



15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### **Welcome to Our Early Years Newsletter**

This is a new venture to help inform you directly of your child's learning. You will be able to read about the learning taking place, the plans we have and a chance for us to ask for your support in your child's first or second year at St Michael's.

It has been great to welcome our new starters to Nursery, George, Gracie, Ethan, Grace, Matilda, Jake and Frankii. You have settled very well, and we hope you enjoy time with your new friends and teachers.

### **Outdoor Learning**

You may have noticed lots of changes to our EYFS outdoor learning environment. We are very lucky to have this space and the children have been very excited about the transformation of their outdoor area. The outdoor provision is used all year round, and at St Michael's we are passionate about developing opportunities for children to not only learn inside but outside too. Let's take a look to see what developments and transformations are taking place for our children:

- The new bamboo fencing gives a more natural look to the outdoors.
- Creating a new planting area. This will allow the children greater exploration, making it a very tactile garden to investigate, plant and grow.
- The mud kitchen has re-located
- The water station on the wall

We aim to provide opportunities indoors and outdoors to enable the children to develop as independent and confident learners, as this stage within school forms the building blocks for the rest of the life.

### **Phonics and Reading**

We read lots of different stories to the children, but we always have a focus book which we link our learning opportunities to.

The focus book in **nursery** after half term will be 'Jasper's Beanstalk' and children will plant their own beans and watch how they grow and change.

In reception the focus book will be 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and we will have real caterpillars in the classroom that we will see transform into butterflies.

Please support your child's learning at home by identifying sounds in the home and garden, reading the phonemes and tricky words provided and sound talking words as much as possible so that they can practice blending sounds. E.g. "Please come and s-i-t down?" Please keep reading with and to your child as much as possible.

In addition, you could use the Oxford Owl website which has a number of free e-readers you could share together: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

### **Always Green Children**

Well Done to Preston in Reception and Darcey in Nursery who were the first children from EYFS nominated as Always being on Green. The second set of children were Eva-Rae from Reception and Jaxon from Nursery. Well done! They joined other children from years 1 to 6 to have a hot chocolate/drink treat with Mrs Bowes. Those children who are 'Always Green' will be nominated by their Class Teachers every week to share this special treat! Ms Gray was the first staff member to enjoy a treat too.

### **Ways to support**

Within the Early Years setting the staff make a lot of the resources to support the children's learning. Play dough is made regularly. We are also planning to bake and cook with the children linking many aspects of the early learning goals. Therefore, we are asking for your support towards the purchasing of additional resources and ingredients, we will be collecting up to £1 each week.

How you can help us!

- Collecting and sending in crafty bits or junk modelling for use by the children in their play, including unwanted rolls of wallpaper for the children to draw or 'write' on the back of.



Kitchen  
rolls

Egg boxes

Cardboard  
boxes

- Donations of unwanted toys and books in good condition. We are in the process of replacing some of our plastic resources with more natural materials (particularly for the outdoor area) so if you have an unwanted metal/ wooden pots, pans, jugs, utensils or baskets we could put them to good use!



- Also please come and speak to one of us if you have any expertise or links to the topics we are doing throughout the year and would like to share these with the children. You can find these on our school website.

### **Share Bears**

Each class has a 'Share Bear'. Each day a child from each class will be chosen to look after the Share Bear for a day. They may be chosen because they have been a kind friend, helped someone or shared and taken turns.

A reminder that we start back on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019.**

Please do keep an eye on the **school website and Tapestry** for regular photos and updates about what we are doing! If you have any problems logging into Tapestry, please speak to Mrs Guerin in reception class.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation

St Michael's Reception and Nursery Staff