



St Michael's Nursery and Infant School

Newsletter – January 2026



Welcome back to all of our wonderful children, families and staff. These first couple of weeks have really shown the resilience of all at St Michael's and the children have all settled into their new classes and some have settled into a brand-new school so well. We are so happy to see our amazing little school grow and thrive.

Attendance and Punctuality:

Our overall whole school attendance up to date is **89.86%** with a target of 95%. As always, we appreciate that some absence is not avoidable, but we do stress that, unless your child has a temperature above 38 degrees, sickness, diarrhoea or any other contagious illness, they should come into school. We have access to fresh drinking water throughout the day and they will always be wrapped up warm whilst playing outside.



We understand that medical appointments are like gold dust at the moment, but wherever possible, please try to arrange check-ups etc after school hours as this interrupts their learning time and schedule. Please call the school office and leave a message for us on 01900 608111 **BEFORE 9AM** if they will not be in school as we will need to carry out a welfare visit to your home address if we have no contact. If you are unable to call, you can leave a message with Miss Stagg via Class DoJo. Please do not message class teachers/Teaching Assistants as they may not be able to check the messages, especially if they are teaching.

As you may all be aware, there has been significant changes to the Penalty Charges and Fines Framework which are enforced on to schools.

Punctuality is becoming an issue again. Please note – If your child is to miss registration in the morning or afternoon, **THIS IS ALSO CLASSED AS AN ABSENCE** as they have missed the register which goes against their attendance, so we must stress the importance of your child's punctuality as well as attendance as a whole. We would like to reiterate the importance of your child being in school on time for their own benefit and that of their peers. We aim to start learning as soon as registration is complete, but before this, we like the children to have some breakfast and a drink to ease into the day. Once one child is late, this then interrupts the routine that the children need.

If your child is late, please come to the main entrance and sign them in with their name, date/time and reason for being late, as we need to record persistent lateness and if there are any patterns occurring.

We have also noticed more children being collected late at the end of their session, be it Tiny Teds, Nursery or main school. We must remind all parents that this then eats into the staff time, especially at lunch times, as this is their only break throughout the day.

If this happens, we may have to add them to Wrap Around Care which is chargeable.



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Class	Opening times	Closing Times
Tiny Teds	Morning – 8.30am Afternoon – 12.15pm	Morning – 11.30am Afternoon – 3.15pm
Nursery	8.45am	Morning – 11.55am Teddy Bears – 1.30pm or 3.05pm
Reception	8.35am	3.15pm
Year 1	8.35am	3.15pm
Year 2	8.35am	3.15pm

As always, we do have Panda Club available from 8am-8.30am and Koala Club from 3.15pm-4.15pm for £2.00 for anyone that may need this. Please book via the SCO Pay app, or message the school office. This is not available for Tiny Teds.

Please refer to the attendance flyer that has been sent to all families with important dates and information. If you need another – please ask.



Safeguarding:

St Michael's Nursery and Infant School places a high level of importance on the welfare, protection and safeguarding of all its pupils. There are posters around school with useful numbers to contact if you are worried or concerned about a child or a family. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is our Head – Mrs Regan. Our Deputy

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is Mrs Hudson – Reception Teacher and Early Years Lead.

Cumbria Safeguarding Hub: **0333 240 1727**

Please see the flyer that has been sent to all families. If you would like another – please ask.

Clothing:

Please ensure your child always comes to school in suitable outdoor clothing, including sturdy, practical shoes and coat. If you would like your child to have a spare pair of wellies and/or wet suit in school, please bring this in a separate bag with their name on.



Please ensure all other clothing is clearly labelled, especially jumpers and coats as these may be removed throughout the day and could easily get mixed up. If your child is prone to accidents or toilet training, please pack some extra clothing each day, just in case. If any spare clothing is used from school, please can this be washed and returned.



Online Safety:

Please can we remind all parents' carers to keep checking their child's privacy settings on any device they may use and amend accordingly should there be any concerns.



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After-school Clubs:

Club	Class	Teacher	First session	Last session	Time
U-Dance	KS1	Miss Natalie	12/01/2026	16/03/2026	3.15pm-4.15pm
Multi-skills	Reception	Coach David	13/01/2026	10/02/2026	3.15pm-4.15pm



School Hub:

All of our children should have a log in for School Hub (not Tiny Teds) by now. All children must have a meal ordered by 9.30am, otherwise, they will not get their preferred choice and this can cause upset. If possible, please can you book as far in advance as possible. A new menu is added each Sunday and you can book three weeks in advance. This enables Mrs Miller to plan ahead for food orders. Please try and encourage your child to choose with you. Don't worry, if they change their mind, the meal can be cancelled and reordered up until 9.30am of that day. Nursery children should only have a meal ordered for the day they will be staying for lunch. No payment is taken on this site – all payments are made via SCO Pay.

SCO Pay:

New starters will have their log in sent this week as there has been a delay when merging them over to the app. This app allows you to book your child on to Panda Club, Koala Club and Teddy Bears (Nursery afternoon sessions), chargeable sessions for Tiny Teds and school trips. Please note that we still accept cash but this must be in a sealed envelope with the details of payment on the front. You will be unable to book sessions on the day, but you can contact the school office and this can be added manually. Please, where possible, make your bookings online. We have the right to refuse places for sessions if payment is not made. For the wellbeing of all, we do not like debts to mount up. Full or partial payments can be made.



Supervising children:

It is your own responsibility to ensure that you are supervising your child(ren) before and after school in all areas of the yard AT ALL TIMES. This includes the community pantry, sensory garden and scooter bay. Both gates are open for school drop off and collection which increases the risk of a child escaping. The equipment is not designed for toddlers' safety, so please do not allow smaller children to use this without being closely monitored.



Smoking and Vaping

This is a polite reminder that we do not permit any smoking and/or vaping on school premises at any given time. This includes the path way leading up alongside the car park and Church yard. If you have a vape, please keep this secure as one was dropped on the yard which could've led to a child picking this up.



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U-Dance 2026:

We will be taking part in the annual U-Dance festival again this year which is organised by our dance teacher/sports coach – Miss Natalie. Miss Smith works tirelessly alongside Natalie ensuring that the performance is a success each year, from sorting ticket allocations to helping with all the back-stage delights and costumes. The festival will take place at The Carnegie Theatre on Wednesday 18th March 2026. An after-school club has been organised and will run each Monday (excluding half-term). The final session will be Monday 16th March. We must insist on full commitment. This is an optional event, so please consider your child's needs/interests before signing them up, as not all children like performing and being on a big stage and that is completely understandable. More details for the event will be sent in due course.

Welcoming a Stranger – Art project:

We are delighted to begin another Welcoming a Stranger project this year. We have a team that come in each fortnight to work with alternate classes to produce their own puppet at the end. The work will be show-cased to the children in Summer and they can see the journey that it has taken to develop the final piece.

Chinese New Year:

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year, week commencing 9th February. We have a range of activities and discussions planned for the children to enjoy, learn and celebrate together.

新年快乐



Cricket Chris:

Our cricket coach, Chris Hodgson (Cricket Chris) will be joining us at the end of January for three weeks to practice cricket with KS1 children.