



WEEK BEGINNING 15TH SEPTEMBER

Events this week:

Monday 15 th September	KS2 Eucharist @ St Michael's Church AM Meet the Teacher – Years 3 & 4 - 3.30 – 3.45pm
Tuesday 16 th September	Meet the Teachers – Years 2 & 5 - 3.30 – 3.45pm
Wednesday 17 th September	Meet the Teacher – Year 1 - 3.30 – 3.45pm
Thursday 18 th September	Meet the Teacher – Year 6 - 3.30 – 3.45pm
Friday 19 th September	Celebration Assembly KS1 – Parents invited 9.00am
	PTA Bingo Night – School Hall 7.00 – 9.00pm

Looking forwards:

Wednesday 24 th September	– PTA Meet and Greet @ Green Man 6:30pm
Friday 26 th September	Celebration Assembly KS2 – Parents invited PTA Cake Sale After School
Thursday 2 nd October	School Census Acorns Family Learning – Busy Bags
Thursday 9 th October	Harvest Service @ St. Michael's Church PM
w/c 13 th Oct	Spirited Arts Week
Thursday 23 rd October	School Photos Y5/6 Tag Rugby
Friday 24 th October	INSET DAY and Parents Meetings – Parents Evening this term will take place during the daytime on INSET day as a trial. Further information will be sent nearer the time with slot booking options. There will be morning and afternoon slots available.

Welcome Back!

What a fantastic start we've had to the new school year at St Michael's Easthampstead! The children have come back full of energy, smiles and enthusiasm, and it's been lovely to see them settling so well into their new classes and routines. Classrooms have been buzzing with curiosity and a real eagerness to learn, which has made the first week a real joy.

Starting my year as Headteacher, it has been wonderful to reconnect with so many of the children and families I already know well, and to start getting to know those who are newer to our school community. A big thank you to you as parents and carers too, for all the support you've given in helping the children return so confidently — from smart uniforms to punctual starts and encouraging words at home, it really makes a difference.

I'm really looking forward to the year ahead and to working closely with you all to ensure every child continues to shine bright!

Mr Shaun Riordan

Headteacher

Mr Riordan's Recommended Read:

All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman – I shared this picture book with the school during worship, a beautiful read reminding us all that all are indeed welcome here at St Michael's, a place of love and community.



Gate and site updates

As will be familiar to you, our gates were recently updated with stronger locking mechanisms, high-definition cameras and new buzzers. Some timing changes to gates will take effect from Monday 15th September and are summarised here:

Pedestrian gates and morning routines

Gates unlock shortly before 8:40am to enter the school site. There is no audible signal – please push the gates and they will hold open. Gates release and lock shortly after 8:50am when all doors close and the site needs to be cleared. The site is monitored at the start and end of the school day with cameras and staff present. The school day begins in class at 8:50 a.m., when registration starts and the doors close. Once classroom doors close at 8:50 a.m. they will not be re-opened – please do not knock on the classroom doors if you arrive after this time and/ or if they are closed; you will have to enter the building via the office.

Car gate

The car gate will be closed at all times. If there is a need to enter via the car gate, please use the buzzer. Parents dropping off for breakfast club are welcome to use the former School House parking spaces if available and enter via the pedestrian gates. We kindly ask anyone exiting using the car gate to wait until it is closed behind you before driving off alongside us monitoring the cameras.

Site access

The rear pedestrian gate remains closed at all times whilst school is in session. Access to the school site can only be made via the front pedestrian gate. You will be identified on camera but may be asked to announce who you are and your reason for visiting. Parents arriving for breakfast club or wraparound care should use the buzzer and be prepared to wait as there may be a delay in staff granting access.

During the school day, no ad-hoc access will be provided to the school site unless you have either called ahead to confirm we are expecting you or the school has called you.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Dogs on site

A reminder that dogs are not allowed on the school site at any time, including during breakfast club or wraparound care, unless they are assistance or service dogs.

Fruit

A reminder about fruit – Please make sure fruit is cut up, especially for our youngest children, such as grapes being halved.



Head Teacher Award Winners

- Acorns - Lennie – for making a great start in Acorns, great listening, trying hard & showing kindness
- Year 1 - Lily – for a great start to Year 1
- Year 2 - Amaya – for being helpful and always working as a valued member of our Year 2 team!
- Year 3 - Emily – for working hard this week and consistently showing our school expectations
- Year 4 - Chase – for working hard this week and being a positive example to others
- Year 5 - Abraham – for showing love and respect on his interactions with adults & children
- Year 6 - Ryan – for fabulous perseverance with Bikeability

Well done to you all



Dear Parents/Carers,

Autumn Term Clubs – Starting week commencing 15th September

Please find below, details of the clubs running this term. As last term, there will be a small charge for **all** school run clubs of £2.00 per session with payment up front. A link will be sent to you to access your account once places have been confirmed.

These clubs are teacher led and may be subject to change or cancelled if the member of staff has to attend training or a meeting at the same time the club would normally run. Clubs do occasionally have to be cancelled at short notice so please ensure that you are able to collect your child at the end of the normal school day if their club has to be cancelled for any reason.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL REQUESTS MUST BE BY EMAIL to secretary@stmicheast.co.uk

Club places will be confirmed once allocated.

Day	Time	Club	Year Group	Location	Staff	Max.
Tuesday	15:25 – 16:20	Performing Arts	KS2	The Den	Mr Turner & Mrs Fordham	12
Thursday	08.10 – 08.40	Yoga	KS2	The Den	Miss Purser	8
Thursday	12:40 – 13:10	Choir	KS2	Year 4 classroom	Mr Crowther & Mrs Cary	20

These clubs are offered through outside agencies and **MUST BE booked directly through them.**

Monday	15.30 - 16.25	Tag Rugby	KS2	Playground	Prestige Sports
Tuesday	15.30 - 16.25	Multi Sports	KS2	Playground	Prestige Sports
Wednesday	15.30 - 16.25	Mixed football	Years 1 - 4	Playground/field	Prestige Sports

FOR PRESTIGE CLUBS BOOK VIA <https://www.prestigesportscoaching.com/services-4> These clubs begin 16th September.

If your child is taking part in the Choir lunchtime club, it would be advisable to bring a packed lunch on that day. Please note that the school will not be taking part in the Young Voices event this year due to the expense to parents.

In the event of any clubs being oversubscribed, clubs will be offered to children who have previously missed out.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child is collected on time at the end of an afternoon club so please note the finish times. Attendance at clubs is subject to children behaving both at clubs and during lessons.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Shaun Riordan

Headteacher

Tea and Talk



Join us on Wednesdays

1:30pm-2:30pm

Easthampstead and Wildridings Community Centre



FREE tea, coffee, biscuits and chat!

- 10th September
- 17th September
- 24th September
- 1st October
- 8th October
- 15th October
- 22nd October

GEMS
Autism & ADHD Support Services
East Berkshire

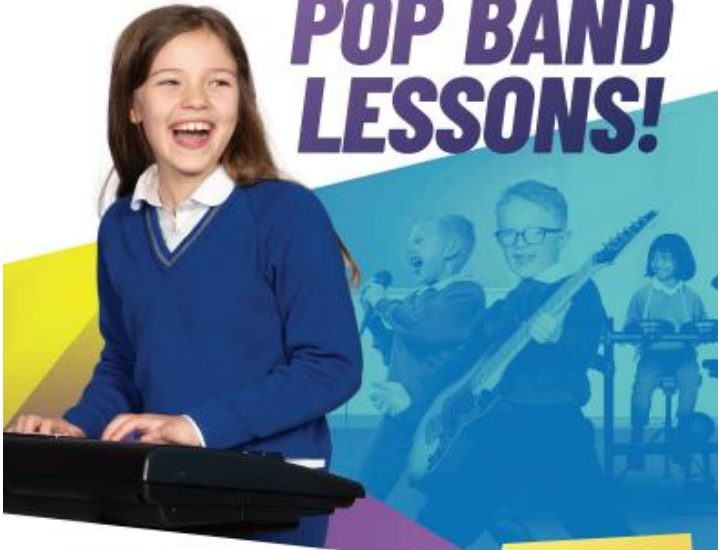
Upcoming Events

SEPT 16 10AM TO 12NOON <i>Navigating School Avoidance</i>	SEPT 16 7 PM TO 9 PM <i>3 Part ADHD Course</i>	SEPT 17 7 PM TO 9 PM <i>3 Part Autism Course</i>
OCT 01 7:30 PM TO 9:30 PM <i>Managing Anxiety</i>	OCT 7 7 PM TO 9 PM <i>NEW - Emotional Regulation</i>	OCT 14 7 PM TO 9 PM <i>Sensory Processing</i>
OCT 15 7 PM - 9 PM <i>Sleep - Autism & ADHD</i>	OCT 16 10 AM TO 12 NOON <i>Empowering Calm</i>	COMING SOON 10 AM TO 12 NOON <i>NEW - PDA</i>

Parenting Special Children | NHS Frimley | the autism group

ROCK
STEADY

ROCK AND POP BAND LESSONS!



IGNITE THEIR SELF-BELIEF

- 👉 Children learn to play an instrument in their very own band.
- 🎸 Fun and inclusive in-school band lessons. No music theory involved.
- 🎧 Follow their musical journey in your Backstage account.
- 📄 Exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification.
- 🎵 Instruments provided and no experience necessary.

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S
PLACE ONLINE



0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-5pm, Fri 8am-5pm, local rate)

rocksteadymusicschool.com

ROCK
STEADY

LEARN TO PLAY MUSIC IN A BAND THAT'S FOR EVERYONE.

Choose from: Keyboard, guitar, bass, drums or vocals.

Inclusive and hassle-free!

Takes place in school, instruments provided and no experience necessary!

Have fun and learn by playing

Children work their way through a curriculum of up to 300 musical skills.

Taught by professional musicians

Rocksteady band leaders are highly trained musicians who make learning music fun.

Much more than music

Improves wellbeing, confidence, social skills and academic achievement.

Progress at their own pace

Your child can achieve an exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification!

End every term on a high note

Watch your child shine as they perform in their end of term concerts.

"Her confidence has grown so much. It has helped her in all aspects of her life."

Louise

"My son actually wants to go to school on his Rocksteady days. It has given him an alternative to academic learning."

Michelle

"I've seen him flourish socially and have friends across the year group."

Becky

£14.99 per month (no payment in August)
Money back guarantee for the first month. Cancel at any time.

START THEIR
MUSICAL JOURNEY



0330 113 0330
(Mon-Thurs 8am-5pm, Fri 8am-5pm, local rate)

TRINITY
MUSIC SCHOOL

Supporting Your Children Workshops 2025 - 2026








To book a space click on the **Enrolment Link** or email Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk




Each course is a **standalone 2-hour session**, is universal (not specific for SEND) and for adults supporting **not** the children themselves so **please arrange childcare if needed**

Once you have completed an enrolment form your space will be confirmed

Please only book if you are **going to be able to attend** to avoid other parents missing out.

All sessions unless stated otherwise take place at The Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Supporting Children to Overcome their Anxious Thoughts and Worries Exploring how anxiety affects children and learn simple, effective techniques to support children to overcome their Anxious Thoughts and Worries.		
Thursday 2 nd October 2025	Enrolment Link	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Saturday 15 th November 2025	Enrolment link	10am – midday
Wednesday 14 th January 2026	Enrolment Form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 13 th April 2026	Enrolment Link	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 8 th June 2026	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way A session exploring positive behaviour strategies enabling parents to gain practical tools for handling challenging behaviours with confidence and care.		
Monday 22 nd September 2025	Enrolment link	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 10 th November 2025	Enrolment Link	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 12 th January 2026	Enrolment link	9.30 – 11.30 am
Thursday 05 th March 2026	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Thursday 23 rd April 2026	Enrolment link	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 22 nd June 2026	Enrolment Form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Parenting pre / early-teens in a Positive Way (aged 10 – 13) An insight into parenting, looking at positive behaviour strategies, different ways to strengthen communication / connection with your pre-teen child.		
Thursday 9 th October 2025	Enrolment Link	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Parenting pre / early-teens in a Positive Way (aged 13 – 16) A session focused on using positive approaches to guide teenage behaviour, building stronger communication and connection during the teen years.		
Monday 20 th October 2025	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Encouraging Resilience – Keep Calm and Bounce Back Gain practical tips, leaving you inspired and equipped to help children bounce back stronger; no matter what life throws their way		
Monday 13 th October 2025	Enrolment Link	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Transition to secondary school Gain practical tips, share experiences, and learn how to support your child through the exciting, sometimes challenging transition to secondary school.		
Monday 29 th June 2026	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Transition: Reception to Year 1 and beyond The move from Yr R to 1 is a big step in your child's learning journey. Session helps parents understand what the transition involves and how to support.		
Thursday 25 th June 2026	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm

A healthy night's sleep Sleep is essential for children's wellbeing, learning, and behaviour. Get practical tips to help children build healthy, lasting sleep habits		
Thursday 6th November 2025	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Reducing Sibling Rivalry A supportive session, to give parents and caregivers tools to strengthen sibling bonds, whilst creating a calm and connected family environment.		
Wednesday 22nd October 2025	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Family Dynamics Family life comes in many forms, and every child deserves to feel secure / supported. Session offers practical guidance navigating varying dynamics.		
Wednesday 19th November 2025	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm

Coverstar

Coverstar say they are "the safe TikTok alternative." They state, "there is no specific age limitation...however, if you are under the age of 13, you must obtain parental consent." Users can post, comment and livestream.

Whilst Coverstar does not include private messaging, users can still interact via public comments. Coverstar does use moderation tools to scan all user-generated content. It is also important to be aware that Coverstar does allow in-app purchases ranging from £0.99 - £59.99.

If your child is using this app, ensure they know how to use the reporting tools. Bark provide a full review of Coverstar here, but they rate it as suitable for 10+:

<https://www.bark.us/app-reviews/apps/coverstar-app-review>

Test your knowledge: Online Scams

Childnet have created a quiz for 9-13 year-olds that includes a range of potential online scams, as well as tips to help your child protect themselves online. Find out more here:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/test-your-knowledge-about-online-scams-with-our-quiz-for-9-13-year-olds/>

Online Safety Act

What is the Online Safety Act?

The Online Safety Act 2023 is a set of laws introduced to protect children and adults online. Ofcom is the regulator for online safety in the UK, responsible for ensuring companies follow the new rules. As part of this role, Ofcom have designed the Children Codes of practice, which came into force in July



2025. The codes outline what all online services likely to be accessed by children must do to protect children online, for example:

- Enforce age limits.
- Protect children from accessing harmful or age-inappropriate content. This includes content relating to self-harm and eating disorders.
- Ensure users can easily report harmful content.

Ofcom has the power to enforce the rules as well as issue fines if companies fail to comply. You can find out more here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/new-rules-for-a-safer-generation-of-children-online>

How will it help to protect my child?

One of the main purposes of the Act is to protect children online. Ofcom has published information on how they are helping children to be safer online. The first link is a guide for parents, which also includes a section on what you can do as a parent. You can access this information here:

- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-ofcom-is-helping-children-to-be-safer-online-a-guide-for-parents>
- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-the-online-safety-act-will-help-to-protect-children>

Further information

Online Safety Act: explainer:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-act-explainer/online-safety-act-explainer>

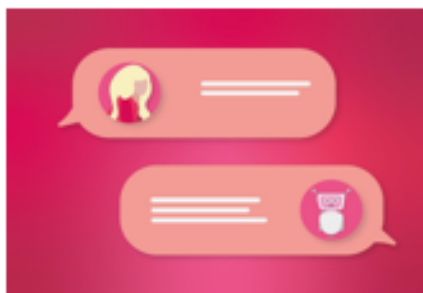
Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/sept-2025/>

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to grow, and examples include:

- Search engines such as Google now include an AI-generated overview as part of their results.
- Virtual assistants like Alexa, Meta AI and Siri.
- Chatbots such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat.



Opportunities

AI can be an effective tool when used correctly, for instance:

- **Homework** – children can use AI to support and assist their learning.
- **Advice** – AI can be used to provide information and suggestions on a variety of topics.

Risks and concerns

- **Misinformation** – ensure your child understands that AI can sometimes provide incorrect or misleading information.
- **Privacy issues** – read any privacy policies before using.
- **Chat apps** – a simple search of “AI Chat” within the App store highlights the number of apps already available that are not suitable for children as many are rated as 17+.
- **Image manipulation** – there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- **Deepfakes** – there are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos that can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

How can I protect my child?

To help keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Develop your child’s digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

- Overview: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/using-artificial-intelligence/what-is-ai-artificial-intelligence/>
- Should you worry if your child has an AI friend? <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/should-you-worry-if-your-child-has-ai-friend>

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Roblox: Grow a Garden

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Grow a Garden is one of the latest games available on Roblox and is extremely popular. The game is labelled as ‘minimal’ for content maturity, which Roblox define as “may contain occasional mild violence, light unrealistic blood, and/or occasional mild fear.” Roblox believe that the game play is suitable for everyone. However, as the game is on Roblox, it is important to be aware of the following:

- **Chat** – strangers can interact with your child.
- **In-game purchases** – this game does include in-game purchases.
- **Screentime** – set limits for how long your child is playing.

A lot of the content on Roblox is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing, ensure they know how to use any reporting tools and set up appropriate parental controls.

Further information

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

Grooming online

Grooming is when somebody seeks to build a relationship with a child to exploit them or cause harm.

It is important that we teach our children how to recognise red flags. Childline have lots of useful information on their website, including where to get further support from:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-grooming/>