



St. Michael's Nurseries

Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2026



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January Newsletter 2026



January saw us return to nursery following the Christmas break. Children returned to see their friends and the grown ups. Some children have returned and moved up to the next class. It has been lovely getting back into nursery life, welcoming our regular activities, events and visitors including cookery sessions, music sessions, Forest School, Football and Story Bears.

We wish Dragonfly Team Leader Amy, a very happy birthday. We sang to Amy, presented her with a card and gifts and clapped and cheered as she blew out her candles on her scrumptious cake.



Hedgehogs Bakery



utensils and demonstrated how to safely hold, cut, shop and grate the ingredients.

This month has seen us cooking up some delicious winter warmers. Our vegetable curry and naan bread was delicious. For many of our new Dragonfly children, it was their very first cookery session in Hedgehogs. The children enjoyed looking at the vegetables and exploring them in their raw form. Emma showed the children the



LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES



Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head!

January has been rather wet at times but invites many songs about rain, wind, thunder and rainbows! The sensory tray has also invited children to explore colours, mark making and pouring from cups.

We have enjoyed the return of Clare from Story Bears. Clare brings along her box of fun props, musical instruments, bubble machine and of course her ukulele.



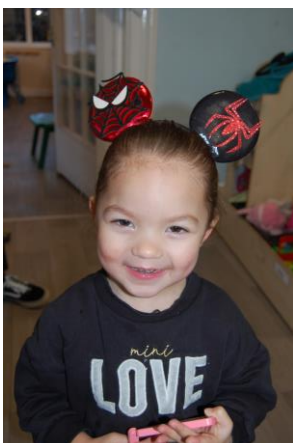
DRAGONFLIES



We wish our team leader Amy, a very happy birthday! We made her a beautiful card and sang 'Happy Birthday'. Amy loved her cake and we clapped as she blew out her candles.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMY!

We have been playing lots of fun group games including board games and interactive games. This is a regular fun way to bring the group together, nurturing a fun and social environment. This promotes turn taking, problem solving, sharing ideas, listening to one another, following instructions, and sportsmanship.



KINDERGARTEN



We welcomed back football coach Ashton. Every Tuesday afternoon, Kindergarten children are invited to attend fun football sessions. There are group games, challenges, skill work and it ends with a fun penalty shoot-out! Great fun.

With a mixture of sunshine and showers, we have been looking for rainbows. We had great fun with an outdoor water tray. Lots of testing theories and experimenting with different sized guttering and directing the water in different directions.

On a similar theme, the water tray in the messy room was great fun. Filled with warm bubbles, the dolls enjoyed a bubbly bath!



ECO-HEROES - NEWS



Have you ever received wet or soiled clothing returned to you in a bread bag?!

We like to **reuse – reduce – recycle** at St. Michael's. This is why we sometimes reuse bread bags and we would like to spread the word.

Please provide your child with a reuseable wet bag (**Not nappy sacks as these are single use plastic**). Simply wash and sanitise the bag and pop it back in your child's ruck sack. Alternatively, you could provide any other household packaging - a carrier bag, a swimming bag, laundry bag, wash bag or even purpose designed wet bags with funky designs....

https://www.cheekywipes.com/wetbags-mesh-washbags-mob.html?source=google&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=19650094557&gbraid=0AAAAAD1KjzVHiB98HUhqD0ATDAekfqCvG&gclid=EAlaIQobChMImLqCsMuzkgMV4JJQBh1fBAeEAA YASAAEgKgR_D_BwE



Green Fingers Gardening Club



We have been learning about native garden birds. We have particularly enjoyed listening to the different birds both in the garden and using an app on a loud speaker. We have used binoculars to watch and identify our local bird life.

Equipped with clipboards and pens, we have spotted crows, pigeons, blackbirds, robins, herring gulls and wrens.

We were invited to gently hold an old and discarded bird nest. It was fascinating looking at the nest up close. "It got sticks"



FOREST SCHOOL



When children turn three years old, children are presented with a commemorative tree cookie and Forest School birthday card.



This is to mark their third birthday which opens up further opportunity in Forest School to explore and work with elements including ropes, knots, woodwork tools and campfire. It's a rite of passage and marked in a ceremony to celebrate the occasion!

We are working towards our Ruby Robin Award through the 'Songbird Survival' charity.

There are a number of categories to complete and we are currently working on a collaborative project to make bird feeders. We have been using the drill to make small holes in the wood and we have found different size sticks to thread through for the birds to be able to stand on.



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.



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



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Sustainable Business Award