

Dear Families,

It has been another happy and successful half term in school. Our classes have been eager to share their learning with parents at their Writing Cafés in recent weeks. Year 5 led a beautiful liturgical prayer for the school and their families today. The message of the liturgical prayer was to change the world, one small step at a time.



World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day this year on Thursday 2nd March. In school, every child will be making a bookmark using a range of textiles.

Pupils and staff are also invited to come to school dressed as their favourite character from a book, or alternatively they can wear non-uniform.

First Holy Communion

Thank you to Miss Fowler and Mrs Monkley for leading the First Holy Communion preparation sessions in school. Please keep our children and their families in your prayers during this special time.

Parent Teacher Friend Association (PTFA)

Thank you to our amazing PTFA who organised the Friendship Disco on Tuesday. The work of the PTFA is invaluable to our school community. They have many exciting plans for the future.

Trips and Educational Visits

Please remember that permission and payment for trips and educational visits should be done through Pay360.

You will receive a text message to inform you that a trip has been added to Pay 360. One week before the trip, you will then also receive a letter to remind you of the trip.

If you are experiencing difficulties accessing Pay360, please contact the school office.

Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Playground

At St Michael's we believe that all children need opportunities to play which will allow them to explore, manipulate and experience their environment. It has been long recognised that play is fundamental to a child's health, happiness, development and wellbeing. Research has also shown that children spend 20% of their time in school playing. This has led staff at St Michael's to reflect upon how playtimes could be improved. We aim to improve our playtimes by providing a wide range of play opportunities from the fifteen types of play, meaning children are still learning and having fun whilst outside.

Over the coming months we intend to transform our play provision to offer the highest quality play experiences for your children. To help us on our journey, we would be most grateful if you could donate any old play items that you no longer need. We are looking for the following items to set up a small world zone, a mud kitchen and a performance area.

Mud kitchen items	Small World items	Performance items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • baking trays • wooden spoons • pots and pans • colanders • sieves • plastic measuring jugs • spatulas • plastic mixing bowls (large, medium and small) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • action figures • small cars • trucks/tractors • dinosaurs • barbie dolls • trains • plastic insects • dolls house accessories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children's dressing up clothes • hats • scarves • musical instruments

Sport

It has been a fantastic half term in terms of sporting achievement in school.

Our Year 5 and Year 6 netball team recently competed in the Bee Netball event. The progress the children have made this year has been phenomenal. They played well, demonstrating excellent skill on the ball.



St Michael's rugby team attended the Phil Brantingham U11 7s tournament held at The Royal Grammar School (RGS) and played with great confidence and determination. They won four out of their five games. This resulted in being crowned team of the tournament.

Our Hockey team also attended the In2Hockey event at RGS, working well as a team and winning their group as well as progressing to the final. They will now go on to represent the City of Newcastle in the county finals.

There was an opportunity for the girl's football team to participate in the NUFC Foundation Premier League cup. Finishing 2nd in their group, they then went on to play an excellent match in the final.

Finally, the Year 5 basketball team won their Hoops for Health competition to secure a place in the grand final. They played exceptionally well at the Vertu arena during an Eagles match.

Well done to all of our sporting champions who represent themselves, their family and school exceptionally well.

Parent Events

March	
Year 5 Class Mass	2 nd March (9.30)
Year 4 Writing Cafe	3 rd March (9.15)
Year 6 Class Liturgy	8 th March (9.15)
Year 6 Class Mass	9 th March (9.30)
Year 5 Writing Café	9 th March (9.15)
Year 1 Class Liturgy	10 th March (9.15)
Year 2 Class Liturgy	15 th March (9.15)
Year 6 Writing Café	16 th March (9.15)
Parents' Evening	21 st and 22 nd March

*Please note a change of date to the events highlighted.

Today we break up from school for the February half term holiday. I hope you have a lovely weekend with your friends and family.

We look forward to welcoming our children back to school on **Monday 27th February.**

Yours Sincerely



Mrs C Chapman
Executive Headteacher

