



St. Michael's Nurseries

# Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



## MICHAELMAS NEWSLETTER 2024



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## September/October Newsletter 2024

As we approach half term, we find ourselves reflecting over the countless amazing St. Michael's moments and events we have enjoyed this term so far.



Welcome to all our new families and friends of St. Michael's. We are incredibly proud of how the children have settled during this important time...friendships are forming, relationships are building, confidence is growing and children are settling into the new rooms and routine.



Our first big public event was taking part in the Barnstaple Carnival and winning **FIRST PLACE!** Our theme was 'Read More in '24' which is a scheme recently initiated by us to lend books out to children to encourage a love of literacy and story books for every child.





We were raising money for the premature baby charity SNUG because we are the first nursery in Devon to be registered PREM AWARE status.

We were thrilled to receive our engraved trophy and some prize money towards some new books for our nursery. Thank you to everyone for supporting us, dressing up in the procession or contributing in any way to this successful event.

Of course, we celebrated St. Michael's Day in style where many children and staff wore pink, Kindergarten and Dragonflies learnt about St. Michael through a puppet show and we enjoyed pink sponge cake for pudding! Did you know.....? Our hall way is called 'Pink Hall' named after the beautiful hall that was once St. Michael's School, (Tawstock Court).



As we approach October we celebrate our diversity and Black History month – embracing the heritage of our families and discovering our friends' cultures and traditions.

Tasha of Djembe Devon visited us to teach Kindergarten children all about the Djembe drum.

The children were invited to have a go on the African drums and they experimented with the beat.....fast, slow, tap, tap, tapping, then building up louder and faster.



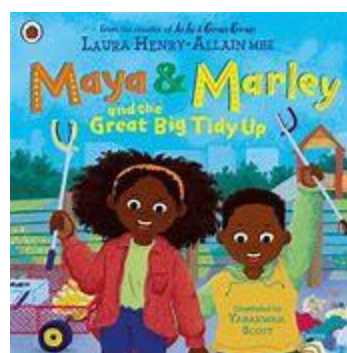
We counted the beats and also used rhyming sounds to make our songs. It was lots of fun and we really enjoyed the morning. In fact, we enjoyed this music session so much that we have acquired an authentic African 'Gathering Drum'. This means that the whole nursery will access the benefits that the drumming sessions have to offer.

Thank you Tasha!

<https://www.djembedevon.com/>



Emma, Sarah and Danni enjoyed attending the Early Years Foundation Stage Conference at Sandy Park, home of the Exeter Chiefs! We were inspired by one of the many keynote speakers, Laura Henry-Allain, author of Jojo and GranGran, and Maya and Marley. Celebrating story books for young children and to ensure settings have a truly diverse book collection to enjoy, reflecting our families and their homes. Laura's new story book 'Maya and Marley and the Great Big Tidy Up' will be sitting on our bookshelf very soon!





This month we celebrated Katie 'Fox' reaching her 25<sup>th</sup> year at St. Michael's Nursery – how many children have been lucky enough to enjoy her amazing teaching ideas at nursery and in holiday club . Congratulations Katie, this is a fantastic achievement and we are very lucky to have you on our team!

Also congratulations to Donna who has completed her studies to achieve SENDCO Level 3 award, we admire her hard work to reach this goal .

And to Libby who was presented with our very first "SMOSCAR" (St. Michael's Oscar!) , nominated by our colleagues . Libby was recognised for overcoming obstacles to achieve awards in Paediatric First Aid and also recognised by her Apprentice Assessor (Puffins of Exeter) for her high standard of Professional Discussion.

This term we welcome the return of Ellie-May , now in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of TLevel at Petroc and also 1<sup>st</sup> year , Abi, who joins us for the first time.

Don't forget to renew your Funding Codes , if your child receives funded hours, it is important to update your account every three months to keep your funding live.

From mid-November families will be able to apply for their child's Primary School for September 2025. To help you make this decision, we are hosting Schools Evening at St.Michael's, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November. This is a free event, with booking slots at 6.30pm and 7.00pm , please email [office@stmichaels-nursery.org](mailto:office@stmichaels-nursery.org) to reserve your place. The schools in attendance so far; Bishops Tawton, Holywell, Fremington, Sticklepath, Instow, West Buckland, Swimbridge, Kingsley School .. with more still to reply.



Hedgehogs Bakery has seen busy children weighing, measuring, pouring, chopping, mixing, counting, folding and sprinkling ingredients to make the most mouth watering snacks.

The veggie muffins, carrot cakes and Gingerbread biscuits were delicious! The children are learning a valid life skill and those little hands are growing in strength and dexterity – also great as a pre-writing skill.





# LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES



The sensory trays have been very enticing with children exploring colour, sounds, texture and this in turn encourages imagination and creativity. We have been talking about Autumn and in particular woodland animals. We enjoy lots of stories, rhymes, music and singing. The children have been enjoying regular visits from Clare from Story Bears and one of their favourite things is the parachute and the bubbles.



# DRAGONFLIES



We have been fully embracing the theme 'Autumn'. We have loved our sensory tray with the wooden train track and autumn leaves. We have also loved the story of The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson and played lots of games regarding the characters in the story.

We love to bake and one of the highlights this term has been using the shaped muffin cases to make the most adorable squirrel and leaf shaped carrot cakes.



# KINDERGARTEN



This term we have been exploring the topic 'All About Me' which has been an excellent way to get to know all our new friends. We have looking in mirrors, making collages and reading stories about families and community. We discuss our likes and dislikes and we are finding friendships within our group.

We have welcomed Kim from 'The Learning Journey' to regularly run sessions in our Forest School area with a focus on fun Science, Technology, engineering, art and maths. Kim is a qualified teacher and Forest School Leader. She often begins a session with a story book and the ideas evolve from there.

We also offer football on a Tuesday afternoon with Andy from Romar Sports. This is an optional extra. The children signed up to football enjoy warm up sessions, balance and counting games, team games, penalty shoot outs and other games designed to enhance their football skills.



Thank you to Kim from Torrington Dentist for visiting us. We learnt a lot about oral hygiene and how to keep our teeth and gums healthy. The children enjoyed a short story and some activities to support the learning. Each child took home an eco friendly bamboo toothbrush. Thanks Kim!





# ECO-HEROES - NEWS



St. Michael's  
Nursery

The children have been starting Forest School this term and we have been slowly getting into the routine of finding our own puddle suit, coat and wellies.

The children start the session with a 'check in' to become familiar with their surroundings and peers. We usually have a sing-a-long or some facts about an animal before we head off into the forest to explore and discover.



## Dates for your Diary/Notices:

### **Schools Evening**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November – tickets available 6.30pm and 7.00pm

Free Schools Event – come and meet our local primary schools all under one roof.

An opportunity to find out about local provision and enable your decision about your child's future. Venue ; St.Michaels Nursery , Sticklepath. Email to book your place!

[office@stmichaels-nursery.org](mailto:office@stmichaels-nursery.org)

### **HALF TERM:**

**28<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov**

(term time only children are not funded during half term)

### **Christmas Closure**

Nursery will be closed on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December and reopen on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 (Term restarts Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January for term time only children)



**Remember...I  
don't need to  
rinse my mouth  
out with water  
after brushing  
my teeth**



<https://www.facebook.com/ccsdentalhealthcare>



**St. Michael's Nursery**

in partnership with  
Devon  
County Council



**NDNA**

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**St Michael's Nursery**

**Sustainable Business Award**