



St. Michael's Nurseries

Chatter

Where children blossom and grow

A young boy in a red jacket is seen from behind, looking through binoculars. He is standing in a grassy park area with trees in the background. Other children are visible in the distance. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

**SNOWDROP
EDITION 2023**



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Chatter

Where children blossom and grow

January/February Newsletter 2023



The first edition of Chatter for 2023 and already a jam-packed magazine full of news at St. Michael's!

We welcome new children to our setting in January and look forward to getting to know them, they have so much fun ahead of them.

We welcome back Kayley from her maternity leave, and say 'hello' to Albie who has come along to play too.



The School Applications has now closed and we wait to hear your allocated schools in April. At this point we will begin to liaise with the teachers and prepare for your child's transition to school.

We have had new play space created in our garden, thanks to Geth who takes care of our outdoors, a 'jungle' area in amongst the palm trees is the perfect spot to take dinosaurs on adventures.

Congratulations to Liz who was recognised by the Environmental Health Inspector for her 5 star kitchen, we are so proud to provide yummy, and nutritious, home made meals for the children, and it was good to be recognised for this part of our provision.



For 'Safer Internet Day' and we have been chatting about this at nursery this week as part of our Wellbeing theme. Technology is now a big part of all our lives from babies onwards. Ask your child to show you their favourite app on your phone.. let them show you how to find the app and how to open it.. they may surprise you just how much they know their way around gadgets!

Kindergarten children listened to the age appropriate story of 'Jessie and Friends' and we discussed how we should close the device and tell a grown up you trust if you feel scared, worried or sad about something online. We danced and used musical instruments to sing

along to 'The Funny Tummy Song'. Take a look at our Parent Information section on our website for more information on how to keep your child safe online...

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/covid-19>

In January our whole team have taken part in Safe Sleep training as well as some attending Safeguarding training and NDNA meetings. You can find our sleep policy and other useful links on our website. Just look under the 'Parent Information' tab.



We celebrated our Apprentices of past and present during Apprenticeship Week. We have seen many of our apprentices flourish into professional, talented, caring and skilled nursery nurses over the years. Some have gone onto higher education, primary teaching, the field of medicine and even a published children's author!

Click here for the full article.....

<https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/single-post/apprenticeship-a-team>



Good luck to Chloe and Emma as they embark on their Level III Early Years Educator training.

The Princess of Wales has launched her campaign 'Shaping Us' <https://shapingus.centreforearlychildhood.org/> that focuses on the huge impact our early childhood has on our whole life.



The Royal Foundation Centre of Early Childhood tells us; "Through research, campaigns and collaboration we're working to change the way we think and act on the early years so that together we can build a happier, healthier, more nurturing world." <https://centreforearlychildhood.org/> Watch the video to find out more: <http://bit.ly/3WKnrOg>



Mindfulness, slowing down, living in the moment, being present: all those 'hygge' moments are so important to our nursery. We offer a wealth of opportunities for our children to explore, discover, slow down and just be.

At St. Michael's, we acknowledge, recognise and celebrate each and every child as the unique little person that they are. We celebrate their interests and support the children to achieve the

next steps in their development. This might be a favourite book, song, a photograph of their new scooter or making sure that we provide resources and toys that captivates their interest. We always have time for the children and enjoy a story as a group and lots of singing. We have open ended sensory activities, playdough, water play, clay, mud kitchen, interest table and treasure trove of loose parts to explore. We praise the children for showing kindness, compassion and empathy.

You might have seen our 'Happiness Sign Posts' in the Pink Hall. The children were invited to talk about and draw pictures of things that make them happy in their life. We had lots of lovely answers such as "My Mummy" and "Swimming."



Snug is a non-profit organisation set up to support families who have been impacted by a difficult pregnancy, complications, birth or neonatal admission.

www.snugonline.org

SNUG have launched their Squat challenge and one of our families has been busy raising awareness. Getting involved is easy! Click on the link, decide on your own personal squat challenge and get fundraising!

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/.../snugs-giant-squat-squad>

LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES



Butterflies and Ladybirds are enjoying the theme of Winter and they have been embracing the great outdoors. Blue skies one day, grey the next, Butterflies have wrapped up warm and explored the garden. They love the new slide!

We have been exploring the paint, creating colourful pictures, playing in the sandpit and enjoying winter stories. They were fascinated by the ice cubes and cold sensation on their finger tips. They crinkled and crackled the foil and stirred the ice with spoons, watching it melt into an icy puddle. Messy play is always a favourite and they love the sensory feel of the shaving foam, scratchy material and foils to play with.



DRAGONFLIES



We love playing in the garden. Children have been wrapped up warm and cosy and exploring the beautiful frosted ice and glistening leaves in the winter sunshine. On wetter days, the children had great fun mark making on the playground with chalks and powder paint.

It was so much fun using the binoculars to spot birds in the garden. We counted the birds and used books to find the picture of the ones we saw in the garden. We saw a Robin!

Dragonflies have the most beautiful Winter display with creations made by mixing paint, collage, reusing bubble wrap to create the illusion of owl feathers and scraping a fork through paint to create a polar bear's fur. We just love the penguin provocation set up to intrigue the children to learn more about penguins.





KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten have started the year well welcoming many new friends and settling back into the routine of nursery life. They love to play and explore in the play rooms and they have loved the Tuff Tray set up with cold climate animals and 'snow' using cornflour. The children have noticed how it gets dark early and look forward to spotting twinkly stars and the moon. Outdoor learning is established again with the children wearing many layers and wellies. Winnie Butter-Jelly, our pet rabbit, has moved inside to the 'Boot Room' where she is cosy and enjoys watching the children get ready for Outdoor Learning. The children have been looking after her, feeding her carrots, checking her water and topping up her food bowl.

We continue to learn all about the cold climate and animals. Children know a lot about them...."Polar bears are white!" "They live in the farm, I got a Polar Bear in my house!"



ECO-HEROES - NEWS



As part of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch this weekend, we have been learning all about birds in our woodland sessions. The children have loved gathering twigs, sticks and branches to make their own nests. We have plenty of nature books, helping us with information such as identifying the birds and learning about their appearance, habitat and diet. The children have been using binoculars and bird ID sheets, ticking off which birds that they have spotted in the garden and woodland area. We were fortunate to have a real bird's nest, (that was old and disused for many years), for the children to handle and learn how to use gentle hands.



Our online Swapshop is now live, ready for families to send in for Baby and Children items for sale, for free, wanted items , things to swap . Just to confirm we are unable to advertise car seats.

swaps@stmichaels-nursery.org



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



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

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available: Mail, FaceTime and Safari, for example. However, you can choose which apps and features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.

How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
5. Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear (or disappear) on your child's device

How to Restrict Game Centre

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
5. Scroll down to Game Centre
6. Choose Between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends (only in the settings for each feature)

How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
5. Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety #NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

NEVER ALONE

NSPCC
0808 800 5000
(24hrs)

National Domestic Abuse Helpline
0808 2000 247
(24hrs free)

Mind
0300 123 3393
(Mon-Fri 9-6)

Victim Support
0808 168 9111
(24hrs)

Cruse Bereavement
0800 808 1677
(Mon-Fri 9-5)

ChildLine
0800 1111
(24hrs)

Action on Elder Abuse
0808 808 8141
(Mon-Fri 9-5)

Respect - Men's Advice Line
0808 801 0327
(Mon-Fri 9-5 or 8pm)

Samaritans
116 123
(24hrs free)

National Centre for Domestic Violence
0207 186 8270

STICK MAN Activity sheet

Make a bug home

Spiders, beetles and other insects love to live in sheltered places with dead wood, bark, sticks and leaves. Why not make a home for the bugs in your garden?

These are the things you will need:

- A plastic plant pot
- A range of natural materials that insects might like to call home. Here are a few ideas... Sticks of different sizes, moss, bark, leaves, pine cones, stones.

How to build...

1. Take your plastic plant pot and fill it with the sticks you have found. The more sticks you can add to your pot the better!
2. Fill the gaps between the sticks with the other bits you have collected, making lots of little hiding places for the bugs.
3. Once you are happy with your bug home, find a nice sheltered spot for it, making sure it won't blow away or get too waterlogged when it rains. You could use some stones to keep it from moving or place it under a shrub or hedge so it doesn't get too wet.
4. Remember to keep checking your bug home to see who's come to stay!

Post a photo of your bug home on our Facebook page using #StickManTrail

Forestry Commission Woods & Forests
forestry.gov.uk/stickman



St. Michael's Nursery



NDNA

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