



St Michael with St Thomas C of E Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 25th October 2024

End of Half Term

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of our first half term! So much has been packed in to a short space of time and we know that next half term will be even busier as we countdown to the end of 2024. Please make sure that you keep an eye on the newsletter dates so you don't miss any of the upcoming events and make sure that you have the notifications switched on for Arbor so that you don't miss any messages and reminders.

Thank you all for your support this half term, and we wish you all a lovely week off. We will see you all back in school on Monday 4th November at 8.40am.

Miss Slingsby and all of the staff x

Trip Reminder

This is a friendly reminder about our upcoming trips for November

Year 3 will need to be in school early at 8:20am on 7th November 2024 ready for their exciting trip to the Science and Industry Museum which includes the Revolution Gallery and a show which contains some loud noises!

Year 5 will be having a guided tour of the Liverpool Slavery Museum on 14th November and *Year 6* will be "Meeting the Mummy" on 19th November.

All the trips we have booked for the year are available on Arbor to allow you to give consent and make payment at your convenience.

Autumn Disco

We had a wonderful time at our Autumn Disco, we were so impressed as pupils and staff showcased their dance moves! A huge thank you to our resident DJ, Daniel, and our staff, whose dedication and enthusiasm made the disco such a success.

Reception Welcome Assembly

This week, we had our Reception Worship to officially welcome our new Reception children into our school family, with a special blessing from Reverend Linda before she gave out special bookmarks for the children to keep. We were so proud of the children standing up and speaking in front of so many people, as well as sharing some lovely songs that they have been singing to support their learning. Thank you to all the adults who were able to join us for this special worship.

Earrings Reminder

We would like to remind everyone about our school policy regarding earrings. For safety children are not allowed to wear earrings in school. If parents choose to send their child into school with plastic retainers, this is done at entirely at your own risk. We have had an incident this week where the plastic retainer was caught in a bib during a PE lesson which resulted in injury to the ear and we would like to remind you that we advise no earrings are worn by any children in school. If adults choose to send their children in wearing any sort of plastic retainers, they are doing so at their own risk.

Lost Property

If your child came home from the school disco with two right shoes, please return them to the school office and we will swap one for a left shoe. We would also like to ask parents to ensure all property is clearly marked with your child's name to make it easier to return them if they're found. We are currently missing some coats and cardigans and would ask you to check the clothing your child has brought home and return any that may have been taken home by mistake.

Junior Safety Officers

Our Junior Safety Officers have been sharing important safety messages with all our children on how to stay safe out of school during the holiday. They have been giving advice on how to celebrate safely and responsibly when trick or treating and during Bonfire Night and have made some fantastic posters with some essential tips to ensure everyone has a fun and safe evening.

Halloween Costume warning

Halton Trading Standards is warning consumers about the potential harm counterfeit costumes and cosmetics pose, due to the lack of safety testing these products go through. Fake Halloween makeup and contact lenses aren't safety tested can contain dangerous chemicals like mercury and lead. Don't risk a potential rash, burn or scarring with fake cosmetics and only shop with reputable sellers.

If you need advice on anything else, please contact the [Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline](#) or 0808 223 1133



Looking Ahead:

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

- 25th October – End of Term
- 4th November – Start of Term
- 7th November – Y3 Science and Industry Museum Trip
- 11th November – Odd Socks Day
- 14th November – Y5 Slavery Museum Trip
- 15th November – Children in Need
- 18th – 21st November – Y5 Bikeability Level 2
- 19th November – Reception Balance Bikes
- 19th November – Y6 Ancient Egypt Museum visit
- 20th November – Y4 Family Worship – Thankfulness 9:00am
- 20th November – Y4 Bikeability Level 1
- 22nd November – Inset Day
- 27th November – Y5 Family Worship – Advent 9:15am
- 27th November – Opening Evening 3:30pm and 5:30pm
- 4th December – Rec/Y1 Parent Pupil Progress Meetings
- 5th December – Y6 Christingle
- 10th December – Y5/Y6 Parent Pupil Progress Meetings
- 11th December – Y2/Y3/Y4 Parent Pupil Progress Meetings
- 12th December – Christmas jumper and dinner day
- 13th December – Enterprise Fair
- 16th December – Breakfast with Santa (EYFS and Y1)
- 17th December – Breakfast with Santa (Y2 and Y3)
- 17th December – KS1 Panto and Party
- 18th December – KS2 Panto and Party
- 20th December – End of Term
- 6th January – School Opens

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

Stay in groups when Trick or Treating



Costumes should be well fitting and flame resistant

Always test halloween make up

Remember to look both ways when crossing the road

Examine all treats before eating



Stay on the pavement and never go in a stranger's house

Avoid dark houses



Flash lights and torches for visability

Enjoy yourselfs and take care



Living Our Values

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

Perseverance

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart"



FOR YOU HAVE NEED OF ENDURANCE, SO THAT WHEN YOU HAVE DONE THE WILL OF GOD YOU MAY RECEIVE WHAT IS PROMISED.

Hebrews 10:36

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 27 Every child has the right to food, clothing and a safe home

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!

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



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

Safe



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

- Kian – The King of “Rock, Paper, Scissors,” thank you for the challenge – Mrs Hogan
- Spencer Y4 for his fantastic comic, that all the staff enjoyed at Lunch time
- Hazel Y1 for cheering me up with her bright, beaming smile every time I see her! – Mrs Worrall
- Iyana Y6 for gorgeous manners in front of Y4 at morning break – Miss Sutton
- Noah Y2 is always so positive and polite – Miss Ashton
- Joseph P (Rec) – for being so polite when he was doing a job – Miss Bates
- Kirsty Y3 for being a caring friend with our reception children, looking after them at lunch times – Mrs Hughes
- Faith Y2 I love hearing you read in breakfast club. You’re a star – Mrs Hogan

Headteacher's Award Winners:

Rec – Ellie-Mae for trying really hard in maths this week

Y1 – Hattie for beautiful work in all her learning this week

Y2 – Skylar for being a class role model and always following the school rules!

Y3 – Evelyn for being a superb role model to everyone

Y4 – Ryan for trying his hardest in writing this week!

Y5 – Ella for a positive attitude, hard work and lovely manners

Y6 – Harry for a wonderfully positive & enthusiastic week giving 100% effort to everything he does!

Lunchtime

Superstars

Rec – Wilson

Y1 – Sophia

Y2 – Reuben

Y3 – George

Y4 – Faith

Y5 – Charlotte

Y6 – Elizabeth

Attendance Counts!

#momentmatter

Whole School Attendance – this year:

96.6%

Whole school attendance – this week:

96.4%

Class attendance winner:

100% - Y1 & Y4

Class Attendance:

Rec – 94.7%

Y1 – 100%

Y2 – 91.3%

Y3 – 98.1%

Y4 – 100%

Y5 – 96.1%

Y6 – 94.9%

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The 'on-demand' availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification has the following age ratings:

U: Suitable for all ages

PG: For children aged 8 and above; this content shouldn't unsettle them

12A: Children under the age of 12 should not watch without an adult; this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references

15: Suitable only for 15-year-olds and above

18: Exclusively for an adult audience, with potentially explicit themes of violence, nudity or sex

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Modern mobile devices make it very easy for children to watch streamed films without the need for a TV. The availability of inappropriate content has risen significantly on streaming platforms, almost all of which host 18-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, concepts and imagery.

FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and horror look ever more realistic, it's becoming harder for youngsters to tell the difference. For instance, consider remakes of older films, where dated special effects (making it easy to discern that something wasn't real) have been replaced by far more convincing monsters and gore.

PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch the latest film featuring violence or horror can lead to children consuming content that they're not ready for. As 18+ content is available on many streaming platforms, youngsters can watch these together – potentially without their parents' or carers' knowledge.

CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. What's fine for one child could be extremely frightening for another. As many children admit to not sharing or discussing the content they watch with their parents, encouraging an open dialogue around the kind of media that young people consume can help avoid exposing them to any inappropriate content.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror prides itself on its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer – so it's no surprise that this genre isn't usually intended for children. A natural side-effect of this is that 'jump scares' or a creepy, suspenseful atmosphere can have lasting effects on younger minds. The resulting anxiety can impact a child's sleeping patterns or eating habits.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're concerned that a film might be unsuitable for children (whether it's their first dive into the horror genre or a step up in age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd deem appropriate for a child – and if a parent, for example, has actually seen the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more credible case if they decide it's inappropriate.

REMEMBER – IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of affecting them in real life. If a child is upset after watching a film, try to understand what exactly has unsettled them; this can help you approach the topic in a healthy and informative manner, to dispel any fears or anxieties they may have.

DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially uncomfortable themes and ideas, don't shy away from talking about it, and answer any questions they may have. This is especially important if they watched the film without an adult present. Ask them to summarise the story for you, as this will give you an understanding of what they've learned from watching it.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to put age ranges on children's accounts. This means that films and shows that are inappropriate for children won't be advertised while they're browsing and won't even appear if a child specifically searches for them. This can be changed any time at parents' discretion, but it's wise to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own.

Meet Our Expert

John Insley is an assistant principal at a secondary school. He has been involved with e-safety in schools for over 10 years, writing policies and supporting various schools in developing their e-safety provision. John has introduced a range of strategies at multiple schools aimed at helping parents to better support their child in the ever-changing digital world.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/horror-films-and-age-ratings>



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 16.10.2024



St.Michael with St Thomas CE Primary School

Open Evenings 2024



Tues 1st October at 3:30pm & 5:30pm
Weds 27th November at 3:30pm & 5:30pm

We are open to all parents & carers
of children whose **birthday falls between**
1/09/2020 and 31/08/2021 and are
therefore eligible for a Reception class
place in September 2025

By Lola-rae
cannon year 5

Have fun

Always be safe

Love it

Let you get dressed up

Over do it

Wear something spooky

Eat sweets

Extra ordinary fun time

Next go to bed

