊



Spud Shack visit the Team



Spud Shack Treat for our Team

A special thank you for our team today with a visit from A Spud Shack! Thank you Nigel for delicious spuds...so many fillings to choose from !

Thank you to our wonderful team for everything you do.

Farewell and Good Luck Amy

We are sad to say goodbye to Amy, our wonderful Disney princess from Kindergarten. In honour of Amy's last day, we dressed up as Disney characters! Amy we wish you all the happiness in the world as you embark on your next adventure. Thank you for 8 years of fun at St. Michael's.



Good Luck Abi on your Norland Degree

Congratulations to Abi, after two years on placement at St. Michael's, has gained distinction for her Level 3 Early Years Educator. She now embarks on her studies at Norland University, a prestigious degree and we wish her all the luck in the world.



Schools Open Evening

Schools Evening 12th November 5.30pm – 7.30pm

We are pleased to be running our Schools Evening this year, with local primary schools all under our roof to meet families who are making choices about their child's education.

This year we also welcome Torrington Dentist Oral Health Team, the Bladder & Bowel Team to chat about toilet training, Heidi with information on hypnobirthing, and also Kim from The Learning Journey (home education) and Sarah from Sea Bees Beach School.

More information will be coming out soon, with an opportunity to book a timeslot to come and look around.

St. Michael's Day

St. Michael's Day is always a special date in the diary. We continue the traditions and celebrations of our rich heritage of St. Michael's School. Did you know.....? Our hall way is called 'Pink Hall' named after the beautiful hall that was once St. Michael's School, (Tawstock Court).



Children and staff are invited to wear pink, we learn the story of St. Michael and the dragon, (Sarah & Katie put on a puppet show every year).

What a special day! Here is the link to our reel -

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1061910606647448>

Hedgehogs Bakery

Emma Hedge has opened Hedgehogs Bakery for the new term and they have already been busy learning about food prep and hygiene, decorating their own paper plates and learning how to use children's safety knives with care.



LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES



We have settled into the Autumn term and we are so proud of our new friends and the families that have joined St. Michael's.

We have had lots of sensory tables on offer to spark curiosity, exploration and fun! We have a routine with regular songs and stories to help make the children feel safe and secure. We have already enjoyed many beautiful walks out and about in our community.

Thank you to the families for sending in photos for our display board.



DRAGONFLIES



Dragonflies have been looking at the theme, 'All About Me' and they have been painting paper plate collages of themselves for the display. They have been looking at themselves in the mirror and noticing similarities and differences between them and their friends.



KINDERGARTEN



What a great start to the term! Bright skies, new friends and lots of giggles. We have enjoyed regular visitors; Clare from Story Bears and coach Mark from the Ferdinand Collective. We all dressed up as fun characters on Amy's last day. We danced, played games and enjoyed some of Amy's most favourite stories. We wish Amy well, her new class are so lucky.

ECO-HEROES - NEWS



St. Michael's
Nursery

Action for Climate



It is a requirement for early years settings to have an Action for Climate Policy. Already ahead of this new requirement, the late Steve Roberts (Director), was incredibly passionate about protecting the planet and launched the 'green project' back in 2018. We are confident in this area, as you know we are proud of our plastic free status and we have won awards in sustainability / eco projects as well as wildlife and gardening over a number of years now. We will continue to follow our green ethos at St. Michael's.

We have weekly 'Eco-Hero' sessions where children are not only involved in the sorting of materials that can be recycled, but enjoy stories, discussions, songs, puppet shows, music, dance, walks and litter picking to illustrate the importance of living sustainably.



Green Fingers Gardening Club



All throughout Spring, we have been planting seeds and looking after young and tender plants through the changing seasons and of course the heatwaves! The children have enjoyed using their watering cans to water all the fruit and vegetables.

We are getting ready for harvest and we have already enjoyed our delicious plums straight from the tree! Liz has coked our runner beans and potatoes for our lunch – a real field to fork experience!





FOREST SCHOOL



We love this time of year in Forest School. The leaves are gradually changing colour and the children are noticing the subtle change to the season.

We have been talking about the berries and even learnt the Makaton sign for berry. The children know that some berries are to be left for the animals and it's wise to check before they pick. We made the most amazing tie-dye flags using the dye from blackberries. The children looked so surprised as they unfolded the cotton muslin wrapped in twine and submerged in blackberry juice. "Wow! It's all pink!" "Mine got lines on it, round and round!"

Here is our reel so show you how we made them -

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/960912390420714>

Dates for your Diary/Notices:

Schools Evening 12th November 5.30pm – 7.30pm

We are pleased to be running our Schools Evening this year , with local primary schools all under our roof to meet families who are making choices about their child's education. More information out soon!

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 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.



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



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

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and school staff with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they wish to do so. This guide is one of many which we believe should be used for these purposes and not as a substitute for further advice, tips and tricks for parents.

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)

National Online Safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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

NHS



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

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

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Personalised 1 to 1 sessions in the comfort of your own home

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Contact me for more information

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BE THE QUEEN OF YOUR BIRTH



St. Michael's Nursery



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St Michael's Nursery

Sustainable Business Award