



ST. MICHAEL'S MAIL

St. Michael's Nursery Newsletter

28th September 2026

**Hello from the nursery team:
Hilary, Melissa, Aimee, Adnana, Anna, Justyn, Kelly, Lizzie and Louise.**

Dear parents and carers,

This week, I have swapped the newsletter header for conkers rather than sunflowers! It's a little early but was inspired by the little offering of 3 freshly collected conkers on the table outside last week! I adore conkers; their smooth, glossy texture is tactile perfection, which sadly lasts for such a short period we need to make the most of them when they arrive! If you have a horse chestnut near you, or pass by them on a regular walk, please take a bag and collect some of these jewels of nature for us! We love to use these free autumnal gems for endless play opportunities in nursery, and Lizzie will get excited to create her conker soap too!

We will start our autumnal activities, exploring seasonal colours with our table painting and leaf printing. We do have aprons for children, but prefer them to be wearing play clothes, as for some, putting on an apron diminishes the moment of exploratory play. We will also have some seasonal playdough with added spices, and if we have enough, will add some spices to the mud kitchen too. The nursery makes a good home for cupboard clear-outs; out-of-date herbs and spices are a fabulous addition to the mud kitchen!

The Children have been enjoying the trains available in the Gingerbread house, so we will get the big box out for large track building either on the carpet or under the canopy.

Thank you for such a positive response to the snack items request in last week's newsletter. We are still a nut-free nursery, but presently sesame and products containing sesame are acceptable, great news for hummus! Pesto products are acceptable in individual lunch boxes but not for shared snacks. Please also remember that if you provide your child with grapes in their lunch box, these should be sliced lengthwise; when sliced horizontally, they are still a choking hazard.

Great response to the chainsaw request; and hope to complete the initial task soon. We have noted willing volunteers and will hold on to those for future activities!

Please note, children who attend Forest School should have spare footwear, as once wellies are muddy, we can't have them on the carpet, and stocking feet can tread in undesirable puddles which, with nursery age, are not limited to the bathroom!

On Sunday, St. Michael's Church are hosting an autumn festival workshop for children, suitable for 3+ and a lovely community event.

Attached to the newsletter is a list of open days for schools in the Dorking area.

Hilary

THIS WEEK...

Physical Development

Getting ready for mark-making!

This week we will be exploring paint on a large scale and creating opportunities for gross motor creative activities. Painting on a large table surface encourages children to use large-muscle movements. They stretch their arms, lean over, cross their midline, and move their shoulders and trunks, which builds upper-body strength essential for later writing. It's also lots of fun ticks the boxes for those that enjoy sensory play and children will love mixing and experimenting with colour.



Number of the week:



Woodland Wonder:

While we are not quite in the throes of autumn, we are definitely standing right on the doorstep! It is that perfect, brief in-between phase where the morning air feels crisp, but the afternoon sun still holds a bit of summer's warmth.

Enjoy spending time with your child exploring the woodlands and parks, and notice the changes as in the leaves on the trees. You might like to make a collection of finds and help your child sort items by colour (green leaves vs brown leaves) or type (stones vs twigs). Please remember our Forest School rule No Pick, No Lick, and only collect items that have already fallen.



Star of the Day

Please upload to Tapestry a photo or short video of something special that your child would like to share with us at nursery. Two or three photos/videos is plenty!

NB. please record videos in LANDSCAPE format (i.e. with phone/tablet held horizontally) so we are able to view them on the large screen.

Monday 28th: George

Tuesday 29th: Lotta

Wednesday 30th: Oliver

Thursday 1st: No star

Friday 2nd: Stella

Our star of the day schedule is also displayed in the nursery window for future dates