



St. Michael's Nurseries

Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2025



St. Michael's Nurseries

Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



October Newsletter 2025

Another month has flown by and we celebrate the golden days of October in this newsletter.

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.



Congratulations to Kindergarten Team Leader Leah on her engagement to Ryan.

Huge well done to Danni for passing her driving test!



It was recently T Level Week and we are proud to be a long-standing provider offering work placements for Petroc students. We are lucky to have some of our past T level students on our team

Follow this link to see the Petroc video!

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/4214532462196042>



As Molly completes her Early Years Apprenticeship, we wish her good luck as she steps in to the world of childcare. Thank you Molly for everything, We've had great fun!



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.

Mental Health and Well-Being



Early Years Well-being Week, World Mental Health Day and Forest School Day happened all at once this year in early October.

Here at St. Michael's Nursery, well-being, mindfulness, Hygge, being present, story times, good nutrition, being active, sleepy times, noticing and treasuring those small moments are all parts of our practice and at the heart of all we do.

Not forgetting our amazing team, Sarah ensured that the team were fully fuelled with delicious goodies, snacks, hot chocolate and flowers in the staff room. Every member of staff is truly valued, brings something special and is hugely appreciated.



Danni's Plight Goes International



**Book Aid
International**

We are so proud to have created our own 'Take a Book for Bedtime' library in our setting, and thank you for supporting this scheme. Our very own Literacy coordinator Danni was keen to take this concept further and help to provide books for children all over the world.

Book aid (<https://bookaid.org/>) raises money by selling preloved books and for every £2 raised, the charity sends a brand new book. Over 30 different

countries, books are sent to hospitals, libraries, refugee camps and schools.

Danni tells us why she is so passionate about this cause; "I have a sense of pride for the book scheme. This will help more people enjoy books."

Thank you for your recent support whether that was donating books or buying them. We raised £54.15 in cash alone plus our online payments. That's at least 22 new books sent abroad!



Harvest, Gratitude and Community Links

We have been learning about Harvest. We celebrate this time of year by making beautiful displays, nature table, books, posters, crunching leaves under our welly boots and music.

Our setting prides itself on promoting positive relationships with people, promoting British Values and by weaving a wealth of diverse stories, music, reference books, posters, artefacts, visitors, fictional books, dolls and musical instruments that represent a wide range of cultures, into our everyday practice, every day of the year.

Striving to strengthen links within our local community, we invited newly appointed Reverend Marilyn to visit our vegetable patch to see the space we hold. We sang 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' and 'Autumn Leaves are Falling Down'.



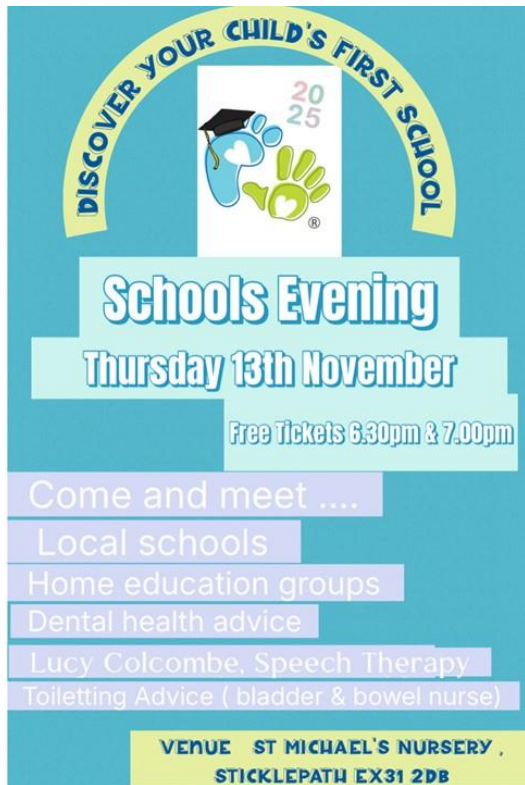
Clare from Story Bears visits us weekly. We really look forward to the sessions as they are fun, colourful interactive and we never know what is in the box!

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



Open School Evening

All invited!



DISCOVER YOUR CHILD'S FIRST SCHOOL

2025

Schools Evening

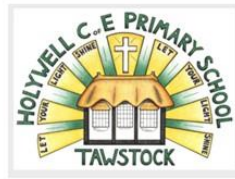
Thursday 13th November

Free Tickets 6.30pm & 7.00pm

Come and meet ...

- Local schools
- Home education groups
- Dental health advice
- Lucy Colcombe, Speech Therapy
- Toileting Advice (bladder & bowel nurse)

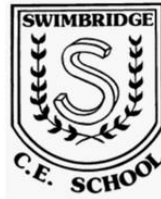
**VENUE ST MICHAEL'S NURSERY ,
STICKLEPATH EX31 2DB**



Roundswell
Community
Primary
Academy



WEST BUCKLAND
PREPARATORY SCHOOL



**INSTOW COMMUNITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



NEWPORT
Community School
Primary Academy



Schools Evening Thurs 13th November 630pm & 700pm

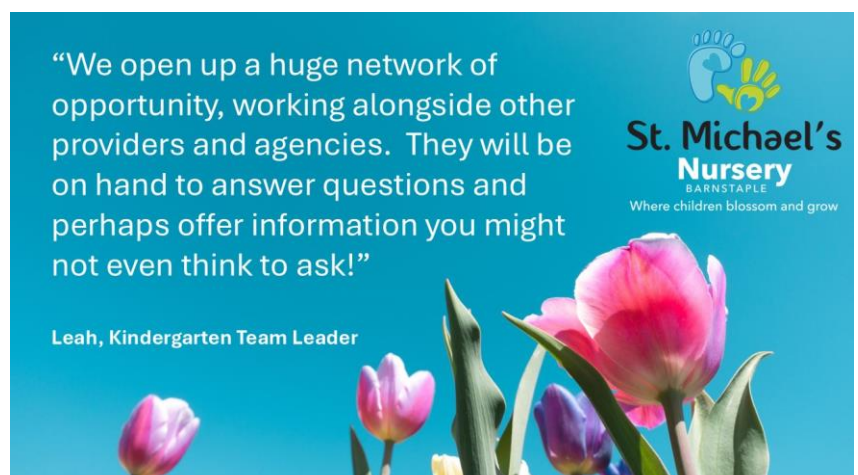


We are pleased to be running our Schools Evening this year, with local primary schools all under our roof to meet families who are making choices about their child's education.

This year we also welcome Oral Health Team, the Bladder &

Bowel Team to chat about toilet training, and also Learning Journey (home education)

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



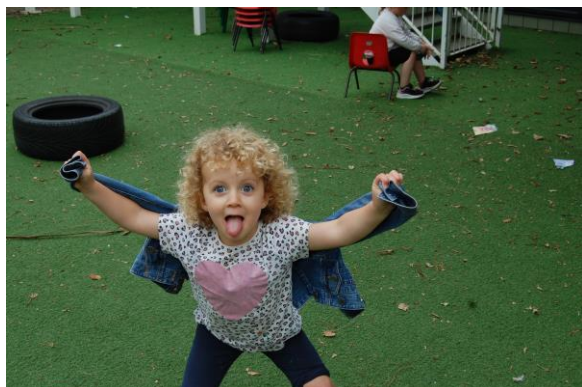
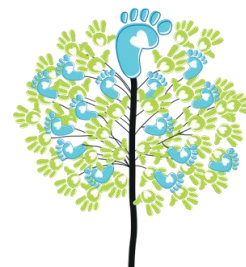
LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES



DRAGONFLIES



KINDERGARTEN



ECO-HEROES - NEWS



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

Do you have toys at the back of your cupboards, never played with, like new? Would you like to swap them for toys your children might like for Christmas?

In line with our Plastic Free Status, we will be inviting parents to bring in unwanted (like new) toys week beginning 24th November.

Monday 1st December & Tuesday 2nd December you are invited to come along and choose something new (times to be confirmed) 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



Did you know that we are award winning gardeners? We have achieved our Level 1, 2 and 3 Royal Horticulture Society School Awards and we are currently working towards our Level 4.

As part of this award, we have grown produce, harvested seeds and made a gardening centre for our families to make donations for plants. We have shared our apples, plums and seeds.

With an aim to strengthen links with Petroc's Liberty Centre, we took a trip to the café where they cook a lot of their own grown produce.

On arrival, the students greeted the group and they were delighted to offer children cakes to take home. In exchange, we offered our beautiful plants that we have been nurturing throughout the year and some seeds along with our Harvest poem.

Read more here....

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/kindergarten-visit-the-liberty-centre>



Dates for your Diary/Notices:

Schools Evening

Schools Evening Thurs 13th November 630pm & 700pm

BBC Children in Need: Wed 12th – 14th Nov

We have a Bake Sale to raise funds for Children in Need , Also Friday 14th if your child would like to wear their pyjamas, something spotty or yellow they are welcome. You are able to donate if you wish to Children in Need.

World Prematurity Awareness Day

As you know, in 2024, our team trained together to become a Prem Aware Setting. We are inviting our team to wear Purple on Monday 17th November to recognise World Prematurity Day. Around 90,000 babies are born sick or premature every year in the UK.

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) .

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 TH 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



shutterstock.com · 2442798795

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.



St. Michael's Nursery

in partnership with
Devon
County Council



NDNA

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



St Michael's Nursery

Sustainable Business Award