



St Michael's Nursery and Infant School

Newsletter – September 2023



Welcome back everyone!

We would love to wish all of our wonderful children and staff a very warm welcome back! I'm sure the children have all had a lovely break and they have all settled back in to their new classes.

Attendance and Punctuality

Our whole school attendance to date is at 94%. We aim to be above the standard which is 95%, but we understand this time of year can bring lots of tummy bugs and colds. As always, if your child has sickness/diarrhoea please keep them at home for 48 hours and call to let us know. Punctuality is very important for your child's education as we like to start their learning as soon as the doors close. If you are struggling to get to school, we still have our Panda Club (Breakfast Club) which starts at 8am. Please call the office to book.



Safeguarding

St Michael's Nursery and Infant School places a high level of importance on the welfare, protection and safeguarding of all its pupils. There are posters around school with useful numbers to contact if you are worried or concerned about a child or a family. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Cumbria Safeguarding Hub: **0333 240 1727**

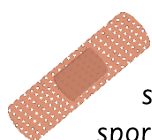


Weather

As we enter the Autumn months, the weather is starting to get cooler and very wet, so all children should come to school with a coat and suitable footwear. If you choose to bring some spare clothing, please put this in a bag with their name on.

Wrap-Around

As you know, we are finally in a position to be able to offer wrap-around Care for after-school from 3.15pm-4.15pm, every day. This will be our Koala Club. We are only able to offer 15 spaces per day, so please get in touch if you will be needing a space. We will still be running our Panda Club (Breakfast Club) each morning from 8am, both sessions will be £2 for the hour.



Jewellery and piercings

For the safety of all the children, please make sure all jewellery is removed and stud earrings are covered. The children play most of the day and we have lots of sport sessions which they would have to miss if this is not followed.



St Michael's Nursery and Infant School

Newsletter – September 2023



Applying for a Reception or Junior place for September 2024

The online application is now live to ensure you have applied for your child's chosen school. There will be more documents added to Class DoJo if you have not already accessed this. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2024. This may seem a while away, but it soon comes around, so please apply ASAP.

Online payments

We are currently in the process of setting an online payment platform up which will enable you to book and pay for wrap-around sessions, lunch money (Nursery), school trips and parents meeting. This should hopefully be live by next term as training is needed prior to this.

School Council elections

We will be having our annual election of School Councillors shortly. Each year our councillors do an amazing job in ensuring all the children have a voice and help come up with some fantastic ideas from after-school clubs to new activities at playtimes. Good Luck to all of our candidates!



Tiny Ted vacancies

We have finally opened our Tiny Teds, Little 2's provision and the children are settling in great. We are so happy to start this journey with them, but we still have some vacancies, so please, spread the word and help our little family grow!

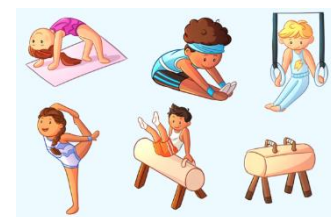
Samaritan's Purse

Mrs Kelly will be filling two shoe boxes up again this year; one for a boy aged 5-7 years and another for a girl aged 5-7 years. If you have any bits that you would like to donate, we would be very thankful. Please could these be handed in before the end of term. There is more information of gift suggestions at the end of the newsletter. You may also want to donate in other ways, or create your own shoe box, if so, follow this link

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/ways-to-give/>

After-School Club Year 1 and Year 2

Gymnastics After-School Club will run every Monday, starting Monday 18th September and the final session will be Monday 18th December 3.15pm-4.15pm. This is a free club, but we encourage children to come each week to ensure they learn all the skills and get awarded with their certificate.





St Michael's Nursery and Infant School

Newsletter – September 2023



Book Bus

The Book Bus will be coming to our school again on Monday 25th September and a selection of children will be invited to select some new books for their class.

Multi-skills Festival for Year 1 and Year 2

KS1 have been invited to take part in a multi-skills competition on Tuesday 26th September at St Josephs Catholic High School. This will take part in school time and will be ready to collect as usual. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite any spectators, however, we will take photos and upload to Class DoJo.

Year 1 and Year 2 visit to Age UK

KS1 have been asked to sing for the elderly at Age UK on Friday 29th September. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to spread kindness and make someone smile!



Autumn Walk

Year 1 and Year 2 will be going for an Autumn walk on Friday 6th October as part of their 'Feel-Good Friday' session. I am sure they will have lots of discussions about all the changes they can see around them as the seasons change.

Doodle Bug Day

We are excited to welcome Ian from Doodle Bug back on Monday 9th October to hold a creative workshop with the children that will help them highlight their resilience and imagination. We had some amazing feedback from his last visit and he believed that the children were extremely resilient especially for their age and all the changes they have had to adapt to through Covid.

Year 1 and Year 2 school trip to Hill Top Farm and Grizedale Forest

The ever-popular topic of Beatrix Potter is being studied in KS1 again this year and to help the children with this topic, we will be taking them to the home where Beatrix lived – Hill Top Farm. The children will get to see where she lived, where she found her inspiration for the well-known and well-loved characters and all the amazing stories she wrote and explore the grounds. We will then get back on the bus and head off to Grizedale Forest where the children can play and explore and have lunch.

The trip has been booked for Thursday 12th October. Reays Travel will be collecting children and staff at 9am PROMPT and we will be setting off from Grizedale Forest at 3.30pm and be back to school roughly 4.30pm but we will keep you all updated. We appreciate this is a longer day for the children, but we want them to get the most out of this experience. We would kindly ask for a contribution of £12.00 for the trip which includes admission, travel and lunch.





St Michael's Nursery and Infant School

Newsletter – September 2023



Nasal Flu Vaccinations

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should have received a consent form for their child to have/not have the vaccination on Friday 13th October. If you have not yet returned your form, please could you do so as soon as possible as they need to be submitted.

Reception Phonics meeting

Mrs Hudson would like to invite the parents of her Reception children to come along to a Phonics meeting where she will discuss the framework and how best to implement this at home and to gain a better understanding of how this will help your child at school. We understand how different our children learn from other methods that have been used in the past, so we like to keep everyone updated and supported. This will be held on Friday 13th October at 2.30pm. Please let Mrs Hudson know if you are able to attend.



Harvest Festival

Our whole school Harvest Festival will be held in St Michael's Church at 2pm on Wednesday 18th October. The children work so hard each year, learning all the songs and poems and create some lovely work to show. Each year we will be taking donations for our local Food Bank. We will send out a list of food in the coming weeks and would be very grateful for anything you are able to spare. We hope you can all come along and join in with their first service of the year.



It's time for our annual Autumn Disco!

This year our disco will be held in the school hall on Thursday 19th October 4pm until 6pm. We welcome all children including Nursery, as long as they are happy to be left with us. This will be £3.00per child which will be **paid on the day**. There will be food, entertainment and a whole lot of fun!



Happy Halloween!

We have lots of Halloween fun planned for Tuesday 31st October. All children can come to school in their Halloween costumes, but we do ask for no face paint or masks, as there are lots of little ones that may find this a little too scary.

We have a few costumes here to donate to anyone that may not be able to get their own that you are welcome to take. If anyone would like to donate any others that their child may no longer need, we would be most grateful. These will be available to take before we break up for half term.

We will also be welcoming you all to bring in your pumpkins on Monday 30th October and we will judge these on Tuesday 31st October and hand them back at the end of the day. We hope the children (and teachers) have lots of spooky fun!





St Michael's Nursery and Infant School

Newsletter – September 2023



SEND Coffee Afternoon

We welcome all parents and carers of any child that has, or you feel may have, any Special Educational Needs to join us for a coffee and a chat to help and support each other on Friday 10th November at 2pm in the school hall.

Parent Meetings

We will be taking appointments for Parents Meetings for Week Commencing 13th November. More details to follow closer to the time.



School Photos

Tempest will be coming into school on Wednesday 15th November for our whole school photos. If you would like a sibling photo taken with siblings that DON NOT attend this school, the hall doors will be open from 8.15am. All individual and in-school sibling photos will be taken throughout the day.



St Michael's Nursery and Infant School

Newsletter – September 2023



Dates for the diary:

Monday 18 TH September 3.15pm-4.15pm	Gymnastics After-School Club commences
Monday 25 th September	Book Bus visit
Tuesday 26 th September	KSI Multi Skills Festival at St Josephs
Friday 29 th September	KS1 Singing at Age UK
Thursday 5 th October	Taste of America themed lunch
Friday 6 th October	KS1 Autumn walk
Monday 9 th October	Doodle Bug visit
Thursday 12 th October	KS1 School Trip to Hill Top Farm
Friday 13 th October	Nasal Flu vaccinations
Friday 13 th October 2.30pm	Reception parents' phonics meeting
Week commencing 16 th October	Collect and donate Halloween outfits
Wednesday 18 th October 2pm	Harvest Festival at St Michael's Church
Thursday 19 th October 4pm-6pm	Autumn Disco in the school hall
Friday 20 th October 3pm	School closes for Half Term Break
Monday 30th October	School re-opens
Monday 30 th October	Bring your pumpkins to school
Tuesday 31 st October	Children can dress up
Friday 10 th November 2pm	SEND coffee afternoon
Week Commencing 13 th November	Parents meetings
Wednesday 15 th November	School photos





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Newsletter – September 2023



SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS (AGE 5-9)



SPECIAL ITEM: Something to immediately capture the child's attention e.g. a cuddly toy, large toy car or truck, a rag doll, a deflated football and pump, a solar-powered torch.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES: Pencil case; crayons; writing pens and pencils; colouring pens and pencils; highlighters; child friendly pencil sharpener; ruler; eraser; glue stick (not liquid glue); safety scissors; small adhesive tape; notebook; drawing pad; colouring book; solid paint palette and paint brushes set; pre-inked stampers; pavement chalk; whiteboard and dry wipe pens; stencils; mini Spirograph kit; solar calculator; stickers.

ACCESSORIES: Baseball cap; sunglasses; woolly hat, gloves, mittens, scarf; hair ties, bows and dress-up headbands; small backpack, handbag or drawstring bag; purse or wallet; children's jewellery, watch, reusable non-breakable containers e.g. cup, water bottle, plate, bowl; small items of clothing e.g. socks, flip-flops, T-shirt.

TOYS: Skipping rope; tennis ball; building bricks/Lego type kit; click together model; glider kit (non-military); bead kit; play people; animal figures; dinosaurs; foldable play mat e.g. farm, zoo, city or racetrack; transport toys e.g. car, train, plane, truck or boat; plastic doll; hand or finger puppets; play dough (ideally with cookie cutters and play tools); toy tools; slinky; yo-yo; dominoes; spinning top; kaleidoscope; toy binoculars; finger skateboard; wind-up or pull-back toy; bouncy ball; inflatable beach ball; small frisbee, small kite, interactive toys that include push buttons, lights and noise (include extra batteries).



DO NOT INCLUDE: Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds, gum, chocolate or food items; religious or political literature; medicines, aerosol cans, sharp or fragile items.

GAMES: Card games, small puzzles, puzzle cubes, jacks, mini board games, etc.



MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS:

Tambourine, shaker, bells, sports whistle, recorder, harmonica, slide whistle, tin whistle, finger drums, maracas, triangle, mini xylophone, kazoo, castanets.



HYGIENE ITEMS:

Toothbrush, hairbrush, comb, bar of soap, flannel, sponge, washmitt, chapstick, compact mirror (ensure protected).



A NOTE FROM YOU: Christmas card, note of greeting, photo of yourself/your family.

