



It has been such a joy to welcome the children back and to get to know the new children and families who have joined us this week. The first week of a new academic year is always filled with excitement—new beginnings, new adventures, new challenges and an opportunity to make a fresh start. The children have risen to the occasion and, as always, they have not disappointed us. We are incredibly proud of how positively they have settled into their new classes.

There is always so much happening at St Michael's, so I would like to remind parents and carers of the different ways you can keep up to date. Our yearly overview was sent out yesterday and provides the key dates for the year, helping you to plan ahead for special events. You will also receive The Week Ahead, in which teachers will share forthcoming learning, events and activities. Our website is another invaluable source of information, so please regularly visit your child's year-group page. Arbor remains our main communication platform; if you cannot access it, please contact the school office. We also have volunteer-led class WhatsApp groups, which will be finalised next week. We are currently looking for volunteers to lead the groups for both Reception classes and Nursery—please let us know if you can help.

The children looked incredibly smart this week, and we thank you for supporting our high expectations. However, please remember that all children, including those in Reception, must wear a school tie. Our uniform policy also clearly states that children must wear plain black school shoes, not trainers. A small number of children are currently wearing footwear that does not follow the policy, so please ensure that the full uniform expectations are followed from next week onwards.

The school environment is looking amazing, and our staff have worked incredibly hard to make every classroom an exciting, welcoming and inspiring place in which to learn. We have also completed a significant amount of work around the school to continue improving the children's experiences. We look forward to welcoming you into school on Wednesday 9th at 3:30pm for our Meet the Teacher and housekeeping meetings. These sessions will provide an opportunity to learn more about the expectations for the year and the ways in which you can support your child's learning and development.

Loving God, thank You for the gift of this new academic year. Bless our children, families and staff as we begin this journey together. Give us courage when we face challenges, wisdom as we learn and kindness in all that we do. Help each child to grow, flourish and let their light shine brightly. May our school always be filled with faith, hope, love and joy. Amen.

Mrs Collins



Celebration of the Word

This week, we reflected on Jesus' words in the Gospel of Matthew, where he teaches his disciples that following him requires faith, courage, and trust in God's plan. Even when life is difficult, Jesus reminds us to keep our focus on what is right and good.

Through this Gospel, we explored what it means to "carry our cross" and follow Jesus each day. We reflected on how acts of kindness, forgiveness, perseverance, and service help us to live as his disciples and show God's love to others.

As the week comes to a close, families might like to talk about a time when they did the right thing, even when it was difficult. Taking a few moments to pray together and ask God for strength and guidance can be a wonderful way to end the week.



KEY INFORMATION

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. Below you will find important updates, reminders, and useful links for families, including Arbor information, school meals, assemblies, and upcoming events.

Useful information and links:

- **Keep up to date:** Please follow us on Facebook at @stmichaelsrcp to see all the amazing events and learning taking place at our school and to show your support.
- **Website:** Our website is the perfect place to keep up to date with school events and learning, as well as access important information about what your child is doing at school: www.st-michaels.medway.sch.uk
- **Arbor:** Please make sure that you are signed up to Arbor, as this is our main source of communication. It is used to book parents' meetings, trips and events, and is where you will receive weekly messages and newsletters.
- **School Food United:** This is the platform we use for school dinners. Parents must use it to order and pay for their child's lunches. Please note that meals must be ordered for all pupils; if an order is not placed, your child will be given a jacket potato.
- **Cheqdin:** This is the app used to book both Breakfast Club and Wraparound Care. Failure to book by the deadline may mean that your child is unable to attend or that food cannot be provided.
- **After-school clubs:** School-run clubs will begin in Week 3, commencing Monday 14 September. Booking will open on Monday at 7:00pm. Please be aware that the clubs offered will change each term, and all pupils will have the opportunity to attend at least one club. There will also be additional paid clubs available to book.
- **Please note a change to the Friday Celebration Assemblies.** Years 3 to 6 will now be every Friday at 9am. Reception to Year 2 will now be every Friday at 3pm. This is due to only having access to one hall. Parking will be available for both. Parents will receive a call no later than Wednesday to give you an invite to attend.

The following children celebrated a birthday this week, or will do over the weekend...



Abigail
Afifa Chowdhury
Laura
Amaya

Kristian
Jayden
Bowie



Term 1: Dates for your diary

September 2026

1 Sept: INSET Day.

2 Sept: Children start school.

7 Sept: Beginning of Year Mass, 10am. Parents welcome.

8 Sept: Year 4 Guildhall Museum trip.

9 Sept: Housekeeping Meeting for Parents.

10 Sept: Year 6 PGL Parents Meeting

15 Sept: Medway Test. Children to arrive promptly.

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18 Sept: Wear Jeans for Genes Day (£1 minimum donation). Y5 Rochester War Memorial trip.

21 Sept: Y4 Rochester Gurdwara visit.

22 Sept: Y3 Guildhall Museum trip.

23 Sept: Y6 PGL begins.

24 Sept: Y6 PGL. Trauma Informed Parent Workshop 2pm. Y2 Victoria Gardens Trip- Fieldwork.

25 Sept: Y6 PGL. Beginning of Year Mass at St George's Cathedral. Prayer Leaders attend.

28 Sept: Harvest Food Collection begins.
Donations due by 2 Oct.

29 Sept: Feast of St Michael Mass 10am led by Y4. Parents welcome.

30 Sept: Y3 Victoria Gardens Trip- Fieldwork.

October 2026

1 Oct: Black History Month begins. School Census Day. Early Years Headcount.

5 Oct: Cycle to School Week begins. Harvest Mass 10am led by Y3.

6 Oct: Y2 Rochester Castle trip.

7 Oct: Hands on Science workshops for Y6 and Y2.

9 Oct: Mental Health Day. Wear what makes you happy.

12 Oct: Parent Consultations- Nursery

13 Oct: Parent Consultation- Reception

14 Oct: Individual and family photographs from 8am. Parent Consultations- Year 1

15 Oct: Parent Consultations- Year 2

16 Oct: Parent Consultation- Year 3 and Parent Forum 2.30pm.

19 Oct: Parent Consultation- Year 5

20 Oct: Flu vaccination Reception to Y6. Parent Consultation- Year 6

21 Oct: Y1 Superhero Day and Y2 Assembly St. Matthew Class Assembly. Parent

Consultations- Year 4

22 Oct: Y6 Assembly- St. Paul.

23 Oct: Last Day of Term. Tag Day. Cake Sale. Cultural Food Celebration.

26 Oct-6 Nov: Autumn Break.

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