



ST. MICHAEL'S MAIL

St. Michael's Nursery Newsletter

5th October 2026

Hello from the nursery team:

Hilary, Melissa, Aimee, Adnana, Anna, Justyn, Kelly, Lizzie and Louise.

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you so much for the conker contributions. I have been marvelling at the size of the conkers and wondering how that could be, when we have had so little rain to 'swell the seed'. A Google search tells me that the very wet spring and dry summer actually provided ideal conditions to synthesise nutrients and build up large casings. Whilst the record-breaking hot, dry summer weather stressed many trees and reduced the overall number of conkers on the branches, the seeds that did survive have managed to grow to a remarkably large size by capitalising on the tree's remaining moisture and resources. Apparently I'm not alone. According to organisers from the [World Conker Championships](#), who harvest thousands of nuts across the country every autumn, they have been highly surprised by the unusually high number of large, tournament-quality conkers still thriving on the trees after navigating the year's extreme weather shifts. For interest, and if you have nothing else to do, next Sunday, the World Conker Championships are being held in Southwick, Northamptonshire! Alternatively, also next Sunday, Westhumble Bonfire Committee will make a start on their bonfire building, with the main structure being lifted into place at 2 pm. Helpers welcome; refreshments provided! Westhumble Field (w3w ///friend.table.olive) So, with our bountiful crop of conkers, this week we will be making conker critters, conker toys, and using them in play, rolling down gutters, car ramps, etc.! As bikes have been requested for play again this week, we'll link this with the conkers and have some conker/bike races.

Children have been performing simple puppet shows; we think there are more stories to be told, so the woodland puppets are out again this week, and we will provide some resources for children to continue with their schematic play.

Hilary

Dates for your diary ~ with more details to follow.

Sunday 29th November ~ 'The Magic of Christmas' Nursery Christmas Fair

Wednesday 18th November ~ Nursery AGM

Thursday 17th December ~ Nursery Nativity

THIS WEEK...

Schemas

We have noticed that a number of children are playing schematically!

Schematic play is very beneficial for young children's cognitive development. Through repeating actions in play, your child can learn to understand how things work as well as develop a range of skills. Allowing your child to explore their interests through play is very powerful, even if it can feel quite repetitive for us as adults!

We have particularly noticed:

Transporting: e.g. carrying small items round in bags buckets or pockets; pushing other children and objects round in prams and pushchairs

Enclosure: e.g. filling and emptying containers, climbing into boxes.

Enveloping: e.g. Wrapping self in a blanket, covering whole painting with one colour, putting notes in envelopes to post.

If you would like to know how you can support schematic play at home, why not create a free parent account on Twinkl and search 'Schemas'.

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/parents>

twinkl

Number of the week:



Woodland Wonder: Lizzie's Conker soap

Horse chestnuts contain lots of saponin – an organic chemical with a name that's a clue as to why they're useful: sapon is 'soap' in Latin!

Ingredients: fresh conkers, water

Method :

- 1) Peel several conkers to remove the outer brown layer.
- 2) Blitz the conkers into tiny pieces. We use a mooli grater.
- 3) Add a small amount of water and, if time allows, let them 'steep' together.
- 4) Swoosh about until bubbly and use!

You can actually make laundry detergent from conkers, and there are lots of recipes online. Let us know if you try it!



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 5th:

Tuesday 6th:

Wednesday 7th:

Thursday 1st: No star

Friday 9th:

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