Learn, Achieve, Love, Believe

St Michael with St Thomas C of E Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 2nd October 2026

Parent Forum Invitation

We would love to invite you to join our wonderful Parent Forum! Your thoughts, ideas and experiences are so important to us and really help shape the decisions we make. Our Parent Forum is a friendly, welcoming space where we come together to chat about how we can make our school community even better, gain parent views and insights on different topics. We are always excited to hear fresh perspectives and new ideas from our families.

Ideally, we would like a nominee from every class. The Parent Forum will meet with Miss Slingsby each term for an hour, from 3:30-4:30pm (coffee, cakes and free afterschool club provided!)

If you would like to get involved and be part of this lovely group, please email the office and we will send you further information and dates. Together, we can continue creating the very best learning environment for all our children.

Parent Forum Dates:

- 26th November 2026
- 4th March 2027
- 24 June 2027

Reception Open Evening – September 2027

Even though our new Reception class has only just started, we are already looking ahead at next year and we would like to invite families of children starting School in September to our annual Open Evenings. The Open Evenings are for any children who will be starting school in September 2027. Please support us in promoting our event by sharing our advert on our social media and with family, friends, sports clubs and local group pages etc to get the word out to as many families as possible about our amazing school. Open Evenings will be held on **15th October 2026 and 3rd December 2026** at **3:30pm** and **5:30pm**.

Harvest Festival

We are looking forward to this year's Harvest Festival, led by Y5, which will be held at the church on **Thursday 8th October**, starting at **9:30am**. Everyone is warmly welcome to join us as we come together to celebrate and give thanks for the harvest. We will be accepting donations up until the service. Please see the shopping list of suggested items from Widnes Foodbank below. If you would like to join us on our walk to the church, please contact the school office, we will be leaving school at approximately 9am. Your support is, as always, greatly appreciated, and we look forward to celebrating with you!

Bikeability

Y4 and Y5 had a fantastic week taking part in their Bikeability Course! We were so impressed with everyone who took part in the Learn to Ride course, as they overcame their fears, showed great perseverance and developed their confidence on two wheels. Y4 and Y5 successfully completed their Level 1 and Level 2, developing their riding skills, preparing for cycling on the roads and learning how to safely navigate simple junctions. We were incredibly proud of their behaviour throughout the week, particularly how sensible, responsible and determined they were. A huge well done to everyone for their hard work and perseverance!

Car Park Barrier

To help keep our children safe in the car park, we are restricting vehicle access between 3:00pm and 3:30pm. We also kindly ask that, when the barrier is raised, children and parents do not walk underneath it and instead use the designated pedestrian pathway. Your cooperation and support with these safety measures are greatly appreciated and will help us ensure that our children remain safe at busy drop-off and collection times. Thank you for your understanding, help and continued support in keeping our children safe.

Parent Insight - Reminder

Please be reminded that places for our Parent Insight sessions are limited, therefore only parents who have signed up on Arbor, one parent per child, will be able to attend. Unfortunately, as these are live lessons, we are unable to accommodate younger siblings. Sessions start at 2:15pm.

For those of you who have not experienced these sessions before, they provide a wonderful opportunity for parents to join their child in a lesson and learn alongside them. It gives parents a flavour of what life is like in the classroom, as well as an insight into the different strategies and teaching methods we use, which you can then support your child with at home. If you have signed up and are unable to attend, please contact the office.

Earrings

Please be reminded children are not permitted to wear earrings. Should parents wish to have children's ears pierced, this should take place at the beginning of the summer holiday to allow time for ears to heal prior to return to school so they can be removed during school time. Should parents be concerned that ear piercings may close, children may wear small, transparent and colourless plastic retainers with no backs. Retainers maybe worn until there is no risk of piercings healing up and then they should be removed. Parents wishing their child to wear plastic retainers in school, do so at their **own risk**. Whilst retainers reduce any risk of injury, for example if a ball hits the side of the head, the level of risk is reduced, not removed. Children who do come to school wearing earrings will be asked to sit in the quiet area during break and lunchtimes.

Chester Zoo

The children have now completed the last of their "Save Our Rainforest" workshops in preparation for their exciting trip to Chester Zoo! They are incredibly excited to visit the zoo and will be taking part in some fun activities linked to the rainforest topic, including a Hornbill Game. The children will also have the fantastic opportunity to visit the Rainforest House to see the orangutans, as well as exploring the zoo and seeing many of the other amazing animals. Please remember that children will need to bring a packed lunch in a named plastic carrier bag, wear their school uniform and wear comfortable walking shoes. It is fantastic to be able to take their learning outside the classroom, and we are sure it will be a wonderful, enjoyable and educational experience for everyone!

St Michael with St Thomas CE Primary School

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Attendance SPOTLIGHT

Punctuality

On time for a bright start! ♡

Why is punctuality important?

Arriving at school on time helps children to settle, feel calm and ready to learn. The start of the day is a really important time. Children take part in morning routines, get important information, build friendships and begin their learning straight away.

Being on time helps children make the most of every school day.



Our school day starts at...



School gates open at **8:40 am**

Registration and morning learning starts at **8:45 am**

Let's be in, ready and learning together from the very start! ♡

What can happen if a child is late?

Even a few minutes late each day can have an impact over time.



Missed learning

Children may miss important key learning, instructions or explanations, which can make it harder for them to keep up.



Missed routines

Children can miss important morning routines, including assemblies, which help them feel part of the school community.



Emotional impact

Arriving late can be upsetting and can make children feel anxious, embarrassed or unsettled, especially when they walk into a busy classroom.



Social impact

Children can miss time with their friends, which can affect relationships and make it harder to feel included.



Long term impact

Regular lateness can add up to a significant amount of lost learning time over the year, which can affect progress and confidence.

Establishing good routines

A consistent morning routine can make a big difference. Here are some tips:

- Prepare uniform, bags and lunches the night before.
- Set a regular bedtime to ensure a good night's sleep.
- Allow plenty of time in the morning, including for breakfast.
- Try to keep to the same routine each day, even at weekends where possible.
- Aim to arrive a few minutes early so your child can settle in calmly.



How can school support?

We understand that mornings can be challenging and we are here to help. We can:

- Talk to you about any barriers to punctuality and work together on solutions.
- Offer support with routines and provide practical advice.
- Make referrals to the school nurse if there are sleep, health or wellbeing concerns.
- Use incentives and rewards to celebrate good punctuality.
- Work with our Family Support Worker and other agencies where additional support is needed.

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The Prevent Duty

Keeping our children safe

What is the Prevent Duty?

The Prevent duty is part of the Government's wider counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people, including children and young people, being drawn into terrorism or radicalisation.



What does radicalisation mean?

Radicalisation is the process by which someone comes to support terrorism and extremist views, and may be influenced by others, including online. It can happen over time and can affect anyone.



What does this mean for our school?

As a school, we have a legal duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This means that we:

- Provide a safe and inclusive environment for all our pupils
- Promote British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that helps children understand the world around them
- Make sure staff are trained to recognise signs that a child may be at risk
- Work with external agencies when needed to provide early support

How do we teach about this?

We help our children to:

- Develop an understanding of different cultures, faiths and beliefs
- Respect and celebrate differences
- Think critically and ask questions
- Develop resilience and know where to get help if they are worried

How do we identify and manage concerns?

Our staff are trained to recognise signs that a child may be vulnerable to extremist views. If we have a concern, we will:

1. Listen to and record the concern
2. Discuss with our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
3. Seek advice and support from relevant external agencies when necessary

How can parents and carers help?

- Talk to your child about the world around them
- Encourage them to ask questions and share their views
- Be aware of what they are doing online
- Promote kindness, respect and tolerance
- Talk to us if you have any concerns



Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact our school office or speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

School Office: 0151 424 4234
We are always here to listen and support.

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Planned Trips

We are always looking for volunteers to join us on our school trips. If you are available and would like to come along, please contact the school office to register your interest.

Trip Date(s)	Trip Name	Groups	Sign-up deadline
Tue, 06 Oct 2026	Chester Zoo Y1-6	Y1, Y2, Y4, Y5, Y6, Y3	28 Sep 2026
Thu, 22 Oct 2026	KS1 Autumn Disco	Year R, Year Y1, Year Y2, Y3	16 Oct 2026
Thu, 22 Oct 2026	KS2 Autumn Disco	Year Y4, Year Y5, Year Y6	16 Oct 2026
Tue, 10 Nov 2026	Y6 Ancient Egypt Trip	Year Y6	10 Oct 2026
Tue, 10 Nov 2026	Y5 Ancient Greeks and Romans Trip	Year Y5	10 Oct 2026
Mon, 14 Dec 2026	Rec & Y1 Breakfast with Santa	Year R and Year Y1	04 Dec 2026
Mon, 14 Dec 2026	KS1 Panto and Party Food	Year R, Year Y1, Year Y2 and Y3 Trips	15 Oct 2026
Tue, 15 Dec 2026	Y2 & Y3 Breakfast with Santa	Year Y2 and Y3 Trips	04 Dec 2026
Tue, 15 Dec 2026	Acorn & Oak Breakfast with Santa	Acorn and Oak	04 Dec 2026
Tue, 15 Dec 2026	KS2 Panto and Party Food	Year Y4, Year Y5 and Year Y6	15 Oct 2026
Mon, 07 Jun 2027 - Tue, 08 Jun 2027	Y5 Pettypool	Year Y5	Deposit by 20th Oct 2026
Thu, 24 Jun 2027 -Fri, 25 Jun 2027	Y6 London Residential Trip	Year Y6	Deposit by 30 Sep 2026

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

- Tilly Y6 for being a lovely friend and being super helpful at lunchtime – Miss B ☺
- Jacob Y4 for helping a friend when they fell during PE - Miss Swain
- Iviarna Y4 for beautiful singing and fantastic participation during our music lesson – Miss Swain
- Max, Scarlet, Libbie, Sophia, Tilly Y6 for showing great teamwork and perseverance skipping at lunchtime – great work! Miss B ☺
- Brody Reception – beautiful singing during worship – Mis s Swain ♥
- Lucien (Y1) for chatting whenever he sees me – how lovely for me – Miss Ellis
- Freddie (y6) for making sure staff knew that a friend had apologised to him, so mature – Miss Ellis
- Theo (Y2) for fantastic work in English and Maths – Mrs Bonnett
- Eleanor (y2) for being amazing in lessons this week – Mrs Bonnett
- ☺

Parent Dates

Looking Ahead:

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

- 5th Oct – Reception Parent Insight 2:15pm
- 6th Oct – Y1 – Y6 Chester Zoo Trip
- 7th Oct – Y1 Parent Insight – Phonics 2:15pm
- 8th Oct – Y5 Harvest 9:30am Service at Church
- 8th Oct – Y6 Parent Insight – Reading 2:15pm
- 12th Oct – Y3 Parent Insight – Reading 2:15pm
- 13th Oct – Individual School Photos
- 13th Oct – Y4 Parent Insight 2:15pm
- 15th Oct – Y5 Parent Insight 2:15pm
- 15th Oct – Reception Open Evening 3:30pm and 5:30pm
- 19th Oct – Y2 Parent Insight 2:15pm
- 22nd Oct – Reception Welcome Worship

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to share this week's Acorn and Oak Class newsletter with you. Here is a look at what we have been up to...

Dates for your Diary

15th December
Breakfast with Santa!



School Trip

We are in the process of booking our first school trip and details and dates for your diary should hopefully be with you in the next week.

What we have been learning about this week...

Dentists

We have been brushing our teeth together and brushing some fake teeth to make them sparkly clean!



Numbers 1 – 5!

We have been practicing our numbers 1 – 5!



Our story is...

We're Going on a Bear Hunt!
If you want to read this at home with your child too.



Lunchtime Award

Daniel Banbury

Head Teacher's Award

LJ

for his amazing work in our maths activity.
We are super impressed!

Our Amazing Children

BEYOND SCHOOL

Different Passions Brighter Futures

Same Brilliant Children

This page celebrates the fantastic achievements of our children outside of school. Whether it's sports, arts, music, volunteering, clubs, hobbies or any other interests, we're so proud of you!

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We would love to hear about and celebrate all of our children's achievements, both in and out of school. We are incredibly proud of everything our children accomplish and would love the opportunity to share in their successes with our wider school community.

Whether your child has achieved something through sport, music, dance, hobbies, competitions, fundraising or any other activity, please do let us know!

If you would like to share your child's achievements with us, please email the school office so that we can celebrate their wonderful accomplishments together.

Be Proud Be You Belong

Big Achievements Happen Everywhere

Living Our Values

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

Perseverance

"We keep trying and never give up"



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 6: All children have the right to life, survival and development*

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!

Headteacher Award Winners

Rec – Lilly for being a superstar during our Maths lesson

Y1 – Billy for always being such an amazing role model in our class!

Y2 – Bella for always having a positive attitude and for being a lovely member in our classroom 😊

Y3 – Frankie for amazing focus in maths. Frankie has worked so hard to complete some challenging work independently 😊

Y4 – Patsy for demonstrating incredible resilience and motivation in English 😊

Y5 – Carter for being an excellent role model and giving thoughtful answers in class

Y6 – Spencer for an outstanding week all-round. What a Superstar! 😊



Lunchtime Superstars

Rec – Mila

Y1 – Archie

Y2 – Bella

Y3 – Elijah

Y4 – Olivia

Y5 – Mary-Rose

Y6 – Sophia

Attendance Counts!

#moments matter

Whole School Attendance – this year:

97.3%

Whole school attendance – this week:

98%

Class attendance winner:

100% - Y2

Class Attendance:

Rec – 95.3%

Y1 – 98.9%

Y2 – 100%

Y3 – 99.6%

Y4 – 94.2%

Y5 – 98.4%

Y6 – 98.6%

Important reminder regarding reporting absences.

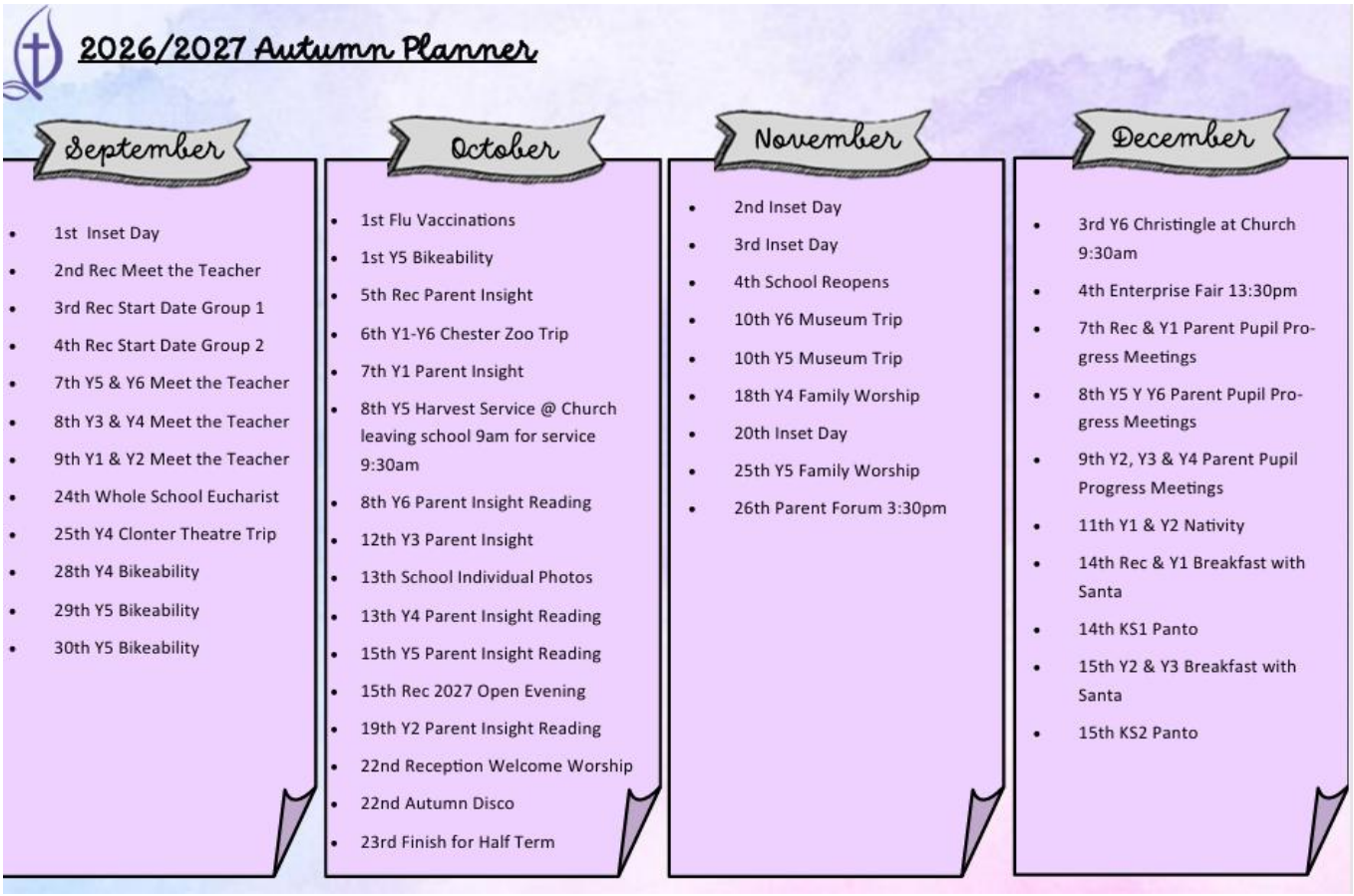
Please be reminded that you need to notify school before 9am with the reason for absence for this to be recorded appropriately.

Please note 'Feeling unwell', 'poorly' or 'under the weather' is not sufficient, more detail is required such as 'has been sick' or 'has a temperature' is required.

There are lots of ways to notify school of absence. You can call the school number and leave a message on the absence line, you can send a message via Arbor or you can email the school office.

Thank you for your continued support

Parent Dates



Menu Next Week

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Dish	Quorn Lasagne with Herb Bread Special Fried Rice	Beef Burger or Vegetarian Burger with Baked Potato Wedges	Cottage Pie or Quorn Enchiladas	Chicken & Vegetable Rice *** Cheese & Tomato Pasta Bake	Crispy Battered Fish or Quorn Nuggets with Chunky Chips
Accompaniments	Peas & Broccoli *** Tuna Pasta Salad Bar	Beans *** Tuna Pasta Salad Bar	Green Beans & Cabbage *** Tuna Pasta Salad Bar	Corn on the Cob & Carrots *** Tuna Pasta Salad Bar	Peas & Baked Beans *** Tuna Pasta Salad Bar
Desserts	Dessert of the Day	Dessert of the Day	Dessert of the Day	Dessert of the Day	Dessert of the Day
Fresh Fruit & Yoghurts	Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato & Todays choice of filling	Jacket Potato & Todays choice of filling	Jacket Potato & Todays choice of filling	Jacket Potato & Todays choice of filling	Jacket Potato & Todays choice of filling

Please note – The catering staff will make every effort to follow the menu as set out above, however there may be occasions when food served may differ from the menu and if this is to happen, we will make you aware of the change at the earliest convenience.

Harvest Festival

We will be accepting donations from **Monday 28th September** up until the service. Please see below the shopping list of suggested items from Widnes Foodbank

Widnes Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Harvest appeal



Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the weeks leading up to Harvest, Widnes food bank will continue to provide food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food

Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money

Help to cover the costs of food shortfalls, storing and distributing food.

Shopping list

- Tinned meat/fish
- Tinned veg/fruit
- Tinned Potatoes
- Coffee/Tea
- 1l Milk
- Cereal
- 1l Fruit juice (long-life)
- Jam/Biscuits
- Soup
- Toiletries

0151 422 0031

widnesfoodbank.org.uk

Widnes Foodbank is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Registered Charity Number 1155130 in England & Wales.

Parent Forum



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- 26th November 2026
- 4th March 2027
- 24 June 2027