



THE WEDNESDAY WORD

St Michael and All Angels
CE Primary School

Wednesday 28th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have really enjoyed watching the enthusiasm in my class this week, particularly during our bread tasting activity. As part of our learning about food around the world, we explored bread as a staple food in many different cultures and looked at how it can vary so widely. The children were wonderfully curious and keen to share their thoughts (and opinions!) as they tasted and compared different types.

I have also had great fun working with the choir, who have been busy learning *The Lonely Goatherd* from *The Sound of Music*. This has, of course, involved yodelling! It has been hugely entertaining to see the children learning the technique with such confidence and enthusiasm — and I can safely say they are already far better at it than I am.

Across the school, there has been lots of inter-class play, with children mixing happily with others from different year groups. Despite the wet weather, spirits have remained high. There has been some inevitable splashing fun, which we have tried to keep to a sensible level so that children didn't get too wet, while still allowing them to enjoy themselves.

With this in mind, please could we ask that you check your child has a warm, waterproof coat with a hood each day. Outdoor play is hugely beneficial to the children's wellbeing and learning, and while indoor or wet play is sometimes unavoidable, we do try to get outside whenever it is safe to do so.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support — it is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McMillan
Senior Teacher

Parents Evening – Save the Dates:

Parents evening will be taking place in March. A message will go out via Arbor once appointments are available for booking.

Wednesday 4th March

Thursday 5th March

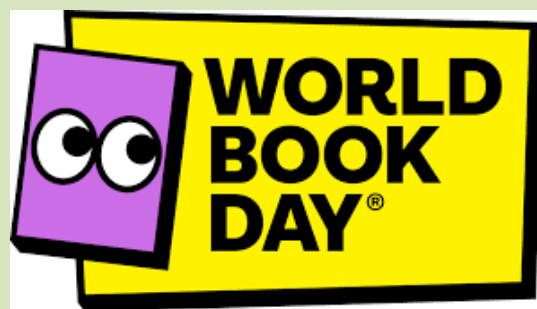


Parents
Evening

World Book Day:

It is officially the National Year of Reading!

World Book Day will take place on **Thursday 5th March** and this year we are asking the children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. We would also like them to bring in the book to which they are from (if they have it at home already, we do not expect parents to make any special purchases)



Mystery reader EYFS:

We would like to bring back to school our Mystery Reader sessions in our EYFS and Class 2.

This is where parents/grandparents or a close family member comes in to school to read a story to the children without them knowing you were coming in.

- You choose an age appropriate picture book to bring in (either 4-5yrs or 5-7yrs)
- Get creative – In the past our readers have dressed up (you can of course just come and read)
- Story must last about 15 minutes – Arrival at school would be from 2:45pm

It is so lovely to see the children's faces when a family member shows up and they didn't know they were coming. This is likely to take place on a Tuesday or a Thursday.

Keep an eye out for more details and a form to complete if you would like to sign yourself or a family member up



Reading with your child:

Please where possible continue to read at home with your child. Reading and sharing books in the home helps to build a child's vocabulary and understanding of the world. See below for some tips to help encourage children to read;

- Take breaks – They don't have to read a whole book in one go
- Let them pick – Encourage your child to pick a book that interests them
- Encourage your child to be the author – Let them decide how the story goes
- Use Technology – when used appropriately, technology can provide a route into reading

Even just 10 minutes of reading a day can make a huge difference



Reading Volunteers:

Can you spare any time to come into school to read with our children?

Would you be able to spare 30 minutes of your time to come in to school and listen to our younger children read?

If you are interested, please contact the school office to register your interest.

office@stmichaels.risemat.co.uk



Donations:

Do you have any blankets or comfy rugs that you no longer use and would like to donate to school?

Miss Smith, EYFS, is on the lookout for her classroom to make carpet activities more comfortable for the children.

She is looking for the following;

- **Blankets**
- **Rugs**
- **Cushions**
- **Beanbags**



They must be in a good condition as they are for the children to sit on during carpet time.



RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch:

Did your child take part in the Birdwatch over the weekend? Did you take any photos?

Miss Smith would love to see any pictures of your child taking part.

Please email any pictures to office@stmichaels.risemat.co.uk



Lateness in School

Punctuality is essential for maintaining consistent attendance and supporting effective learning.

Impact of Lateness

Late arrivals disrupt both the child's learning and the classroom environment. Missing initial activities can lead to gaps in understanding and progress. Example: Being 10 minutes late every day equates to nearly 7 full days of lost learning annually.

Attendance Monitoring and Penalties

From 19 August 2024, penalty notice fines may be issued for 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a 10-week period, which constitutes irregular attendance. Lateness will be closely monitored to prevent this.

Learning Time Lost Due to Lateness

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days' worth of teaching lost in a year
5 minutes	3.4 days
10 minutes	6.9 days
15 minutes	10.3 days
20 minutes	13.8 days
30 minutes	20.7 days

Class Teacher Email addresses

- **Class 1** – rsmith@stmichaels.risemat.co.uk
- **Class 2** – showitt@stmichaels.risemat.co.uk
- **Class 3** – mhorler@stmichaels.risemat.co.uk
jhall@stmichaels.risemat.co.uk
- **Class 4** – cmcmillan@stmichaels.rise.co.uk

Please feel free to contact your child's class teacher using the email addresses above if you have any questions, concerns, or would just like to share information. We are always happy to hear from you and work together to support your child.

Lost Property:

We have a lot of lost property in school. If your child has lost an item that is not named it is placed in to our lost property boxes based in Class 3 and Class 4. Please ask your child to check these, alternatively parents are welcome to check the box themselves at the end of the school day.



Illness in school:

To help keep everyone well, we ask that children stay at home for 48 hours after any sickness or diarrhoea. We know it can be tricky when children are keen to get back to school, but this short time really helps protect others from catching the same bug.



Coming up:

- **February Half Term Break – School Closes Thursday 12th February**
- **Teacher Inset Day (School closed to pupils) – Friday 13th February**
- **Parents Evening – Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th March**
- **World Book Day – Thursday 5th March**