Learn, Achieve, Love, Believe

St Michael with St Thomas C of E Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 6th November 2026

Healthy Schools

We have had a number of families asking for support and we are delighted to be working alongside Healthy Schools to offer our parents access to helpful advice, support and services to support their children. We have two upcoming parent workshops available:

- ***Understanding Children's Behaviour – 24th November at 2:00pm***
- ***Support with Fussy Eating – 3rd December at 1:30pm.***

We highly recommend these sessions to any parents who would like some friendly advice or support in these areas. The workshops are very informal, relaxed and informative, and have been a great success when we have offered them previously. If you would like to attend, please show your interest by booking onto the sessions via ***Arbor under Clubs****. We hope you can join us!*

Anti-Bullying Week – Odd Socks Day & Parent Workshop

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, we have lots of exciting activities planned to celebrate kindness, friendship and being unique! On ***Monday 16th November****, we will be holding* ***Odd Socks Day*** *and inviting children to come to school wearing their brightest, boldest and most mismatched odd socks! This is a fun way to celebrate what makes us all different and remind everyone that it is okay to be unique. Children should still wear their usual school uniform, with their odd socks adding a splash of colour!*

We would also love for parents and carers to join us on ***Thursday 19th November*** *for a special Anti-Bullying Week workshop in your child's class. You'll have the chance to join your child in a lesson and get creative together by making some artwork linked to this important topic. It will be a lovely opportunity to spend time learning together, sharing positive messages and celebrating kindness, friendship and respect. Sessions will be available to book onto on Arbor soon. We really hope as many of you as possible can join us – we look forward to seeing you there!*

Anti-Bullying Workshop Sessions

Monday 16th	*9.30 - 10.30*	*Year 6*
Monday 16th	*14.00 - 15.00*	*Year 1*
Tuesday 17th	*9.30 - 10.30*	*Year 3*
Tuesday 17th November	*14.00-15.00*	*EYFS*
Wednesday 18th November	*14.00 - 15.00*	*Year 2*
Thursday 19th November	*09.30 - 10.30*	*Year 4*
Thursday 19th November	*14.00 - 15.00*	*Year 5*

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 ***3rd December 2026*** *at* ***3:30pm*** *and* ***5:30pm****.*

💛 ***Children in Need – Friday 13th November 2026*** 💛

Next week, we will be celebrating Children in Need!
We are inviting all children to come into school on Friday 13th November dressed in their pyjamas or something spotty to help support this wonderful cause.
Donations are very welcome and can be made directly, or children can bring in some loose change to add to our Children in Need coin spiral.
Every little bit makes a difference, so please feel free to contribute whatever you can.
Thank you for your kindness and support! 💛🧸

School Trips

We understand that this is a busy time of year, with lots of exciting trips and events taking place, and we want to give families as much time as possible to make payments. However, we do need to confirm bookings with venues and purchase train and other travel tickets in advance. To help, we have extended the payment deadlines for some trips until the end of term, giving parents and carers a little extra time. Prompt payments are still greatly appreciated, as they help us to finalise arrangements and ensure each trip runs smoothly.
Thank you for your continued support and understanding. Please remember that children who do not attend a trip are expected to attend school as normal on that day.

Trip Date(s)	Trip Name	Groups	Sign-up deadline
Tue, 10 Nov 2026	Y6 Ancient Egypt Trip	Year Y6	06 Nov 2026
Tue, 10 Nov 2026	Y5 Ancient Greeks and Romans Trip	Year Y5	06 Nov 2026
Tue, 10 Nov 2026	Acorn & Oak Sensis Trip	Acorn, Oak	06 Nov 2026
Mon, 14 Dec 2026	Rec & Y1 Breakfast with Santa	Reception and Class 1	04 Dec 2026
Mon, 14 Dec 2026	KS1 Panto and Party Food	Reception, Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3	13 Nov 2026
Tue, 15 Dec 2026	Y2 & Y3 Breakfast with Santa	Year Y2 and Y3	04 Dec 2026
Tue, 15 Dec 2026	KS2 Panto and Party Food	Year Y4, Year Y5 and Year Y6	13 Nov 2026
Tue, 15 Dec 2026	Acorn & Oak Breakfast with Santa	Acorn and Oak	04 Dec 2026



Acorn and Oak Newsletter

Week Commencing Monday 2nd November 2026

What a fantastic first week back after half term we have had! We are so proud of how well all of the children have settled back into school life. We have been amazed at how confidently they have returned to our daily routines, remembering our classroom expectations and showing us just how much, they have learnt already!

This week has been full of happy, smiling faces, and it has been lovely to see the children reunited with their friends and ready for another exciting half term of learning and fun. All of the EYFS staff have been super impressed with how brilliantly the children have settled back in!

Next week we will...

Next week, we will be continuing with our exciting History Week, where we have been learning all about World War Two! The children have already produced some amazing artwork and writing. We cannot wait to continue exploring this topic together!

During number time, we will be focusing on counting backwards from 3, using lots of fun activities to help the children develop their confidence with numbers.

Some chidlren will be focusing on prepositional language and gestures using rhymes to help them remember.

We also have something very exciting to look forward to next week – our **first school trip of the year to SENSIS!** We are all super excited for this special experience and cannot wait for the children to enjoy a wonderful day of exploring, discovering and making memories together!





Reminders

- Please remember to send a water bottle into school with your child each day.
- Please ensure you have paid for your child's snack this half term via Arbor.

Please ensure you child has a pack lunch for the school trip on Tuesday.

- Wellies must be brought into school on Monday. As of next week children will be accessing the woodland areas and mud kitchen on a regular basis and wellies will be needed daily.

P.E Kits

As our exciting trip to SENSIS is taking place on Tuesday, which is our usual PE day, **children do not need to come to school in their PE kit on Tuesday.**

Instead, we will be having an extended PE session on Friday.

Head Teacher Award and Lunch Time Award;

Our Head Teacher Award this week goes to Noah for settling in so well to our class, he has made such an amazing start to a new term and a new class! Well done Noah!

Our Lunch time Award this week goes to Reuben for his beautiful manners in our lunch hall and to all staff during outside play times. Well done Reuben!

St Michael with St Thomas CE Primary School

LEARN ♡ ACHIEVE ♡ LOVE ♡ BELIEVE

Attendance SPOTLIGHT

Persistent Absence

Why it matters and how we can help

What is persistent absence?

A child is considered to be persistently absent (PA) when their attendance is below 90%.

This means they are missing more than 1 day of school every 2 weeks, or 19 or more days over the school year.



How many days is this?

If your child's attendance is 90% or below, this means they could miss:

90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance
19 days missed each year	29 days missed each year	38 days missed each year

The impact on your child

Missing school can have a serious and lasting impact on your child, even if they seem to be coping at the time. Persistent absence can:

Impact on learning
They may fall behind and find it harder to keep up.

Affect friendships
They may miss out on important social time with their classmates.

Reduce confidence
They may feel anxious or less confident about coming to school.

Limit future opportunities
Good attendance helps children to achieve their full potential.

Affect mental health
Being away from school can increase feelings of worry, isolation and low mood.

Miss out on experiences
They may miss valuable trips, activities and special events.

We are here to support you

We understand that there can be many reasons for low attendance, and we are here to help. If you are finding it difficult, please speak to us so we can work together to find the right support. We can help with:

- Routines and morning support to help your child get to school
- Referrals to the school nurse for medical or health concerns
- Support from our Family Support Worker and outside agencies if needed
- Incentives and rewards to celebrate and improve attendance
- A friendly, listening ear – we are here to work with you.



Working together

Good attendance is a shared responsibility. By working together, we can remove barriers, provide the right support and make sure your child has the best chance to succeed.

- Build positive routines at home
- Try to make appointments outside of school hours where possible
- Let us know early if your child is struggling
- Work with us and access support when offered
- Celebrate progress – every day counts!

LEARN | ACHIEVE | LOVE | BELIEVE

A haven of inclusivity

– SIAMS 2026 –

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

- Oakley Y2 for always having beautiful manners – Miss Lavery 😊
- Eleanor Y2 for a positive few days and being a big help to me – Miss Lavery
- Tallulah Y1 for beautiful knowledge of Widnes Market during our history week – Miss McMullen 🌼
- Via for super phonics – you worked so hard
- 💜

Parent Dates

Looking Ahead:

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

- 10th Nov – Y5 Museum Trip
- 10th Nov – Y6 Museum Trip
- 10th Nov – Acorn and Oak Sensis Trip
- 13th Nov – Children in Need
- 13th Nov – Sports Club cancelled
- 16th Nov – Odd Socks Day
- 18th Nov – Y4 Family Worship 9:00am in school
- 20th Nov – Inset Day
- 24th Nov – Matt Fiddes PE Day (PE kits to be worn)
- 24th Nov – Parent Workshop – Understanding Children's Behaviour
- 25th Nov – Y5 Family Worship 9:00am in School
- 26th Nov – Parent Forum 3:30pm
- 28th Nov – Parent Replay Volunteers

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

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!

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 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:

Thankfulness

"We appreciate everything we have; our family, friends, home and school"



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 4: Governments must make sure that children's rights are protected*

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 – Roman for a fantastic start to a new half term

Y1 – Arthur Lawless for working so hard all time and having a brilliant attitude

Y2 – Torvi for excellent concentration and hard work in maths

Y3 – Ivy for superb work in art showing skills and understanding with great confidence

Y4 – Josh for fantastic focus and terrific times tables 😊

Y5 – Ethan for always getting involved in class discussions and having high expectations with his work 😊

Y6 – Freddie for fabulous effort and participation in all subjects 😊



Lunchtime Superstars

Rec – Scarlett

Y1 – Cole

Y2 – Nell

Y3 – Sophia

Y4 – Noah

Y5 – Dylan

Y6 – Libbie

Attendance Counts!

#momentsmatter

Whole School Attendance – this yea

96.4%

Whole school attendance – this week:

95.1%

Class attendance winner:

98.9% - Y1

Class Attendance:

Rec – 98.9%

Y1 – 92.4%

Y2 – 91.7%

Y3 – 97.8%

Y4 – 95.2%

Y5 – 94.3%

Y6 – 95.6%

Important reminder regarding reporting absences.

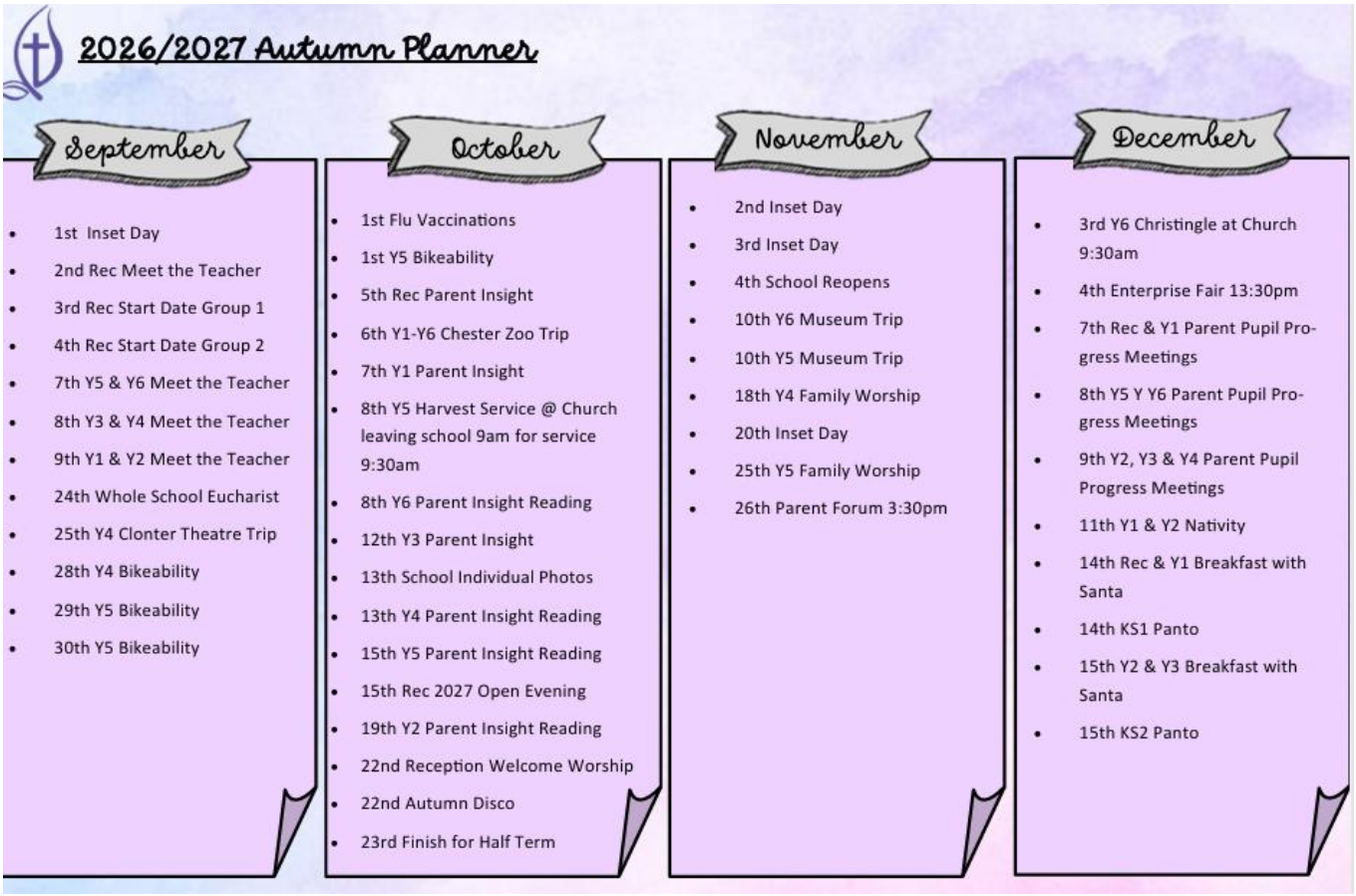
Please be reminded that you need to notify school before 9am with the reason for absence for this to be recorded appropriately.

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 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Dish	Meat Balls with Mash Potato *** Macaroni Cheese	All Day Breakfast	Creamy Chicken Pie with Mash Potato Vegetarian Sausage	Chicken Korma with 50/50 rice Naan Bread Quorn Korma	Pizza Vegetarian Burger Chips
Accompaniments	Cauliflower & Broccoli *** Tuna Pasta Salad Bar	Beans *** Tuna Pasta Salad Bar	Green Beans & Cabbage *** Tuna Pasta Salad Bar	Sweetcorn *** 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.

St Michael's is spotty for

Children in Need 2026



See you there!

Friday 13th November

Come to school dressed in...

Spots!

Big spots, little spots, painted-on spots

Pyjamas!

Cosy, comfy and ready for fun

Want to give a little extra?

Families can make an optional donation online:

donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk

Parent / Carer Training Programme 2026 - 2027

Shine Therapy Services has been commissioned by Halton Borough Council to deliver a training programme specifically for the parents / carers of children and young people resident within the Borough.

The programme aims to empower parents / carers with knowledge that can be applied practically in the care and support of children and young people.

The training sessions to be delivered are set out in the table below. Please see Eventbrite for full details and to book tickets. No admittance without Eventbrite ticket.

23/09/2026	Toileting and Developing Continence
05/10/2026	Blank Levels
17/10/2026	Introduction to Sensory Processing Differences and Challenges + Introduction to Sensory Lifestyles
21/10/2026	Visuals for Understanding + Low Tec Augmentative and Alternate Communication (AAC)
25/11/2026	Intensive Interaction
16/01/2027	Restrictive Eating and Mealtime Challenges
26/01/2027	Play
10/02/2027	Toileting and Developing Continence
02/03/2027	Talking Mats + Social Stories + Comic Strip Conversations
16/03/2027	Visuals for Understanding + Low Tec Augmentative and Alternate Communication (AAC)

eventbrite