



**St. Michael's Nurseries**

# Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



# NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2025

## November Newsletter 2025

Here we are with another packed magazine full of news, photos, events and upcoming dates.

This month has certainly been one of the busiest and we thank you all for your support whether that be donating cupcakes for Children in Need to sending your child in wearing something purple to mark Premature Awareness Day.

Not only weekdays have been busy but also weekends have seen the nursery a hive of activity. Most recently, we have seen our beautiful new baby kitchen been installed thanks to:

RS Carpentry & Joinery

TEJ Carpentry

Georgeham Electrical



Also a massive thank you to our team and our family members who helped to move furniture, sweep and clean, and set up ready for Monday Morning ...phew!

And thanks to Geth who swept our lawn clear of Autumn leaves also at the weekend.





# Giant Christmas Wreath in Pannier Market



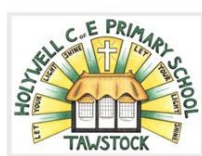
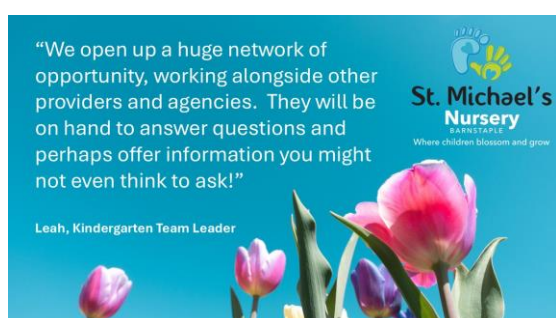
Have you visited the Pannier Market recently? Sarah and Zoe have been busy organising the gigantic wreath to hang proudly from the ceiling of Barnstaple Pannier Market. Adorned with green handprints, baubles and our sign, it is a sight to behold!



## Schools Open Evening a HUGE Success

Thank you to the families that attended our Primary Schools and local services Open Evening. It was an opportunity for families to speak with representatives from so many schools in the local area along with other local services.

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/open-schools-evening-2025>



# A Time To Reflect

The children have been working collaboratively, to make poppy themed collages. We have explored the sensory table with a poppy theme.

Kindergarten took a moment to sit quietly with lights down low and watch the CBBC short film about remembrance.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/poppies>

Read more on our blog here.... <https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/a-time-to-reflect-1>



## WORLD NURSERY RHYME WEEK

We had so much fun during World Nursery Rhyme Week. We explored each rhyme with art, craft, musical instruments, dance, messy play and construction.



Nursery rhymes offer excellent rhythm and a repetitive pattern of sounds when they are sung. This helps and supports a child's language development. This in turn will help a child to become accustomed to vocabulary, sounds and eventually support their learning to read.

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/nursery-rhyme-week-1>



# READY, STEADY....ROCKET!

Bonfire Night was celebrated with lots of paintings, splatters, coloured rice, collages, large scale brushing paints, finger painting and of course a real campfire!



## We are a Premature Aware Nursery

As you know, in 2024, our team trained together to become a Prem Aware Setting.

Around 90,000 babies are born sick or premature every year in the UK.

Our team have recently updated their training to ensure that their knowledge and understanding is current and up to date.

We are inviting our team and children to wear Purple on Monday 17th November to recognise World Prematurity Day.

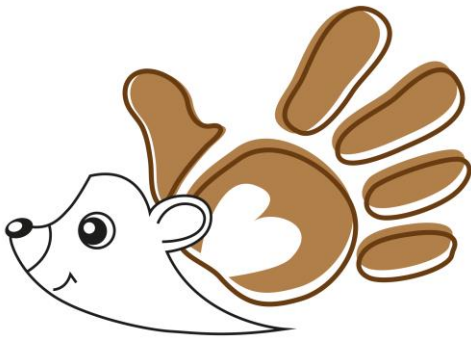


# Coffee Mornings



We've had a couple of really lovely coffee mornings recently where the team have met a number of our new families on roll and also prospective parents. Many of whom are signed up to start 2026 and 2027!

Welcome to St. Michael's! Staff were on hand to meet and greet and take the families on a tour of our lovely nursery and grounds.



## Hedgehogs Bakery with Emma Hedge



Scrumptious Apple Crumble was a fun dish to make. Lots of pouring, mixing and of course very gooey hands! The children made their own pastry and rolled it out to make into pies. They concentrated as they scooped the apple mixture into the centre of the pastry.



Hedgehogs Bakery merged with The Green Fingers Gardening Club to forage for fresh mint. The children grow rosemary, sage, spearmint, apple mint, lemon mint and thyme. They enjoyed noticing all the different plants and rubbed the leaves between their fingers to smell each herb. Once enough mint was collected, the children took it back to Hedgehogs where they made fresh mint and cucumber dip to go with the most tasty sweet potato wedges.







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!

We have great fun stomping around, balancing on our tippy toes to the music, using musical instruments, catching bubbles and shaking the parachute!



## Children in Need 2025

Thank you to all our families, friends and staff for donating their time, effort and pennies towards our bake sale. We have had so much fun creating fun Pudsey bears, dancing, wearing yellow/spots and playing games.





# LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES



“What are you doing in my swamp?!” Shrek once questioned Donkey. Here in Ladybirds and Butterflies, the children have been finding about different textures and materials. There’s been brick building, porridge pouring, sand scooped and songs sang as the children discover the magic of ‘once upon a time’.





# DRAGONFLIES



Our theme this month is all about fairy tales and this has led to many curious explorations on the sensory tray table. Goldilocks and the Three Bears was particularly popular with the children mixing and pouring porridge into different size bowls.



The Three Little Pigs was an excellent provocation to talk about materials. The children discussed the characters in the story “Huff and blow down your house!”





# KINDERGARTEN



Spotty toadstools, dancing fairies, roaring dragons and pink painted piggies are just some of the fantastic crafts that the children have made.



We have also enjoyed football, cookery, campfire, yoga, games night and musical chairs!





## ECO-HEROES - NEWS

PLASTIC FREE  
NURSERIES  
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE



**St. Michael's**  
Nursery

### Christmas Jumper Library

If you have Christmas jumpers at home that your child has grown out of, we would welcome them for our new Christmas Jumper Library idea. We have a collection of babies and children's Jumpers/Christmas outfits that families could borrow for the season and return for others to borrow next year. We are ready to welcome these at any time now and our library will be available towards the end of November.



### Christmas Toy Swap Monday 1st and Tues 2nd December



**St. Michael's**  
Nursery

### **Toy Swap**

**1st – 2nd December 2025**  
**10.00am – 11.30am and**  
**1.00pm – 5.15pm**

(Accepting donations of good quality toys 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Nov.)

**Toy Swap**



Parents are able to make a small donation to SNUG Charity supporting local families with Premature Babies (if they wish to) for any toys they choose from the swap (but under no obligation of course)

# GREEN FINGERS GARDENING CLUB



Green Fingers Gardening Club was met with lots of star bakers foraging for fresh mint. The children noticed all the herbs and plants growing in the kitchen garden, a real feast for the senses!

They picked fresh mint and washed it. They chopped it small and mixed it with freshly chopped cucumber to make a refreshing dip to go with their sweet potato wedges.



For the rest of the week, Gardening Club have been making bird feeders. The children are learning to use a hand drill safely and they have made a hanging bird table.

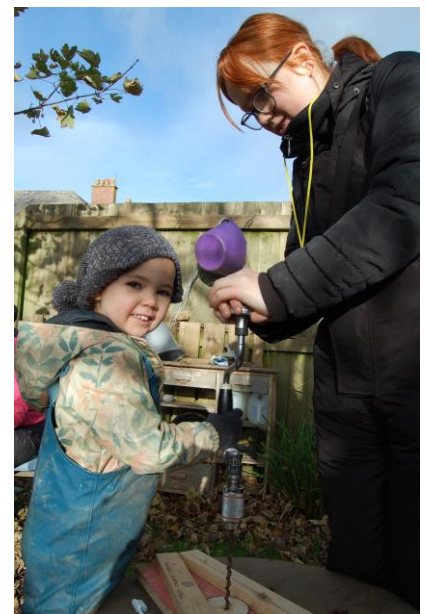




# FOREST SCHOOL



With some animals looking to make cosy, warm homes to 'overwinter', we made dens and explored what 'waterproof' means. The best way is to test out the theory! Much to many giggles, we found out that some materials are waterproof!



It's certainly been chilly at times and we have fully embraced the season. Lots of digging, running, climbing, chopping wood and of course campfires have helped to keep us warm.

# **Dates for your Diary/Notices:**

## **Christmas Jumpers, sparkles and dressing up from 1st December!**

IF your child would like to wear a Christmas Jumper, or sparkles, they are invited to dress for the festive season as from 2nd December, throughout December – no fundraising, just for fun!

## **Christmas Food Bank collection 1st – 12th December**

We invite each family to bring a tin/ packet of pasta/ long life product for the local Food Bank, as our Advent Giving Event, if you would like to. Our contributions will be taken along to the local collection point.

**End of term ends on Friday 19th December for term time only funding and term time only children. Term restarts Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

**Nursery closes for Christmas Tuesday 23rd December 6pm and reopens on Monday 5th January 2025. We are closed on Christmas Eve (24th)**



# 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**

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**St Michael's Nursery**

**Sustainable Business Award**