



St Michael with St Thomas C of E Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 18th September 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 Insight

You will have noticed in our Looking Ahead dates that our first round of Parent Insight Afternoons is coming up. 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. Last year, the sessions proved so popular that we had to introduce a limit, as there simply were not enough room in the classroom! Therefore, we kindly ask that parents wishing to attend sign up via Arbor (one parent per family). Unfortunately, as these are live lessons, we are unable to accommodate younger siblings.

Lost Property

It is wonderful to see all our children settling back into school life. However, we have already started collecting lost property. Please ensure all items are clearly marked with your child's name, lunch boxes, PE kits, coats, jumpers, coats and Reception wellies. This simple step helps us to return belongings quickly to their rightful owners.

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.**

National Fitness Day

On Tuesday, we celebrated National Fitness Day 2026 with lots of fun and activities! KS1 enjoyed a fitness event with Miss McMullen, while KS2 took part in an energetic fitness session in the hall. A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your support, and a big well done to all the children who brought in their Power Up cards!

Worship

We would like to like invite parents and families to join us for the first of our family worships this academic year. Year 3 will be holding their "Wide Awake to the World" Family Worship on **Wednesday 23rd September 2026 at 9:00am**.

We would also love families to join us on **Thursday 24th September at 9:15am** for our Whole School Eucharist, which will be led by Reverend Linda. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing these special moments of worship together.

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 from **Monday 28th September** 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. Your support is, as always, greatly appreciated, and we look forward to celebrating with you!

Trips

Over the coming weeks and months, you will receive details of the planned trips and events taking place throughout the year ahead. We recognise that some families may wish to spread the cost of these trips and events more evenly, particularly during the Autumn Term, and so we are opening up Arbor payments for your child as early as possible. This will give families the flexibility to spread the cost in whichever way works best for them. The usual reminders and payment deadlines will still be sent out as normal; however, this provides an additional option for families who feel it may be helpful, particularly those with multiple children in school. We hope this will be useful and help families manage the costs of trips and events throughout the year. As always, if you are experiencing any difficulties with the cost of an event or trip, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Volunteers

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. We will put together a list of names and confirm places nearer the time. We will always try to ensure that as many parents as possible have the opportunity to join us; however, please be aware that places are limited. Your support is always greatly appreciated and makes a valuable contribution to helping our school trips run smoothly and ensuring the children have a wonderful experience.

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

- Frankie (Y2) for always coming and saying hello on the playground – Miss Ellis 😊
- Savannah (Y6) for being a gorgeous friend to the younger children
- Noah (Y4) for showing his brilliant attitude and sense of humour – Miss Ellis
- Lyla (Y6) for being an amazing friend and looking out for others – Mrs Worrall 😊
- Phoebe (Y6) for showing amazing resilience! ❤️
- Iviarna (Y4) for always being so polite. Always takes time to ask me how my day is? – Mrs Bonnett
- Stevie (Y5) for working so hard in your maths and writing – So Proud! Mrs Bonnett
- 😊
- ❤️

Parent Dates

Looking Ahead:

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

- 23rd Sept – Y3 Family Worship
- 24th Sept – Whole School Eucharist (9:15am)
- 25th Sept – Y4 Clonter Theatre Trip
- 28th Sept – Y4 Bikeability
- 29th Sept – Y5 Bikeability (3 days)
- 1st Oct – Flu Vaccinations
- 5th Oct – Reception Parent Insight
- 6th Oct – Y1 – Y6 Chester Zoo Trip
- 7th Oct – Y1 Parent Insight – Phonics
- 8th Oct – Y5 Harvest Service at Church
- 8th Oct – Y6 Parent Insight – Reading
- 12th Oct – Y3 Parent Insight – Reading
- 13th Oct – Individual School Photos
- 13th Oct – Y4 Parent Insight
- 15th Oct – Y5 Parent Insight
- 15th Oct – Reception Open Evening
- 19th Oct – Y2 Parent Insight
- 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.

Different
Passions
Brighter
Futures

Our Amazing Children

BEYOND SCHOOL

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 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 13: Children have the right to freedom of expression*

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

Acorn/Oak – Alfie for his amazing effort in phonics!

Rec – Tilly for fantastic input during our English lesson

Y1 – Ferne for working so hard since the start of Y1. Your Writing is so beautiful!

Y2 – Norah for working incredibly hard, she has shown true perseverance throughout every lesson

Y3 – Jacob for showing excellent attitude and great focus in science and maths. Well Done!

Y4 – Stanley for showing persistent focus, enthusiasm, and resilience!

Y5 – George for including all of the language features in his persuasive advert

Y6 – Libbie for an amazing explanation leaflet in our writing lesson! 😊

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



Safe



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

Lunchtime Superstars

Acorn & Oak - Kylan

Rec – Lilly

Y1 – Arthur

Y2 – Wilson

Y3 – Mason

Y4 – Faith

Y5 – Ethan

Y6 – Savannah

Attendance Counts!

#momentmatter

Whole School Attendance – this year:

97%

Whole school attendance – this week:

98.3%

Class attendance winner:

99.5% - Y1

Class Attendance:

Rec – 97.5%

Y1 – 99.5%

Y2 – 97.4%

Y3 – 98.9%

Y4 – 98.8%

Y5 – 96.7%

Y6 – 98.8%



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

Autumn Dates

Below you will find a list of key dates in Autumn that you may want to make a note of. These do not contain every event, just the main ones you may want to plan for, so please ensure you keep checking the newsletter for other things happening and any date changes.

 2026/2027 Autumn Planner			
September	October	November	December
• 1st Inset Day • 2nd Rec Meet the Teacher • 3rd Rec Start Date Group 1 • 4th Rec Start Date Group 2 • 7th Y5 & Y6 Meet the Teacher • 8th Y3 & Y4 Meet the Teacher • 9th Y1 & Y2 Meet the Teacher • 24th Whole School Eucharist • 25th Y4 Clonter Theatre Trip • 28th Y4 Bikeability • 29th Y5 Bikeability • 30th Y5 Bikeability	• 1st Flu Vaccinations • 1st Y5 Bikeability • 5th Rec Parent Insight • 6th Y1-Y6 Chester Zoo Trip • 7th Y1 Parent Insight • 8th Y5 Harvest Service @ Church • 8th Y6 Parent Insight Reading • 12th Y3 Parent Insight • 13th School Individual Photos • 13th Y4 Parent Insight Reading • 15th Y5 Parent Insight Reading • 19th Y2 Parent Insight Reading • 22nd Reception Welcome Worship • 22nd Autumn Disco • 23rd Finish for Half Term	• 2nd Inset Day • 3rd Inset Day • 4th School Reopens • 10th Y6 Museum Trip (TBC) • 18th Y4 Family Worship • 20th Inset Day • 25th Y5 Family Worship	• 3rd Y6 Christingle at Church • 4th Enterprise Fair • 7th Rec & Y1 Parent Pupil Progress Meetings • 8th Y5 Y6 Parent Pupil Progress Meetings • 9th Y2, Y3 & Y4 Parent Pupil Progress Meetings • 14th Rec & Y1 Breakfast with Santa • 14th KS1 Panto • 15th Y2 & Y3 Breakfast with Santa • 15th KS2 Panto • 18th Finish for Half Term

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



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

Your voice matters!

Join the Headteacher and be part of our Parent Forum.

A chance to meet, share your views and work together on key policies and developments in school. Your feedback helps us to continue to be the best we can be for all of our children.



Share your views



Discuss key policies



Help shape the future



Work together for our children



One meeting each term.

All parents and carers are welcome!



0151 424 4234



A haven of inclusivity

– SIAMs 2026



LEARN



ACHIEVE



LOVE



BELIEVE





You Are Not Alone Drop-in

Every 1st Tuesday of the month - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

A free monthly online drop-in for parents & carers

The **You Are Not Alone** community is a friendly and safe space run by Erik & Sally Wagter where you can come and learn about autism & PDA, ask questions, connect with like-minded people or simply listen and learn from other people's conversations.



In this community we talk about all sorts of things such as:

- helping your child regulate their emotions & feelings (meltdowns etc)
- understanding autism and PDA
- navigating school and EHCPs
- Supporting your child with friendships
- understanding and managing challenging behaviour
- managing sensory needs
- developing a positive relationship with your child (family dynamics)
- exploring EOTAS or home education
- looking after your wellbeing
- and so much more



Here's what parents have said:

*'My husband Jamie was saying that in the last few sessions, he has learned **so much more about autism and PDA** than he has over the past year - Jo (parent)*

*'Thank you so much for the group this evening. I can't tell you how grateful I feel and I **really do feel less alone** and more validated. My hope is back' - Louise (parent)*

You can request the **Zoom link** on our website

<https://youarenotalone.community> or you can send an email to

team@youarenotalone.community



St Michael with St Thomas Church NEW Service!

Starting on Sunday



On the 3rd
Sunday of each
month.

It's a NEW service! Worship around the table!

ALL-AGE Worship!

SUNDAY 10.30AM

Come and hang out with us this Sunday! There'll be a cup of tea/coffee & toast and a bunch of friendly faces will be there to welcome you!

SONGS, PRAYERS, BIBLE READINGS, TALK, PRAISE, CRAFTS, POEMS AND SO MUCH MORE!

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