



# Foundation Stage Information Booklet

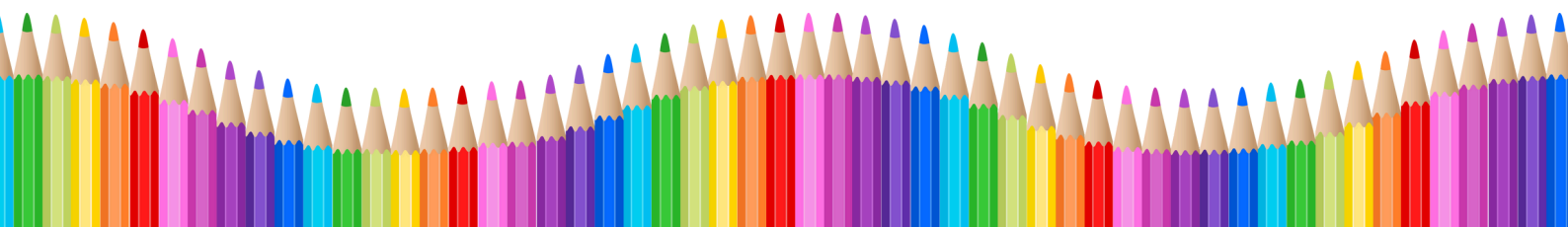
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# Welcome!



Welcome to St. Michael's C of E Primary School  
Foundation Stage.

A Foundation Stage full of care, fun and excitement, providing a wonderful learning environment for children.

## **A Foundation Stage where:**

- *Happiness shines through*
- *Children learn through practical, challenging activities*
- *Respect for the child as an individual is of paramount importance*
- *The individual child is catered for both in planning of the curriculum and assessment*
- *Each child's progress is carefully monitored and recorded*
- *Strong links are formed between home/school/Church and the wider community*

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# What is the Foundation Stage?

The Foundation Stage is the period of education from age three to five.

During the first year of the Foundation Stage the children may be in a range of settings such as nursery schools or childminder provision.

The second year of the Foundation Stage is often called the reception year, as the majority of children join a school reception class at this time.

Children at St. Michael's join the school in the September of the academic year after they become five.

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# Why is it Important?

Early experiences affect children's attitudes to learning so it is vitally important we get it right.

Play is crucial to the way young children learn. Through play, children can develop in all areas of the curriculum.



The children will be given the opportunity to learn through a carefully planned, well-balanced, topic-based curriculum, tailored to the needs of each individual child.

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# The Early Years Curriculum



There are seven areas of learning in the Foundation Stage, these are split into three Prime areas and four Specific areas.

The three Prime areas are:

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development** which encourages children to be independent and to interact with other children and adults. It helps children to become confident, safe and secure, and ready to learn from new experiences.

**Physical Development** which provides opportunities for using a range of large and small equipment and helps children develop a sense of space around themselves and others.

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**Communication and Language** will help develop listening and concentration and encourage children to develop their conversational skills.

The Four Specific areas are:

\* **Literacy:** which covers reading and writing



\* **Mathematics:** covering numbers and shape, space and measure



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**\*Understanding the World:** covers investigating and beginning to understand things, people and communities, the world and technology

**\*Expressive Arts and Design:** involves exploring, using media and materials and being imaginative



Children learn through a wide range of experiences in class and often the seven areas of learning are intertwined.

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# The School Day



<b>School opens at</b>	<b>8.45 am</b>
<b>Morning registration is at</b>	<b>8.55 am – 09:00 am</b>
<b>Morning session</b>	<b>9.00 am – 11:55 am</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>11.55am – 12.55 pm</b>
<b>Afternoon registration is at</b>	<b>12:55 pm – 1:00 pm</b>
<b>Afternoon session</b>	<b>1.00pm – 3.15pm</b>

Children arriving after 8.55am can enter the school through the top main gate and will need to be signed in at the main school office. The first few minutes of each day are an extremely important time for settling the children and explaining the day ahead. Please make every effort to be on time in order to avoid any unnecessary upset or disruption. Any child arriving after 8.55am will be marked in as late.

## Home Time

School finishes at 3.15pm each day. The children will not be allowed to go unless there is a known adult waiting for them.

**Please inform the class teacher if a different adult will be collecting your child.**

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# Healthy Eating



**St Michael's school is an accredited member of Healthy Schools and promotes healthy eating and drinking behaviours.**



**Healthy Schools  
CORNWALL**

## **Dinners**

All infant children are eligible for a free school meal or, if they prefer, you may send them in with a packed lunch.

Menus are available for school meals and parents are required to book their child's meal choices in advance on our online booking system via ParentPay (see pg12). If children prefer a packed lunch from home please encourage them to choose a healthy option for their lunch boxes. Due to nut allergies we request that children do not bring peanuts or peanut butter sandwiches to school.

## **Snack Cafe**

During the course of the morning the class snack café is open. Children are encouraged to help themselves to a piece of fruit and milk or water. This is free of charge.

Children are also asked to bring to school a named water bottle which they can access whenever required.

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# Wraparound Care



All of our wraparound care can be booked via your ParentPay login, in the same way that you book a school lunch.

All bookings should be made or cancelled 24 hours in advance, or you may be charged for late cancellations.



**EARLY BIRDS BREAKFAST CLUB**

**Drop-off**  
Between 8am and 8.20am

**Breakfast**  
Toast and fruit with milk or squash



**DRAGONS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

**Dragons 1 Session**  
3:15pm - 4:00pm (£3)

**Dragons 2 Session**  
3:15pm - 4:45pm (£6)

**Dragons 3 Session**  
3:15pm - 5:30pm\* (£9)

\*Except Friday's - latest pick-up time on Friday's is 5pm

If you want to pay for our wraparound services using your government childcare account, please contact the school office for instructions on how to transfer funds to your ParentPay account.

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# Big Brush Club



St Michael's School is part of the NHS scheme, the 'Big Brush Club', which provides daily supervised toothbrushing for your children during the school day.

The aim of the scheme is to get children in Reception and Nursery/ Pre-schools brushing their teeth during school time to help tackle tooth decay.

Developmentally, this is such an important age, and we can really make a difference to children's long-term oral health by committing to this simple and effective programme.

Tooth decay is the most common disease in children, and an average of 3 days of school per year are missed due to dental problems, causing parents and carers to have time off work for appointments. This is easily preventable through the use of fluoride toothpaste and regular brushing.

Children will be supervised during the brushing sessions every day and will be under the guidance of trained 'Oral Health Champions'. Each child will receive their own toothbrush, which will be easily identifiable and will be stored in a safe storage system.

**Visit their website  
([www.bigbrushclub.co.uk](http://www.bigbrushclub.co.uk))  
to learn more and view  
videos and apps that are  
useful in engaging your  
children and timing their  
brushing for 2 minutes.**



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# Uniform



**Please ensure that you label EVERYTHING with your child's name!**

Our school uniform is as follows. The items marked with a \* can be purchased from our online school uniform shop at:  
<https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/stmichaelsprimary>

Girls	Boys	P.E Kit
St Michael's embroidered royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan*	St Michael's embroidered royal blue sweatshirt*	St Michael's embroidered P.E. T-shirt in house colours*
White blouse or St Michael's embroidered white polo shirt*	White shirt or St Michael's embroidered white polo shirt*	Blue shorts* or black shorts
Grey skirt or pinafore dress with grey or blue tights or white socks. Grey or black trousers	Grey or black trousers or shorts	Pumps or trainers for outdoors

During the Summer, girls may like to wear a blue & white checked dress. Items of jewellery should not be worn. Ear studs are permissible but may not be worn for P.E. If they cannot be removed they will be taped over. Long hair should be tied up securely.

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# ParentPay



St Michael's is a cashless school which means that all trips for Reception children need to be paid using our ePayment system, ParentPay. By making cashless payments you know that your money has reached the school safely.

We also operate an online meal booking system which allows parents to view and select their child's meal choices in advance of each day. Meals can be booked up to midnight the day before, or as far in advance as the current menu runs if desired!

Once your child is settled into school, you will be given a unique username and password. You will then need to book meals, pay for school trips and any other items using this system.

You can go online to view your account statement and payment history, check when payments need to be made and set alerts to tell you when to pay.

## Our Website and Facebook

To keep up to date with what's going on at school please check out our school website and follow us on facebook:

<https://www.st-michaels-helston.org/web>

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

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# My Child at School



We are in the process of moving our booking system over to My Child at School (MCAS), this will replace ParentPay some time in the 2025-2026 Autumn Term.

You will have received an email from MCAS to activate your account. If you have not already done so, please ensure you activate this as soon as possible.

When you log in, you will need to confirm or add all of your contact information, your child's medical history/needs and your parental consent information. **It is important you complete these tasks, as this will be the information we use to contact you and to safeguard your child when they arrive in September.**

If you have not received the activation email, please download the app and choose the 'forgot my password' option.

Please contact the school office with any queries.



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# Essential Kit



Below is a list of things your child will need when they start school:

- \* Named water bottle
- \* Named book bag (can be purchased from the school)
- \* Named PE kit in a draw string bag (kept at school on their peg).
  - \* Named hat for outdoor play
  - \* Named wellies and a waterproof all in one/coat
  - \* A spare pair of pants and socks



The children learn outdoors in all weathers and every Wednesday we go up into the woods for a session. It is important that the children's wellies and waterproofs are left at school.

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# Staffing



## Our EYFS Teachers are...



Miss Davies  
(EYFS Lead)



Mrs Robertson

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# Medical Matters



If you have any concerns about your child's health or if he/she has a medical condition that we should be aware of please let us know before he/she starts school. We can then discuss the matter with you and be fully aware of, and prepared for, any possible difficulties.

If your child requires prescribed medication to be administered at school, please fill out a form which is available from the school office.

If your child has a bout of sickness or diarrhoea please keep him/her off school for **48 hours** after the symptoms have stopped. This type of illness spreads very quickly and easily among children and staff!

If your child is ill and cannot come to school, please call **01326 572386** and leave a message on our absence line with your child's name, class and the reason for their absence. Alternatively, you can text these details to **07731 842640** (**this number only accepts incoming texts, regarding absence**). The office staff will pass this information on to your child's class teacher.

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# First Day Arrangements



The children will begin the Autumn term on Thursday 4th September 2025. If you have a child already at St. Michaels please arrive at 8.50 am. The doors will not open until this time. This will allow you to drop off older children and make your child's first day at school a calm and enjoyable one. For families new to St. Michael's, we ask that you arrive at 9.30am. This will allow us time to show your child where to put their belongings and settle into activities in the classroom.

On Thursday 4th and Friday 5th September ALL children will be at school on a part-time basis.

From Monday 8th September ALL children will be in school full-time.

<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>	<b>8.50 or 9.30 am – 12.00pm</b>
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>	<b>8.45 am – 12.00 pm</b>
<b>Monday 8th September 2025</b>	<b>8.45 am – 3:15 pm</b>

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# Activities to Share at Home



## Helpful activities for you and your child to do together:

- \* Helping you around the house, e.g. setting the table, washing up, putting the shopping away.
- \* Sitting together looking at a book and listening to stories.
- \* Visiting places together like the park, supermarket, library etc.
  - \* Singing rhymes and songs together.
- \* Collecting things like buttons, shells, postcards or pebbles.
  - \* Sit and watch television together.
- \* All of these activities provide lots of opportunities for talking and sharing ideas with each other.

## Talking together

**A child learns a lot from talking. Talk about:**

- \* What happened today.
- \* What you did today.
- \* A television programme.
- \* Things you like or dislike.
- \* The games your child plays with other children.

## Listening skills

**It is important a child learns to listen. You can help by:**

- \* Reading stories.
- \* Learning rhymes and songs.
- \* Showing and explaining how things work.

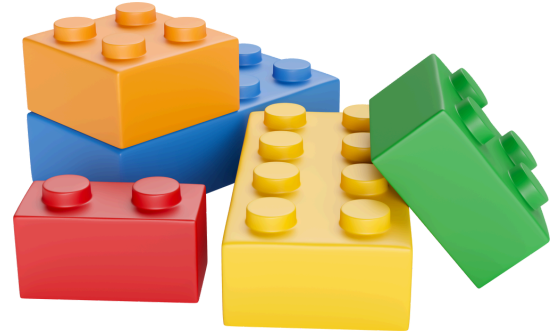
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# Activities to Share at Home



## Some simple games for the family to play

- Snakes and Ladders
- Jigsaw Puzzles
- Snap or other matching games
- Colour or picture dominoes
- I spy and other guessing games



## More things you may like to do and use

- Ball games
- Singing games
- Plasticine
- Lego
- Sand and water
- child scissors
- Skipping games

**Remember learning is fun and exciting, involving new experiences. Always praise and encourage your child's efforts.**



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# Can your Child?



## Before school....

When your child starts school it would be helpful if they can do some of these things;



**Dress/undress themselves**



**Put on and fasten their coat**



**Change their own shoes and socks**



**Use the toilet properly and flush it**

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# Can your Child?



## Before school....

When your child starts school it would be helpful if they can do some of these things;



**Wash and dry their hands and face**



**Use a knife and fork**

**Tidy away their toys**



**Blow their nose**



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# And Finally....



We are very much looking forward to the new term and hope that you all have a happy and safe summer. If you have any queries or questions, no matter how big or small, then please speak to your child's class teacher, or phone the school office who will pass on a message and we will get back to you as soon as it is convenient.

**“Adults who help children to play are adults who help children to learn”**



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