St Michael with St Thomas C of E Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 16th October 2026

A Reminder to Parents and Carers – Reception Outdoor Area

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to remind families that when waiting for the main entrance doors to open in the morning, you are standing in our Reception outdoor learning area.

This space is carefully prepared by staff each day, with resources and activities set up to support the children's learning. Unfortunately, we are finding that some resources are being played with, moved or broken before the school day has even begun.

We kindly ask that all parents and carers ensure their children do not touch or play with any of the outdoor learning resources whilst waiting. It is disappointing for both staff and children when carefully planned learning activities are disrupted and resources are no longer ready for the children to use.

We would also like to remind parents that classroom doors should not be knocked on to speak to teaching staff. If you need to speak to your child's teacher, please come through the school office, where staff will be happy to help arrange this.

We want to continue allowing families to wait in this area, as it helps with the flow of people entering school each morning. However, if the learning environment continues to be disrupted or resources damaged, we will unfortunately have no choice but to close off access to this space.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us protect our learning environment and ensure our children have the best possible start to their school day.

Miss Slingsby

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!

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**.

Autumn Disco Last Shout Out!

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!

Replay Parent Meeting

As many of you will know, over the last few months we have been busy developing plans for our exciting new play project, **Replay!** The project aims to develop our outdoor spaces and create even more opportunities for children to enjoy creative, active, imaginative and adventurous play. We have lots of exciting ideas and plans, and now we need a little help from our school community to bring them to life! We would love to establish a Replay Working Group, bringing together parents, carers, family members and school staff who are keen to get involved and help make our vision a reality. If you are available and would like to be part of this exciting project, we would love to see you at our parent meeting on **Monday 19th October at 3:30pm**. We look forward to working together to create fantastic new play opportunities for our children!

CO Workshops

We were delighted to welcome Bonanza Creative into school to deliver some fun and interactive Carbon Monoxide workshops for our Year 2 and Year 5 children! The sessions helped the children learn all about carbon monoxide, where it comes from, and how to recognise the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. They also discovered what to do if they smell gas or think there may be carbon monoxide in their home. Through engaging activities and discussion, the children gained some really important knowledge about staying safe. A big thank you to Bonanza Creative for such an informative and enjoyable learning experience!

Poppies

We are pleased to let you know that we will once again be supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal this year. Children will have the opportunity to purchase poppies, snap bands, pencils and other items in support of this important charity. These will be available to buy during breaktimes and lunchtimes next week. Suggested prices are £2.00 for snap bands and bracelets, £1:00 for pencils and donations for poppies.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a school community to remember and honour those who have served and sacrificed for our country, while raising money to support serving and ex-serving members of the Armed Forces and their families. Thank you for your support and generosity!

Mental Health Wellbeing Day



Some of our children had the opportunity to take part in the Mental Health Schools Team wellbeing day on Tuesday. The children were able to have a go at some of the many strategies we talk about in school to help manage our mental health and wellbeing.

We made Brain bullies out of air-drying clay and talked about how we can share those negative thoughts we all get like; 'I can't do this' with our brain bully to remind ourselves we are enough and able to make mistakes.



We also made some wonderful phone charms and bracelets with words on them that makes us feel good. Some spelled out their key qualities whilst others used their favourite colours to represent their interests.

The mental health schools team work with lots of children and parents/carers in school to support low level challenges and struggles. If you feel your child would benefit from some support in this area please get in touch with Miss Brimble, Miss Preston or Miss Slingsby.

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.

Thu, 22 Oct 2026	KS1 Autumn Disco	Year R, YY1, 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	23 Oct 2026
Mon, 14 Dec 2026	KS1 Panto and Party Food	Year R, Year Y1, Year Y2 and Y3 Trips	23 Oct 2026
Tue, 15 Dec 2026	KS2 Panto and Party Food	Year Y4, Year Y5 and Year Y6	23 Oct 2026

St Michael with St Thomas CE Primary School

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Safeguarding SPOTLIGHT

Operation Encompass

What is Operation Encompass?

Operation Encompass is a national scheme that shares information with schools when the police have been called to a domestic abuse incident where a child or young person in our school has been present, lived at the address or is related to someone involved.



The aim is to ensure that children receive the right support at school following a difficult or distressing situation.

Why do schools receive this information?



Research shows that children who experience or witness domestic abuse can feel worried, upset or distracted, which can affect their well-being, behaviour and ability to learn.

By receiving information through Operation Encompass, we can:

- Be aware that a child may need additional support
- Provide a calm and understanding environment
- Help to meet their emotional and practical needs

How does it work?

The police attend a domestic abuse incident and identify that a child from our school is involved or present.	The police share relevant information with the school early the next day through the secure Operation Encompass system.	Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and safeguarding team are notified and we consider how best to support the child.	Support is put in place at school, which may include a trusted adult check-in, emotional support and any other help the child may need.	The information is stored securely and treated confidentially, in line with safeguarding guidance.

What happens for your child?

When we receive an Operation Encompass notification, we will:

- Provide a calm and supportive welcome at school
- Check in with your child and offer a trusted adult to talk to
- Consider any additional support they may need, including emotional or practical support
- Monitor their well-being and learning, working closely with you

Working together

We know that incidents of domestic abuse can be difficult for the whole family. Operation Encompass helps us to work together with the police, families and other agencies to make sure children feel safe, supported and able to learn.

If you have any questions about Operation Encompass, or would like to talk to us about support for your family, please contact our school office or speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead. We are always here to listen and help.

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A haven of inclusivity

– SIAMS 2026 –

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	23 Oct 2026
Tue, 10 Nov 2026	Y6 Ancient Egypt Trip	Year Y6	23 Oct 2026
Tue, 10 Nov 2026	Y5 Ancient Greeks and Romans Trip	Year Y5	23 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	23 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	23 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	1st Instalment due 31st Oct 2026

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

- Kian, Dyland and Eva for showing excellent behaviours and beautiful manners during our MHST da. You really were ambassadors for our school. Thank you, Miss Brimble, 😊
- Y5 Ethan, Jesse, Aren, Aiden, Georgia, Mary-Rose and Ronnie - super contributions in Spanish (understanding and explaining Y8 grammar!) And Y4 & Y5 for excellent attitudes to their final pieces of work. Spencer this week's language detective – creative use of Spanish – Miss Langley
- Mason Y6 – for having beautiful manners when receiving first aid – Miss B
- Roman (Rec) for having a super phonics and English lesson with Miss Swain 😊
- Y3 for working really hard with Miss Wilson on Mental Health Kindness Workshop – Miss Ellis 💜
- Thomas and Cleo (R) for always being so polite and saying Hi to me – Miss McMullen
- Rex and Reuben for beautiful writing – Miss McMullen 🌞
- 💜

Parent Dates

Looking Ahead:

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

- 19th Oct – Parent Replay meeting 3:30pm
- 19th Oct – Y2 Parent Insight 2:15pm
- 22nd Oct – Autumn Disco
- 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!





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...

Our story is...

We're Going on a Bear Hunt!

We have been writing sentences about the story, we have made our own bear and we have been on our own bear hunt too!



Maths

We have been using a number line to help us with sequencing numbers.



Kindness Day

For Kindness Day this week we created our own kindness cards.



Lunchtime Award

LJ

Head Teacher's Award

Reuben

for his fantastic effort this week. We are super impressed!

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 4: Governments must make sure 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 – Thomas for an incredible improvement following our school rules

Y1 – Amelia for always working so hard all the time!

Y2 – Niamh for super work this week

Y3 – Billy for tremendous work in Maths and English all week. Absolutely superb participation 😊

Y4 – Olivia for incredible narrative plan 😊

Y5 – Georgia for some excellent answers and writing in English. You have made a super start to your new school 😊

Y6 – Lottie for amazing effort with her handwriting and presentation 😊



Lunchtime Superstars

Rec – Noah

Y1 – Rex

Y2 – Niamh

Y3 – Max

Y4 – Noah K

Y5 – Ronnie

Y6 – Willow

Attendance Counts!

#moments matter

Whole School Attendance – this year:

97%

Whole school attendance – this week:

95.3%

Class attendance winner:

98.6% - Y2

Class Attendance:

Rec – 97.1%

Y1 – 88.9%

Y2 – 98.6%

Y3 – 93.1%

Y4 – 97.8%

Y5 – 95.8%

Y6 – 95.8%

Important reminder regarding reporting absences.

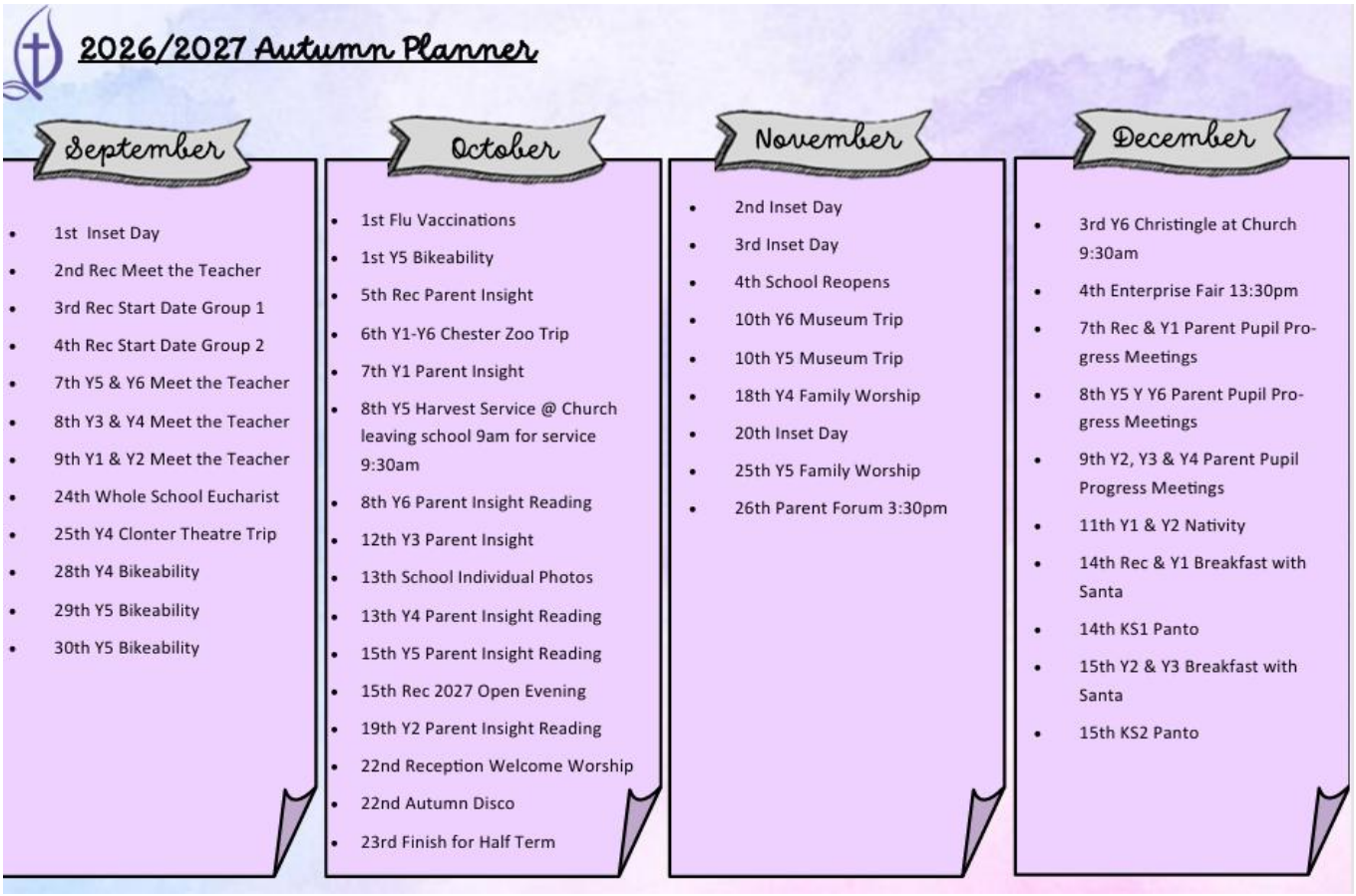
Please be reminded that you need to notify school before 9am with the reason for absence for this to be recorded appropriately.

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.

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

Autumn FUN DAY!

SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER
12.00-3.00PM

St Michael with St Thomas Church,
Ditchfield Road, WA8 8XR

Stalls, Cakes, Raffles & Snacks
Face-painting & Bouncy castle!

PLUS FREE Childrens Crafts,
& Pumpkin Hunt & Patch!



Halton Libraries Half Term Events

Upcoming Half Term programme at the library with your families.

We have a range of free activities taking place throughout the week, designed to encourage creativity, imagination, and reading for pleasure. Activities include:

• Creative family activities with crafts and hands-on challenges
• An exciting theatre workshop, where children can explore storytelling, movement and performance
• A creative writing session for older children, helping them develop confidence in expressing their ideas and creating their own stories
• A Fidget Trade-Off Event, where children can bring along a fidget toy, they no longer use and swap it for a different one, promoting sharing, sustainability and social interaction



Our half term offer provides a welcoming space for families to spend time together, try something new, and enjoy engaging library activities during the school holidays.







October Holiday Club: Kingsway Primary – Widnes

Football, dance games, sports, activities, and more...

Primary aged children + | Ofsted registered & tax-free childcare accepted | 8am – 6pm

raringstars.com

