



St Michael's Nursery Newsletter

August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,



We would like to welcome all our new pupils and welcome back those returning to St. Michael's Nursery. As always, our priority is the health and wellbeing of the children. If they are safe and well, the learning and fun happens naturally. The children who have returned so far have all been amazing and have enjoyed being back with their friends. We, of course, are delighted to begin a new term at nursery and are looking forward to working with the children this year. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns and a member of staff will happily speak with you. You will receive regular newsletters which will keep you up to date with events and activities planned within the nursery.

NURSERY ENTRANCE

I want to thank Miss Dalgleish and Miss Reilly who painted the exterior wall at the nursery entrance during the summer. I'm sure you'll agree that it looks great and differentiates our area from the rest of the school. Hopefully, over time, we'll get on to the other walls as well!

NURSERY HOURS

An email with details of our nursery sessions and the arrangements we have in place for entry and exit was sent to all families on 14th August. Please refer to this and make sure that anyone who may be dropping off or collecting your child knows our routines. These have been put in place for the safety of all our children at St Michael's. Please note that children cannot be taken into the nursery before the start time of their session and that all children need to be out of the building by the end of their session. This is to ensure that we keep in line with our staff/child ratios and guidelines as set out by the local authority and the Care Inspectorate.

STAFF

Our staffing is as follows:

Mrs McCormack & Miss Dalgleish - Principal Leads

Mrs Lorentzen - Lead Practitioner

Mrs Macartney, Mrs Miller, Mrs McKellar, Miss Hendry - Early Learning Practitioners

Mrs Elliot, Mrs Coia, Miss Reilly - Support Workers

Please note that Miss Dalgleish will be taking on an Acting Depute Head of Centre role in Shotts Family Learning Centre for two days a week until March. Miss McAra will be covering her on a Thursday and Friday and we want to welcome her to the team. Miss Hendry is also new to us this term and she is also very welcome.

We will continue with the key worker system this year. This way you will always have one allocated person to speak to about your child should you have anything you want to discuss.

Please be assured though that all staff members know your child well and you can approach anyone with questions about your child. Your child's Key Worker will be the person who you meet with for more formal meetings, writes any report cards, etc. Your child will be in a group and you can see these groups in the cloakrooms.

X (TWITTER), CORRESPONDENCE, NEWSLETTERS & PHOTOS

Please keep an eye on the school twitter page as updates and events are posted regularly.

All children may from time to time have their photo uploaded to the school and nursery Twitter feed. **Anyone who does not wish their child to appear on our Twitter should notify the nursery as soon as possible using Mrs McMillan or Mrs Di Mascio's e-mail. You can access the Twitter account @StMichaelsPNS**

All newsletters and correspondence from the nursery will be sent by e-mail through our online system. It is very important that we have an up to date e-mail address.

If you have to change your e-mail address or contact details please e-mail Mrs McMillan on nlmcmillanr@northlan.org.uk.

GLOW TEAMS

We will shortly be sending out information to new parents on how to join Microsoft Teams. All parents, including those of returning children, will then be given a code to join a new Team that is just for nursery use. The Team will contain a selection of photos that will be updated regularly. It is also a platform for staff to send notifications and reminders. Once this has been sent out, if you are having any problems accessing the Nursery Team then please speak with Miss Dalglish.

PARKING

For everyone's safety please do not park in, or walk through, the staff carpark at any time. This also applies to the entrance to our neighbours in Auchengeich Gardens, opposite the basketball court.

There is ample parking around the school on the surrounding streets or in the car parks of the Co-op store or Church of Scotland on Blackwoods Crescent. Thank you for your understanding and support with this.

NURSERY PLAYGROUND & GARDEN

We are very fortunate to have such varied outdoor areas. We have daily access to the playground, eco garden and occasionally enjoy playing in the forest as well. Please ensure your child always comes to nursery with appropriate clothing and footwear. As summer begins to fade, wellies and waterproofs will become vital. We have a supply of wellies and waterproofs in nursery, so there is no need to supply your own. Please remember to label all of your children belongings with their names.

PASSWORD INFORMATION

If you have not yet provided staff with a password for your child please do so as soon as possible. It is important to let a member of staff know if it will be someone different collecting your child who is not familiar to staff. In addition, please give your child's password to those collecting your child. If in doubt staff will contact the main parent/carer for security reasons. Again, please make sure that your contact details are up to date.



PLANNING

This month we are giving the children time to settle in and get to know their new friends. Through this the children will focus on listening and talking through turn taking and sharing news. We are continuing to introduce our new children to our SHANARRI wheel for their Health & Wellbeing, helping children to feel safe and nurtured in a new environment.



FOREST

Forest sessions will start for our pre-school children on Thursday 5th September. Letters will be sent out to those children in the first block with all the required information.

PUPIL AND PARENT VIEWS AND COMMENTS

In addition to our learning targets set with the children and in collaboration with parents, throughout the year we seek both pupil and parent views about our nursery. These are done through chats with the children and the completion of questionnaires by both pupils and parents. We actively seek views to help us continually improve our nursery. Much of our communication will be electronic so please look out for things being sent your way.



ECO GARDEN

Within our nursery grounds we have an amazing eco garden where the children learn about healthy eating and sustainability by allowing them to grow a selection of fruits and vegetables. We currently have 4 strawberry planters, a rhubarb patch, apple trees, plum trees and a variety of berry bushes. The children look forward to eating their fruit for snack and taking the produce home accompanied by a recipe. Alongside this, we have a mud kitchen, a small world/loose parts and a fairy garden. These resources allow the children to explore their creativity and develop new skills. We are currently seeking volunteers to help us maintain and organise the grounds as we head into Autumn.

PLAY ON PEDALS

Our Play on Pedals programme will be starting w/b 2nd September. Play on Pedals is a training programme that supports and develops the cycling skills of nursery age children. The children will be grouped together according to their ability. If you do not want your child to participate in the programme, please let Mrs Macartney know as soon as possible. Once the Nursery Team is set up, you will be able to see photos of this initiative.

MEDICATION

If your child requires any medication which is required to be taken daily e.g. inhalers, please ensure that this is given to nursery staff to be kept in the nursery. Please ensure that this is in date and has the child's own name on the packaging from the pharmacy. All paperwork must be completed before any medication can be administered.

LOCAL VISITS

We are hoping to arrange visits to the local Coffee House who are one of our business partners, for our preschool children in the next few weeks. New children will be able to have this experience when they have had more time to settle. We will keep you posted with more details as plans are made. We will also be taking some children over to the neighbouring Co-op Store more frequently, where they will be able to buy their own snack items.

LEARNING JOURNALS

Learning Journals are an online tool that we use to track and evidence the children's learning and experiences. Every parent will have an account that links to their own child and can be accessed easily via an app on a smart phone or via a computer. The Journals are published at the end of each month and contain photos and statements relating to learned experiences. If you are a new parent please look out for an email from Learning Journals to set up your account and for any existing parents who have not logged on for a few months, I will arrange for emails to be sent again for your accounts to be renewed. I am sure that you'll enjoy this tool and look forward to seeing your updates from home and comments about what your children have been doing while in nursery. Within your own account settings you can request to be notified if an entry is published. The first set of Learning Journals for this year will be published towards the end of September.

FUN BAGS

We have a number of 'fun bags' which we are going to start sending home to one group at a time for children to enjoy at home with you. Please look out for a note on the foyer board for more information.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS



If your child achieves any medals, certificates, etc., has a new baby in the family, has learned a new skill or simply wants to share something exciting with us then please send in photos with news of what has been achieved for our wall display. This will help us to maintain the links we have with you at home and the children will love to know that we are aware of their achievements.

MOBILE PHONE

Please remember that the nursery mobile number is **07950 584596** and staff can take calls or messages via this phone. The main school office phone should be used in the first instance during the hours of 8.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. while the office is staffed. The mobile will be the only means of communication out with these times.

LENDING LIBRARY

We hope to re-introduce this service which will involve your child bringing home a book of their choice for you to read and enjoy with them in the house but we require help from home to manage this. We would appreciate if any parents or carers were able to volunteer to help with this service during both mornings and afternoons. Please speak with a staff member if you are able to help.



DOGS

Can I remind all parents and carers that dogs are not permitted in the school grounds at any time. This includes small dogs that are being carried. Thank you with your support with this.

BARNARDOS

Our Barnardos support worker Monica runs a coffee 'drop in' session on a Wednesday morning from 9.00 -10.00 a.m. The first session will be Wednesday 28th August. Our toddler Stay and Play group will start up again on Friday 30th August from 9.00 a.m. All are welcome to attend. Monica is also available to support our children and families out with school. If you would like to speak with her regarding anything that you would like advice or support with then please let me know and I will ask her to give you a call. Any conversations you have with Monica will be kept confidential.

LUNCHES

Copies of the nursery lunch menus are available to view online at

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-meals/meal-menus/nursery-school-menu>

There is also a copy of our lunch menu on the wall in the corridor at the nursery exit. It has 'w/b' under each menu.

CLOTHING



Could we please remind everyone to ensure that your child's name is on all your child's clothing and indoor shoes? It makes our life much easier! If possible, we would prefer if shoes don't have laces as this can be very time consuming resulting in less time outside as staff often have many pairs of laces to tie!

SHOE BAGS

Each child has been issued with a green bag, which hangs on their peg, to keep a set of spare nursery clothes in. Shoes are stored in the boxes under the pegs. Hopefully this will prevent any mix up with lost shoes. Please speak with your child about these to help them become familiar with our routines. Please refrain from sending children to nursery with backpacks as they are unnecessary, and we don't have the space. Should your child need a bag for going to a different adult after their session, then please hand any bags to a staff member at drop off time.

UNIFORM



We would encourage all parents to consider purchasing a nursery uniform if you have not already done so. The uniform is a green sweatshirt with the nursery logo. It costs £10.95 and will save your child's own clothes from potentially getting mucky while they're playing in nursery.

<https://www.logoxpres-schoolwear.co.uk/St-Michaels-Nursery/>

POINTS OF INFORMATION



Please remember that no toys should be brought to the nursery.

Please inform the nursery staff if you change address, phone number or emergency contact details. Please also keep us informed of any changes or updates regarding allergies.

A copy of all the holidays and in-service days for this academic year are noted at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you for your continuing support, and a final welcome to any new families. Please do not hesitate to contact myself on nldimascion@northlan.org.uk with any questions or concerns you may have.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Di Mascio
Depute Head Teacher

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS AND IN-SERVICE DAYS 2024 - 2025

| | |
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| Monday 12 th August 2024 | In - Service Day - Staff only |
| Tuesday 13 th August 2024 | In - Service Day - Staff only |
| Wednesday 14 th August 2024 | Return for all pupils |
| Fri 27 th & Mon 30 th September 2024 | Closed for September Weekend |
| Tuesday 1 st October 2024 | Return for all staff and pupils |
| Monday 14 th - Friday 18 th October 2024 | Closed for October Break |
| Monday 21 st October 2024 | Return for all staff and pupils |
| Monday 18 th November 2024 | In - Service Day - Staff only |
| Tuesday 19 th November 2024 | Return for all pupils |
| Friday 20 th December 2024 | Close for Christmas Break at 2.30 p.m. |
| Monday 23 rd Dec - Fri 3 rd Jan 2025 | Closed for Christmas Break |
| Monday 6 th January 2025 | Return for all staff and pupils |
| Monday 17 th & Tuesday 18 th February 2025 | Closed for February Break |
| Weds 19 th February 2025 | In - Service Day - Staff only |
| Thursday 20 th February 2025 | Return for all pupils |
| Friday 4 th April 2025 | Close for Easter Break at 2.30 p.m. |
| Monday 7 th - Monday 21 st April 2025 | Closed for Easter Holidays |
| Tuesday 22 nd April 2025 | Return for all staff and pupils |
| Monday 5 th May 2025 | Closed for May Day Holiday |
| Tuesday 6 th May 2025 | In - Service Day - Staff only |
| Wednesday 7 th May 2025 | Return to all staff and pupils |
| Friday 23 rd May & Monday 26 th May 2025 | Closed for May Weekend |
| Tuesday 27 th May 2025 | Return for all staff and pupils |
| Wednesday 25 th June 2025 | Close for Summer Break at 1.00 pm |

FULL TIME HOLIDAYS AND IN-SERVICE DAYS 2024 - 2025

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| Monday 12 th August 2024 | In - Service Day - Staff only |
| Tuesday 13 th August 2024 | In - Service Day - Staff only |
| Wednesday 14 th August 2024 | Return for all pupils |
| Fri 27 th & Mon 30 th September 2024 | Closed for September Weekend |
| Tuesday 1 st October 2024 | Return for all staff and pupils |
| Monday 18 th November 2024 | In - Service Day - Staff only |
| Tuesday 19 th November 2024 | Return for all pupils |
| Tuesday 24 th December 2024 | Close for Christmas Break |
| Friday 3 rd January 2025 | Return for all staff and pupils |
| Weds 19 th February 2025 | In - Service Day - Staff only |
| Thursday 20 th February 2025 | Return for all pupils |
| Friday 18 th - Monday 21 st April 2025 | Closed for Easter Weekend |
| Tuesday 22 nd April 2025 | Return for all staff and pupils |
| Monday 5 th May 2025 | Closed for May Day Holiday |
| Tuesday 6 th May 2025 | In - Service Day - Staff only |
| Friday 23 rd May & Monday 26 th May 2025 | Closed for May Weekend |
| Tuesday 27 th May 2025 | Return for all staff and pupils |
| Monday 14 th July 2025 | Closed for Fair holiday |