Learn, Achieve, Love, Believe

St Michael with St Thomas C of E Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 9th October 2026

Parent Forum Invitation Last Shout Out!

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**.

Autumn Disco

If you haven't already, please remember to sign your child up for our fantastic Autumn Disco taking place on Thursday **22nd October 2026** Children are invited to enjoy an hour of fantastic music from our popular DJ, tuck into hot dogs and drinks, and show off their best dance moves! A tuck shop will also be available for children who would like to bring a small amount of money for some additional treats. To give consent for your child to attend and to help us place an accurate food order, please ensure payment is made before 6:30pm on 16th October.

Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y3 disco will be held at 3:15pm – 4:15pm and children can bring their party clothes into school (in a named bag) and get changed in their classrooms. Please collect children at 4:15pm from their usual collection points – Y3 will be dismissed from Y2 classroom

Y4, Y5 and Y6 disco will be from 4:20pm – 5:20pm and children will need to be collected by an appropriate adult at the end of the disco, Y6 will not be released to walk home on their own. Please collect Y6 from the main entrance, Y5 from Reception classroom and Y4 from Y1 classroom.

Reception Welcome Worship

We are delighted to invite all our Reception parents to our Reception Welcome Worship! This special occasion will take place on **22nd October at 9:00am** in school, and we are so excited to officially welcome our new Reception children into our school family. It will be a lovely opportunity to come together, celebrate our youngest children and mark the exciting beginning of their educational journey with us. We would love for you to join us for this special occasion and look forward to seeing you there!

School Photo Reminder

Please be reminded that Tempest Photography will be in school on **13th October 2026** to take individual photographs. We are also delighted to offer siblings who are currently enrolled at our school the opportunity to have their photographs taken together, creating a lovely keepsake for families. A few friendly reminders: please ensure your child arrives in their full school uniform on the day. If your child has PE, please send their PE kit in a separate bag so they can change after their photographs have been taken. We can't wait to capture some beautiful memories of our amazing children!

Healthy Schools

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!

Harvest Festival

This week, our wonderful Year 5 children led our Harvest Festival in church, and we couldn't have been prouder of them! Through a beautiful mix of songs, poetry and prayers, they shared the meaning of Harvest and reminded us of the importance of being thankful for all that we have. It was fantastic to see their confidence shine through as they spoke so clearly and proudly about the things they are grateful for. A big thank you to all the families who joined us on our walk to and from church, and to everyone who generously donated to support such a worthwhile cause. We are so grateful for your continued support!

Parent Insight - Reminder

We still have some Parent Insights sessions coming up, and we hope that those who have already attended have found them useful and helpful in supporting your child's learning at home. We kindly remind you that you **must book onto the session via Arbor** in order to attend. As these are live learning sessions, we are also unable to accommodate younger siblings. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and understanding. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming sessions!

World Mental Health Week 💛

This week, we dressed in yellow to raise awareness of the importance of looking after our mental health as well as our physical health. As a school, mental health and wellbeing is something we are incredibly passionate about, because we believe that we can only do our best when we are feeling good both inside and out.

This is just as important for adults as it is for children – and sometimes, it is the adults who need reminding the most to take care of themselves! Life can be busy, and it is easy to put our own wellbeing at the bottom of the list while we look after everyone else.

So, this is a gentle reminder that if you need some support or simply someone to talk to, we are here to listen and support you in any way we can. Sometimes, all we need is a listening ear, while at other times, we may be able to signpost you towards other professionals or services who can offer additional support.

One of my favourite quotes, which I regularly share with staff, and which is proudly displayed in our staffroom, is:

"You can't pour from an empty cup."

So, adults, please take a moment for yourself. Make time for the things that make you feel good, talk to someone when you need to, and remember that looking after yourself is not selfish – it is essential. 💛

Chester Zoo

Y1 to Y6 enjoyed a fabulous day at Chester Zoo on Tuesday as the final part of our **Save the Rainforest Project** with Chester Zoo. Thankfully, the rain held off until right at the end, allowing the children to make the most of a fantastic day. As part of the visit, the children took part in a fun and educational activity where they pretended to be male and female hornbills, using tweezers to fill a square with clay. They learnt about the different types of hornbills and discovered how their beak colours can differ before visiting the orangutans. The children enjoyed seeing a wonderful array of animals, including bats, giraffes, flamingos, penguins and jaguars, and they even managed to fit in a visit to the park! A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who volunteered for the trip, including those who joined us on the day. We really appreciate your support in helping to make this wonderful experience possible.

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

10th November
Our school trip to SENSIS!

What we have been learning about this week...

Vets

We have been looking at animals who go to the vets.



Numbers 1 - 5 and Shapes

We have been practising our numbers 1 - 5 and shapes this week!



Our story is... We're Going on a Bear Hunt!

We have been ordering the story and looking at how the family feels at the start compared to the end.



Lunchtime Award

Ruth

Head Teacher's Award

Daniel

for his amazing work in maths this week. We are super impressed!

St Michael with St Thomas CE Primary School

LEARN ♡ ACHIEVE ♡ LOVE ♡ BELIEVE

Safeguarding SPOTLIGHT

Young Carers

What is a Young Carer?

A young carer is a child or young person under 18 who helps to look after someone in their family or close to them who has an illness, disability, mental health condition or addiction. They may provide practical help, emotional support or take on extra responsibilities at home.



You might be a young carer and not even realise it.

How might a young carer help?

A young carer might help with things like:

- **Practical tasks**
  e.g. cooking, cleaning, shopping
- **Emotional support**
  e.g. listening, giving reassurance
- **Personal care**
  e.g. helping with washing or medication
- **Managing at home**
  e.g. looking after siblings or keeping everything organised

How we can help at school

We understand that being a young carer can be challenging, and we are here to support you. We can:

- Provide access to after school clubs and enrichment opportunities
- Support with homework if needed
- Invite children to our monthly Young Carers group to talk, share experiences and take part in activities
- Offer a trusted adult in school to talk to
- Work closely with Halton Young Carers and other agencies to make sure you get the right support

Halton Young Carers Association

Halton Young Carers offers a range of support, advice and activities for young carers, including:

- Youth clubs and social activities
- Trips and residentials
- Fun and wellbeing activities
- Advice and information
- Support to help you meet other young carers

Halton Young Carers
Supporting Young Carers in Halton

Could your child be a young carer?

If you think your child might be a young carer, or you would like more information, please come and speak to one of us. We can make a referral to Halton Young Carers and help ensure the right support is in place.

Speak to the school office on 0151 424 4234 or ask to speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Hello YELLOW

Wear yellow and say hello

We are proud to be taking part in Hello Yellow on

Friday 9th October

as part of World Mental Health Day.

WEAR YELLOW!

Children are invited to come into school wearing yellow to show their support.

This year we are celebrating 10 years of standing out and starting conversations – so no young person feels alone with their mental health.

There are days when all of us struggle with how we are feeling. Things can get tough, and it can be difficult knowing how to cope. For so many young people, when this happens, they don't always get the help they need, when they need it. They don't know where to turn, who to talk to, or even if anyone else feels the same.

you are not alone



STAND OUT ♥ START CONVERSATIONS ♥ SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE

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
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	Acorn & Oak Sensis	Acorn & Oak	20 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:

- Aren, Kirstie, Evie, Bobby and Mary-Rose Y5 for being a wonderful group to work with on our zoo trip – Miss B 😊
- Reception for being super sensible on our Autumn Walk – Mrs Hughes and Miss Green
- Theo (Y2) for his lovely stories and for being very smiley on our walk to church – Miss Hart
- Amelia (Y6) for being a lovely friend at lunchtime – Miss B 😊
- Iviarna (Y4) for being such a compassionate helper to our Y1's during our Church visit – Miss Mason 💜
- Whole School for amazing behaviour, manners and attitude at Chester Zoo – Amazing from you all – Miss Ellis
- Year 5 for being amazing in our Harvest Service – I am a very proud teacher Mr East
- All our staff and volunteers for helping at the zoo and Harvest Service this week – Thank you all – Miss Ellis 🌞
- 💜

Parent Dates

Looking Ahead:

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

- 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
- 23rd Oct – End of Term
- 2nd Nov – Inset Day
- 3rd Nov – Inset Day
- 4th Nov – School Reopens

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!

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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 12: All children have the right to be heard*

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 – Nancy Rita for fantastic contributions during lesson time

Y1 – Tallulah for always being the kindest, lovely child. You make everyone's day

Y2 – Oakley for an incredible improvement in following our classroom rules 😊

Y3 – Hattie for amazing explanations and use of scientific vocabulary in our science lessons 😊

Y4 – Noah K for tremendous progress in maths 😊

Y5 – Evie for always putting 100% effort into all her work with a smile on her face

Y6 – Tilly for always trying her hardest in everything she does 😊



Lunchtime Superstars

Rec – Nancy

Y1 – Gene

Y2 – Alfie

Y3 – Via

Y4 – Ivy

Y5 – Theo

Y6 – Erin

Attendance Counts!

#moments matter

Whole School Attendance – this year:

97.3%

Whole school attendance – this week:

97.4%

Class attendance winner:

100% - Y1

Class Attendance:

Rec – 97.1%

Y1 – 100%

Y2 – 98.1%

Y3 – 96.7%

Y4 – 93.8%

Y5 – 98.4%

Y6 – 98.3%

Important reminder regarding reporting absences.

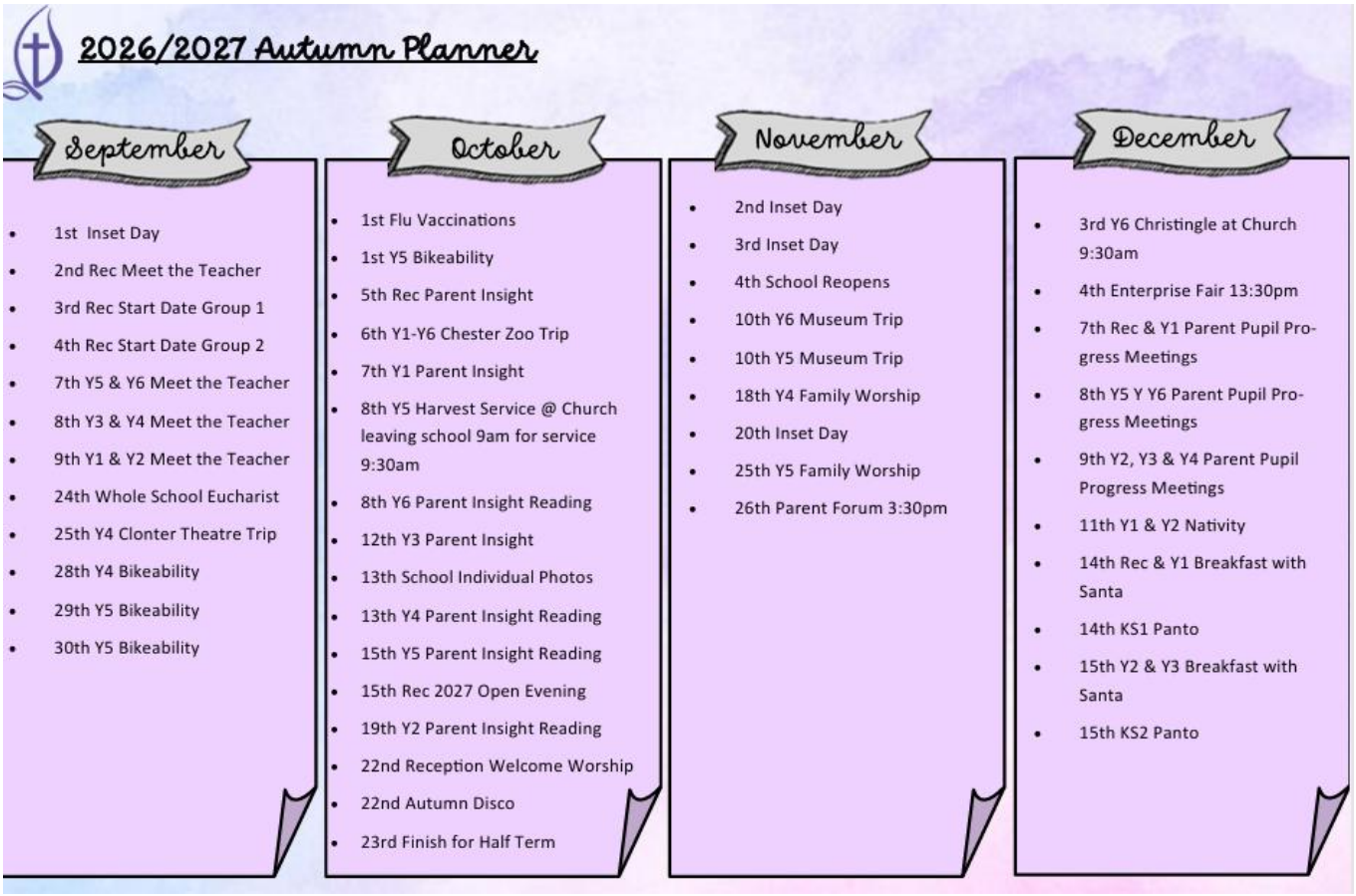
Please be reminded that you need to notify school before 9am with the reason for absence for this to be recorded appropriately.

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.

Parent Forum



Parent Forum Dates:

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


NORTON PRIORY
MUSEUM & GARDENS
The Autumn Orchard Festival
10TH & 11TH OCTOBER
artisan market • cider bar • live music
outdoor games • baking competition • and more
nortonpriory.org/events
ALL included with general admission

Halloween Trail

An awesome autumn trail awaits this October Half Term - pick up a trail sheet and find all the Grumpy Pumpkins! Collect clues, solve puzzles, and help friendly Halloween characters create a magic spell.

Date: SAT 24TH OCT - SUN 1ST NOV (selected dates)

Check out our website for more information.



Jack-O'-Lanterns
Light Walk

See the museum grounds and woodland light up in the dark with pumpkin lanterns and more at this special evening event!



Date: MON 26TH and TUES 27TH OCT | 5:30PM-7:30PM

Spooky Stories for Little Monsters



Come dressed up in your best creepy costume and listen to all your favourite spooky tales told by Rogan Mills.

Date: THURS 29TH OCT | 3:30PM OR 5:30PM



Frightfully Fascinating
with Animal Teach

Prepare to be amazed by a host of strange and wonderful creatures this Halloween with the multi award-winning Animal Teach team.

Date: MON 26TH OCT | TIMESLOTS VARY

Check out our website **www.nortonpriory.org/events** for more information!