



## ***St Michael with St Thomas C of E Primary School***

***Newsletter – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

### **Parent Insight Reminder**

You will have noticed in the Looking Ahead dates, that we have our first round of Parent Insight sessions coming up. If you wish to attend the session, please sign up on Arbor, you will be able to see within the app if you have secured a place. Unfortunately, due to space in the classroom, numbers are limited, if you would like to attend but are unable to book on as the session is full, please contact the office and another session will be put on for a different day so no one will miss out.

**These are live lessons and unfortunately younger siblings are unable to attend. Unfortunately, you will not be able to attend unless you have booked onto the session**

### **Road Safety Incident**

Unfortunately, despite recent requests on our newsletter to keep the road outside our school safe we have had an incident where a parent has been hit by a car.

Can we please remind our families on the importance of keeping our school safe for everyone to use. We have been advised that some parents are parking on pavements around the school resulting in children having to walk onto the road to get past, and some are parking on zigzags resulting in limited access for other road users. Please can you ensure sure you keep your speed down, you park safely, legally and considerately around the school, and to remember the 'School Keep Clear' markings outside the school are there for the safety of the children and other pedestrians. They are there to keep the area completely clear of vehicles during school times and we ask that you do not stop or park on them.

We would also like to request parents do not turn their cars round at the barrier, if you are able to, please park your car a little further away from school and take the opportunity to walk and enjoy a chat with your child about their day.

**Please also remember to use the pedestrian gate to enter the school and not by walking across the car park - we do not want to see anyone hurt and we ask that we all work together to ensure the safety of our children.**

### **Y6 Walking Home**

As the evenings are getting darker and the clocks are going back, please be reminded Y6 are not allowed to walk home without an adult after attending afterschool clubs.

### **Autumn Disco**

It is already that time of year and we are planning our annual Autumn Disco. The disco will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> October and is available to book on Arbor at a cost of £5.00 which includes the disco, a hot dog and drink. There will also be a tuck shop available if children want to bring a small amount of money for extra treats.

### **World Mental Health Day**

World Mental Health day was on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October and we took the time to talk about how we can look after ourselves not just physically but also emotionally and reminding classes about strategies for good mental health using the 5 ways to wellbeing poster. If any of our school family are struggling please do not hesitate to reach out for support.

## **Recycle Week**



We are excited to celebrate our annual Recycle Week from 14th-20th October. This year the theme is 'Rescue Me' with a focus on rescuing recyclable items from being put in the rubbish bin. To prepare for Recycle Week, our school enjoyed a special assembly and the Eco Educators have made some new posters for all of our bins to inform the children about what goes in what bin. The children have also got some fantastic ideas about how we can reuse some items before their disposal. The Eco Educators are also asking for lots of plastic bottles and bottle tops for the Art club, who are pledging to reuse these to create pieces of artwork.

## **Wraparound Care**

We are thrilled to see how popular our Wraparound Care provision has become and are pleased that so many families are benefiting from this service. However, please be reminded the importance of booking your child's place in advance to help us continue to run the service smoothly and efficiently. This helps us with staff ratios, knowing who to expect, children are collected from classes, prevent unpaid balances and ensuring we have enough food and snacks for all children. Please be aware if a place is not booked in advance, your child may be refused entry to the Wraparound Care session. This is to ensure that we can continue to provide the best care for all children and comply with safety regulations.

## **Tesco Community Grant**

We are in the big Tesco in Widnes! If you or your family are shopping in Tesco, please ask for a blue token and pop it in the collection point, your votes could help us win £1500 for the school.

## **Reminder – We are a Nut Free School**

Please can we again remind all parents to check what is being put in children's lunchboxes, as we have a child with a severe nut allergy. If children have items containing nuts in their lunchboxes, they will be kept safe by staff and handed back to parents at the end of the day and pupils will be offered lunch from the kitchen. Thank you for supporting us with this.

### Looking Ahead:

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

- 14<sup>th</sup> October – Y3 Parent Insight Session 2:15pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> October – Y4 Parent Insight Session 2:15pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> October – Y2 Parent Insight Session 2:15pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> October – Y1 Parent Insight Session 2:15pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> October – Y5 Parent Insight Session 2:15pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October – School Individual Photographs
- 24<sup>th</sup> October – Reception Welcome Worship in School @ 9am
- 24<sup>th</sup> October – Autumn Disco
- 25<sup>th</sup> October – End of Term
- 4<sup>th</sup> November – Start of Term
- 7<sup>th</sup> November – Y3 Science and Industry Museum Trip
- 11<sup>th</sup> November – Odd Socks Day
- 14<sup>th</sup> November – Y5 Slavery Museum Trip
- 15<sup>th</sup> November – Children in Need
- 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> November – Y5 Bikeability Level 2
- 19<sup>th</sup> November – Reception Balance Bikes
- 19<sup>th</sup> November – Y6 Ancient Egypt Museum visit
- 20<sup>th</sup> November – Y4 Family Worship – Thankfulness 9:00am
- 20<sup>th</sup> November – Y4 Bikeability Level 1
- 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Inset Day
- 27<sup>th</sup> November – Y5 Family Worship – Advent 9:15am
- 27<sup>th</sup> November – Opening Evening 3:30pm and 5:30pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> December – Rec/Y1 Parent Pupil Progress Meetings
- 5<sup>th</sup> December – Y6 Christingle
- 10<sup>th</sup> December – Y5/Y6 Parent Pupil Progress Meetings
- 11<sup>th</sup> December – Y2/Y3/Y4 Parent Pupil Progress Meetings
- 12<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas jumper and dinner day
- 13<sup>th</sup> December – Enterprise Fair
- 16<sup>th</sup> December – Breakfast with Santa (EYFS and Y1)
- 17<sup>th</sup> December – Breakfast with Santa (Y2 and Y3)
- 17<sup>th</sup> December – KS1 Panto and Party
- 18<sup>th</sup> December – KS2 Panto and Party
- 20<sup>th</sup> December – End of Term
- 6<sup>th</sup> January – School Opens

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

# Living Our Values

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

Perseverance

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart"*

□

FOR YOU HAVE NEED OF ENDURANCE, SO THAT WHEN YOU HAVE DONE THE WILL OF GOD YOU MAY RECEIVE WHAT IS PROMISED.

Hebrews 10:36

## St Michael with St Thomas Church

Come and join the Sunday services at our beautiful church! See times below.

Don't forget Children's Church on the first Sunday of every month.



## Holy Communion Service

🕒 Every Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for 1 hour

## Let's Talk About Rights!

This week our Article of the week for you to discuss at home is: Article 13 Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions

- What does this mean?
- How do children access this right?
- How can duty bearers help to ensure children have this right?

## Article of the WEEK



# Ready, Respectful, Safe!

## Ready



**We are ready to learn,  
ready to listen and ready  
to embrace  
opportunities.**

**We respect our friends,  
our teachers, our visitors  
and all members of our  
community.**

## Respectful



**We know how we can  
keep ourselves safe and  
make sure we do all we  
can to keep our school  
family safe.**

## Safe



Quotes from Miss Slingsby's  
#Positivegossip Book this week:

- John (Y5) for singing lovely waiting for all children to arrive in worship – Miss Lucas
- Ella Watson (Y5) such a positive, radiant smile – even in the rain – Mrs Hogan
- Faith (Y2) always happy to hold doors open for others
- Carter and Ben (Y5) for showing Miss Sutton a fun game during indoor break.
- Jack and Sophie (Y6) for being such caring role models for our reception children.

## Headteacher's Award Winners:

Rec – Daniel for fantastic phonic work

Y1 – Bella for always being enthusiastic towards her learning

Y2 – Lula for excellent participation in our History lessons

Y3 – Sofa for challenging herself with her reasoning in maths

Y4 – Mason for participating enthusiastically in times table practice

Y5 – Sonny for being an all round superstar!

Y6 – Kaycie for always being an incredible, responsible role model

## Lunchtime

### Superstars

Rec – Nell

Y1 – Bonnie-Rae

Y2 – Olivia

Y3 – Mary-Rose

Y4 – Ryan

Y5 – Finlay

Y6 – Jack

# Attendance Counts!

#momentsmatter

Whole School Attendance – this year:

96.7%

Whole school attendance – this week:

95.9%

Class attendance winner:

100% - Y1

Class Attendance:

Rec – 98.6%

Y1 – 100%

Y2 – 96.1%

Y3 – 96.6%

Y4 – 93.7%

Y5 – 91.8%

Y6 – 96.9%



# Free online courses for all parents, carers, grandparents and teens

## Nurturing emotional health and wellbeing from bump to 19+ years

Halton Borough Council, in partnership with the Solihull Approach, offer free access to online courses expertly designed for parents, carers, grandparents and teens living in the region.

Sign up to understand your child's feelings, as well as your own, as you go through life as a family. Learn to understand the changes in your child's development and how to support them, whilst also strengthening your relationship.

### How to sign up:

Residents can access these courses for free by entering the Halton Access Code:

**TOGETHER**

at [inourplace.co.uk](https://inourplace.co.uk).

inourplace 

“ Because we are committed to supporting our children to thrive and we all need a bit of headspace and thinking time occasionally.

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

## 1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

## 2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

## 3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

## 4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

## 5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

## 6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately *will* slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

## 7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

## 8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

## 9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

## 10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

## Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®





**St.Michael with St Thomas CE Primary School**

## *Open Evenings 2024*



**Tues 1<sup>st</sup> October at 3:30pm & 5:30pm**  
**Weds 27<sup>th</sup> November at 3:30pm & 5:30pm**

We are open to all parents & carers  
of children whose **birthday falls between**  
**1/09/2020 and 31/08/2021** and are  
therefore eligible for a Reception class  
place in September 2025



# Ladies Fashion Show **AND** Pop-up Shop!

**SHOP YOUR FAVOURITE HIGH STREET BRANDS  
AT 50% OFF OR MORE!**

**Colours.**

**[FUN] DRAISING  
FASHION SHOWS**



**Thursday 17th October 2024  
Hough Green Scout Group**

Hough Green Scout Hut, Hall Avenue, Hough Green, Widnes, WA8 8XS

**Doors open 6.30pm, show starts 7pm**

**Tickets: £5** *includes includes a welcome drink*  
Tickets to be purchased in advance

**Raffle: FABULOUS prizes to be won at the show!**

For tickets and more information please contact:  
[gsl@10thwidnesscoutgroup.org.uk](mailto:gsl@10thwidnesscoutgroup.org.uk)

