



St Michael's CE Primary School

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Cultivating Respect, Persevering, and Learning with Courage

Friday 19th January 2024

Dear Families,

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2024!

It has been a pleasure to welcome everyone back to school and to see the renewed energy and enthusiasm for learning. The children have already adjusted to life back at school and the high expectations in their learning and at other times are wonderful to see.

The staff and I spent the INSET day reviewing the curriculum at St Michael's. We wanted to ensure that the wider curriculum offer was as rigorous and ambitious as the core subjects (English, Maths, Science). We have written vision statements, progression documents and ensured that the texts we use to support our teaching in all subjects are challenging, inspiring and diverse. These documents are slowly being added to the website so please do have a look.

Attendance

So far this year there have been 162 sessions. Each day has two sessions, so this is the equivalent of 81 days.

The table below shows how many sessions the children in each year group have missed in total. If 2 children have missed 2 days the total number of sessions missed in that class will be 4. As you can see there is a substantial amount of lost learning, especially in Year 5.

| Year Group | Total Attendances (%) | No of children with 1 or more sessions absence | Authorised Absence | | | Unauthorised Absence | | |
|------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|-------------|
| | | | No of sessions | No of days | No of Hours | No of sessions | No of days | No of Hours |
| 1 | 95.1% | 24/30 | 157 | 78.5 | 510 | 75 | 37.5 | 243 |
| 2 | 94.7% | 25/30 | 168 | 84 | 546 | 86 | 43 | 279 |
| 3 | 96.9% | 15/26 | 100 | 50 | 325 | 26 | 13 | 85 |
| 4 | 95.8% | 20/30 | 111 | 55.5 | 360 | 86 | 43 | 280 |
| 5 | 92.9% | 17/23 | 186 | 93 | 604 | 66 | 33 | 214 |
| 6 | 95.3% | 17/28 | 120 | 60 | 390 | 48 | 24 | 156 |

Authorised absence.

Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school for a good reason like illness, medical/dental appointments which unavoidably fall in school time, emergencies or other unavoidable cause. If this occurs, school will require evidence of the appointment to be able to authorise the absence.

Unauthorised absence

- Parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily
- truancy before or during the school day
- absences which have never been properly explained
- children who arrive at school too late to get a mark
- shopping, looking after other children or birthdays
- day trips and holidays in term time which have not been agreed
- excessive illness without medical evidence

Letting school know



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It is your legal duty as a parent to let the school know if your child

is absent and to give the reason. If you do not contact school by phone or email (NOT ClassDojo) then the admin team will call. If there is no answer they will leave a voicemail.

If no reason is given for the absence then this is unauthorized.

Lateness

We still have a number of children who arrive at school after the bell has rung. This is at times unavoidable due to traffic or road conditions however it can have a wide impact on your child as well as the day to day running of the school.

Recurrent lateness is disruptive to learning can lead to reluctance in separating from a familiar adult as well as a reluctance to attend school. Children report feeling embarrassed and awkward when they have to walk in after their peers, often finding it difficult to order their lunch.

We recognise that there are extenuating circumstances and in some cases a pre-agreed, short term arrangement. If you are struggling to get to school on time, please do speak to your child's class teacher or myself so we can look at putting a plan in place.

Ways to help your child

- Ensuring regular and early bed times
- Having uniform and equipment prepared the night before
- Providing a healthy breakfast
- Reporting any academic or social concerns promptly
- Retaining open & honest communication with us as a school
- Being positive about school (even if your own experience was less than positive)

We regularly analyse our attendance data to identify patterns eg particular days of the week, sibling absence and we will work with families to support them in overcoming the barriers to good attendance.

Safeguarding

Christmas can be a challenging time for some, and safeguarding children never stops. If you are worried about your own child or another child in the community, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate people:

Immediate danger

If you think a child is in immediate danger, call the police on **999**.

Immediate concern

If you have a concern about a child, please call MASH on **0345 050 7666**.

If you are a parent or carer

If you feel you are harming your child or are close to doing so please contact us on one of the following numbers:

- Office hours (8.30am – 5pm, Monday to Thursday, 8.30am – 4pm, Friday): Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: **0345 050 7666**
- Outside office hours: Emergency Duty Team: **0800 833 408**

If you have any concerns or require any support, please do speak to us. We have access to lots of different types of support ranging from the Community Larder and parenting support right through to Social Care.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can support with anything.

Kind Regards

Hayley Leyshon
Headteacher