



St. Michael's Nurseries

Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



APRIL/MAY NEWSLETTER 2024

April / May Newsletter 2024

As we reach the half way point of Summer Term, we celebrate another newsletter full of events and activities.

The sad loss of our beloved pet rabbit, Winnie Butter-Jelly brought forth opportunities to reflect with the children and share happy memories. It has been a privilege for our team to see loss through the eyes of a child and from this we have created a Share at Home bag for families to borrow. The bag focuses on loss, with a lovely memory book about Winnie, some tips for parents, and sensory items reminding us of the softness and comfort of Winnie. If you feel your child would benefit from borrowing this lovely item, please let us know.



This month we have celebrated years of service, With Gaynor and Amy (baby room) both receiving gifts For 10 years of employment – thank you both and Congratulations!

We also celebrate Chloe and Emma M achieving their Level 3 Early Years Educator qualifications, completing their apprenticeships and now join our team officially.

Congratulations also to Molly who has achieved her Level 2 Early Years Educator and has chosen to continue at St. Michael's, studying towards her Level 3.

We sadly said goodbye to Evie this month, who has chosen to leave her apprenticeship to join another field of childcare. We have enjoyed Evie being part of our team for six months and wish you good luck in the future Evie!

This month we welcome Harriet to our team of bank staff who is not only Level 2 Childcare, but also experienced in catering and has already covered Liz' holiday.



We would like to say thank you to Geth, who takes care of our wonderful outdoor spaces, keeping our enormous lawn swept and our borders neat and tidy . A very exciting new project has started in Forest School, with the return of a camp fire circle...watch this space!

Under 2s Funding... in the coming weeks we will be sharing details about baby funding and how this will work in the Autumn. Although the Government website is now open for application, please do not rush to apply as it will need renewing again in three months.



We are Maths Champions!

When the opportunity to take part in the NDNA Maths Champion Programme appeared, we happily accepted the challenge. Our intent to encourage a team feeling confident to naturally implement maths activities and understand the detailed areas of maths development, and to have fun with maths ! Our aim was to



develop the mathematical understanding and language with our kindergarten children, with

maths embedded across all areas of the environment. Preparing them for school life with a love for number, shape and space, to create a generation who embrace maths in their future careers.



Over 12 months we have audited staff confidence , our provision of maths in its many elements, stages of maths development in Kindergarten children . Sarah and Gaynor studied Development in Maths Confidence in the Early Years, Coaching as an Educational Lead, Developing Mathematical Thinking in the Early Years .

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/we-are-the-ndna-maths-champions>



World Bee Day

On Monday 20th May, we celebrated World Bee Day. There was a hive of activity in Forest School, when Kindergarten were treated to a wonderful visit from some beekeepers.

Grandparents to one of our children in Kindergarten, Alan and Jayne are very knowledgeable and have a clear ethos of "the art of gentle bee keeping."

They have been keeping bees for just over 5 years now and are part of the 'North Devon School of Country Beekeeping' where they have a clear ethos for sustainability and welfare of the bees, "We adopt this bee-friendly approach to hive management because we want bees to be healthy; healthy bees will prosper, prosperous bees will multiply, more bees means better pollination of our food plants and so we all benefit." <http://gentlebeekeeping.org.uk>

Read more here....

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/world-bee-day-2024>



LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES



Clare from Story Bears visits the nursery on most Monday mornings. The Ladybirds and Butterflies really enjoy dancing to the music, listening to stories, engaging with the puppets and props and catching the bubbles in the playroom. They were introduced to dolly 'Olivia' and her cuddly dog 'Barny'. Olivia started the story not liking her vegetables. However, she soon found that actually they can be delicious!

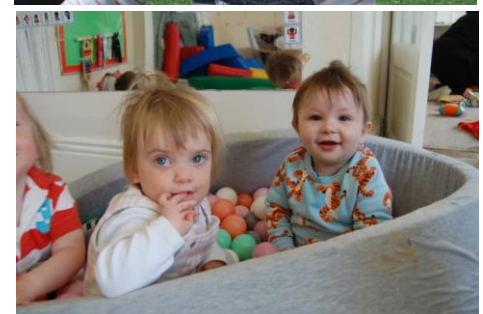
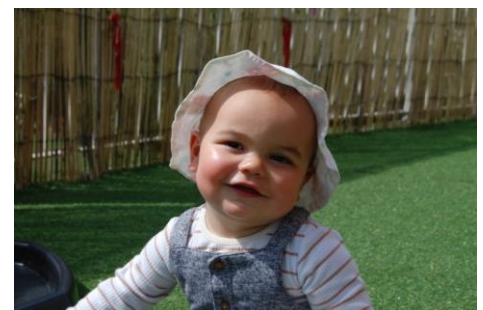


Our Ladybirds and Butterflies have been enjoying the story 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell. They have been invited to explore the different characters on the sensory table. Our display is looking great where we have been exploring the properties of runny paint, glue, shredded paper and soft collage materials.

We are so fortunate to have a spill out area outside where our little Ladybirds and Butterflies can safely enjoy our garden balcony. Some of our Butterflies have visited our large garden and played with the larger toys and met up with friends downstairs.

[Read more here...](#)

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/story-bears-sunshine-and-showers>



DRAGONFLIES



We are so fortunate to have beautiful summer houses as our play rooms and these spill out onto the glorious large garden. We like to play on the slide, explore the sand pit, chase bubbles, enjoy stories and play with the small world toys outside on a blanket.

We have been getting very adventurous in the woods and some of the Dragonflies have shown a keen interest in climbing. This has been supported in our Forest School where children have climbed with some assistance, support and encouragement. This is hugely beneficial to develop core strength, resilience, confidence and a sense of achievement. Imagine how it feels to stand on something twice the size of you! Well done Dragonflies.

Read our blog here...

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/dragonflies-make-a-circus>

KINDERGARTEN



Children in Kindergarten regularly attend Hedgehogs Bakery with Emma Hedge. Over the past few weeks the children have made a cream tea, cinnamon biscuits, gingerbread men, tiger bread and fruit kebabs. When the children were making tiger bread, they mixed the ingredients together to make a dough and then proceeded to learn how to knead the dough using the heel of the palm of their hand and stretching it out in an outward and upward motion. The children baked the most delicious batch of bread to take home and the nursery smelt scrumptious for the rest of the day!



Every Tuesday afternoon, Andy from Romar Sports visits to run fun football sessions with children from Kindergarten and Dragonflies. They play lots of fun games to gain skills in football, coordination, balance, stamina, confidence, resilience, social skills and core strength. One of the highlights is how the children finish the session with a penalty shoot out - cheering along all their friends! We have a few spaces left for Kindergarten children. Please speak to a member of staff for more information.



Sarah has been busy with the Green Fingers Gardening Club, planting out tomatoes and beans. The children have been digging and getting the vegetable patch ready. The children really enjoyed teasing out the roots and digging little holes for the plants. Some children wished to take home little herbs planted in pots that they had decorated.

Clare from Story Bears has taken the children on a Pirate adventure, singing, rowing a boat and catching the bubbles in the playroom. She has also shared her musical instruments and encouraged the children to sing along with her she plays her ukulele. We have great fun with Clare on Monday mornings.



ECO-HEROES - NEWS



**St. Michael's
Nursery**



We have been busy developing the 'Tell Me Tree' area. This is already a special area where children visit the tree to enjoy shelter or shade, read quiet stories, build blocks, swing and climb on the branches.

It is very important to us that we continue to develop this area to benefit the children and the wildlife that share this space. We have been planting native plants and flowers and learning all about pollination. The children have planted seeds and help to dig an area for a rockery and snail and slug refuse. We encourage and nurture biodiversity and we look at books and posters to link this to why it is important for the eco system. The children have made a brilliant bug hotel....



St. Michael's Nursery

in partnership with
Devon
County Council



NDNA

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FINALIST

St Michael's Nursery

Sustainable Business Award