



# **St Michael with St Thomas CofE Primary School**

**Newsletter – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

## **Welcome back!**

A huge welcome back to our whole school community! It has been so lovely to see everyone this week and hear all about your summer from the children. They have all returned with fantastic attitudes and ready for a new year, and have blown the staff away with the starts they have made in their new classes.

We would also like to say a huge welcome to our new families joining us in Reception and the new starters that have joined in classes throughout the school. It has been lovely to welcome even more members to our school family and we hope that all of the children have enjoyed their first week as part of St Michael with St Thomas Primary School.

The start of the year is always exciting, with lots of plans and projects on the go, and to help parents have a clear picture of what we are working on this year I have attached a 'Year Ahead' document to explain some of the things going on in school for the next twelve months. If you would like any further information, or feel that you can help support any of these key priorities, please do not hesitate to come in and see me to discuss.

As always, the newsletter will go out weekly with information about things happening in school, weekly Headteacher Awards and Attendance winners, upcoming dates and information about attendance and other key matters. Please make sure that you take the time to check this each week to help you keep up to date with things going on in school. We aim to give as much notice as possible for events or changes, so checking the communication from school – newsletters, emails and in app messages – is essential. If you aren't receiving the newsletter or messages through Arbor/emails, please let the school office know asap.

## **Autumn Dates and Key Events**

Attached are a list of the key dates in Autumn that you may want to make a note of. These do not contain every event, just the main ones you may want to plan ahead for, so please ensure you keep checking the newsletter for other things happening.

This year we have also produced a Key Events list for each year group, which details trips, theme days, events which require a money contribution from parents, which we will be sending out to you early next week. We recognise that some families may wish to spread the cost of these events more evenly, especially in the Autumn term, and so this year we are opening up the Arbor payments for your child so that you can add money to the account throughout the year, based on the events – this will act a little like a savings account, meaning that you can spread the cost in whatever way you wish. The usual reminders and deadlines will still go out, but this is an option for those families that feel it may be useful, especially if you have multiple children in the school.

We hope that this will be useful and help families going forwards. As always, if you are struggling with any of the events, please come and discuss this with me to see if there is any support available.

## **PE Kits**

PE lessons will be starting from next week, so children need to come in their PE kits on their PE days (please see your child's class handbook for details of their days). We ask that children leave a pair of pumps in school, in a small, draw string PE bag. No rucksacks are allowed in school.

*Please remember that no branded sports kits are allowed – plain hoodies/jackets, jogging bottoms etc only. We have plenty of items in swap shop if parents would like to ask at the office.*

## **Fund Raising**

As part of our ongoing fundraising bids for school, we are asking for parents support in two ways:

**Asda Rewards Scheme:** Asda Rewards are currently running a scheme where people can add a school to their rewards account and the school will receive a % of their spend at Asda. This doesn't affect the points or cashback you earn, it is extra that goes to the school. If you have the Asda Rewards app, please can we ask that you add our school to your account so that we can benefit from the fundraising? Also, please share with your wider family and friends! The staff have done this over the summer and already with just staff and their families, we have over £70! There are 86 days left on this scheme, so please help!

**Tesco Customer Vote:** We have finally been accepted for the Tesco customer vote scheme in the Tesco Extra in Widnes! (the blue coin vote!) There are 3 causes that are being voted on, and the cause that gains the most blue coins during the time period gets £1500 towards their project. Voting will be open from the first week in October to mid January, so please make sure you get your votes in if you are in store! Again, please share with your friends and family networks, or share our social media posts to help raise awareness.

### **Parent Forum Nominations**

Lastly, we are hoping that we will be able to start our Parent Forum again this year. The last two years we have not had the nominations from parents to be able to run this and it is so important in helping us to gain the views of parents on things happening in school and to help ensure that we are meeting the needs of everyone. Ideally, we would like a nominee from every class, to share the thoughts of that parent group. The Parent Forum will meet with myself each term for an hour, from 3.30 – 4.30pm (coffee, cakes and free after school club provided!) and will discuss a range of topics – in the past this has included shaping homework policy, developing communication, planning school events, inputting to parent insight sessions and much, much more! If you can spare an hour each term, and would like to be part of the forum, please email the office and put your name forward, or come in and see me for a chat.

### **Looking Ahead:**

- 16th Sept—Interfaith Week
- 26th Sept—Tempest Individual Photos – date change to 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024
- 26th Sept—Whole School Eucharist Service in School @ 9:15am
- 30th Sept -St Michael's Day

Here are some important dates for your diaries to help you plan for the next few weeks:

*Please note, these dates are subject to change - please ensure you check them each week for any amendments or additions.*