

St. Michael's C.E. Primary School

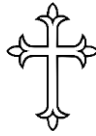
Headteacher:

Mrs Sarah Dring MA, BA
(Hons), NASENCo |
Headteacher



Leigh Road
Howe Bridge
Atherton
Manchester
M46 0PA

Love Faith
Honesty Respect
Courage Kindness



☎ (01942) 883118



enquiries@admin.howebridge.wigan.sch.uk

'Immersed in a Christian Community, each individual is encouraged, challenged and nurtured to learn and grow to achieve their full potential.'

Love, Respect, Kindness, Faith, Honesty and Courage

Newsletter
5th September 2025

Welcome Back

A huge welcome back to all of our children and families. It has been lovely to see everyone return back to school looking so smart and eager to learn. The children have settled wonderfully into their new classrooms with their new teachers.



Reception First Week

It was lovely welcoming our new reception class children to our school this week. We know the first day of school can be an emotional day for parents. A huge thank you to our EYFS team in reception who made the day super special for our new starters.

Also, a very special thank you to Mrs. Neal, our former admin assistant, who knitted 30 individual teddy bears for our Reception children to have and take home as a comforting keepsake to remember their first week at St. Michael's.



Children, Families and Education

Wigan Council are excited to introduce Say It Better, a new three-week face-to-face course based on the *One Plus One – Arguing Better* programme.

This course is designed for couples who want to:

- Communicate more effectively
- Strengthen their relationship
- Create a more peaceful home environment

Whether they are navigating everyday stress or simply looking to reconnect, *Say It Better* offers practical tools and supportive guidance to help parents build stronger, healthier relationships.

To register interest, please email: earlyhelpdevelopmentteam@wigan.gov.uk

Wigan Council

Say It Better

Want to create a calmer, happier home?

Join our three-week course for couples designed to help you communicate better, strengthen your relationship, and build a more peaceful home environment.

Whether you're dealing with daily stress or hoping to reconnect, this course provides practical tools and friendly support in a relaxed setting.

Register your interest today by contacting:
Earlyhelpdevelopmentteam@wigan.gov.uk

The flyer features a photograph of a family (a man, a woman, and a child) sitting on a sofa and eating together. The man is holding a bowl and feeding the child. The woman is smiling and looking at the child. The background shows a bright, modern living room with large windows and indoor plants.

Headteacher Welcome Message

Dear Parents, Carers, and the Wider St Michael's Community,

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of St Michael's CE Primary School, Howe Bridge. It is a huge privilege to have been appointed to lead such a special school — one which already holds a very dear place in my heart, not only as an educator but as a member of the community and also as a parent - my own children attend this wonderful school.

Before I begin this new chapter, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Mrs Fiona Quinlivan for her outstanding leadership, dedication, and hard work during her time as Headteacher. She has made a significant and lasting impact on St Michael's, and I am deeply honoured to follow in her footsteps. I am committed to building on her legacy and striving to lead the school with the same passion, care, and commitment that she so clearly demonstrated.

At St Michael's, our vision is: "Immersed in a Christian community, each individual is encouraged, challenged and nurtured to learn and grow to achieve their full potential."

We are a proud Church of England school where our Christian values — respect, love, honesty, faith, kindness, and courage — are at the heart of everything we do. These values shape the aspirations we have for every child: that they feel loved, are nurtured in their learning, and are encouraged to flourish academically, socially, and spiritually.

I bring over 15 years of teaching experience, having worked across a range of year groups, including Early Years. Throughout my career, I have been privileged to serve in key leadership roles, Assistant Headteacher, Early Years Lead (including 2-year-old provision), Deputy Headteacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), and Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO).

My journey in education has been underpinned by a firm belief in the power of lifelong learning — a principle I hold for the children we serve and for myself. I have continually invested in my professional development, completing a master's degree in Teaching and Learning, achieving the National Award for Special Educational Needs Coordination (NASENCO), and I am currently completing my National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH).

St Michael's has always been part of my local community, and I am honoured to now have the opportunity to give back to it. Leading a school where my own children are pupils gives me a very personal benchmark for the standards I set: if it is not good enough for my own children, it is not good enough for any child in our care. Every decision I make will be rooted in what is best for the children and families we serve.

I am incredibly excited to begin this journey with you all. I believe strongly that education is most powerful when schools and families work hand-in-hand, and I look forward to building strong, positive relationships with you as we work together to achieve the very best outcomes for your amazing children.


Thank you for the warm welcome I have already received — I am truly looking forward to meeting more of you in the coming weeks and months.

I am looking forward to welcoming your children into school tomorrow. If you see me, please come to say 'hi'.

With warmest regards,
Sarah Dring



Next week at a glance

| Week beginning | Before school | During the school day | Music tuition | After school |
|----------------------|----------------|--|------------------------|---------------|
| 8 th Sept | |  | | |
| Monday | Breakfast club | Whole school Collective Worship Year 1 outdoor PE Year 4 outdoor PE Year 3 indoor PE | Guitar | ABC childcare |
| Tuesday | Breakfast club | Whole school worship singing worship Y3 outdoor PE Y4 Wigan Music Service | Drums | ABC childcare |
| Wednesday | Breakfast club | Class Worship Y6 indoor PE Rec indoor PE Rock Kidz – Children can dress up as rock stars | | ABC childcare |
| Thursday | Breakfast club | Worship with Rev. Hannah Rec outdoor PE Y5 outdoor PE Year 1 indoor PE Year 2 indoor PE | | ABC childcare |
| Friday | Breakfast club | Whole school Collective Worship Year 5 Swimming Year 2 outdoor PE Year 6 outdoor PE Year 4 indoor PE | Violin Keyboard | ABC childcare |

Future dates for your diary
(Please note, these will be added to frequently)

| | |
|--|---|
| 10 th September | Rock Kidz |
| 23 rd September -27 th September | School Book Fair |
| 26 th September | Flu immunisation |
| 10 th October | World Mental Health Day Children invited to wear yellow with a £1 recommended donation |
| 27 th October – 31 st October | Half Term |
| 1 st December | KS1 Panto |
| 8 th December | KS2 Panto |
| 19 th December | Finish for Christmas Break at 3:30pm |
| 5 th January | Inset day – Staff only |
| 6 th January | Children return to school at 8:50am |
| 6 th February | Young Voices |
| 16 th February – 20 th February | Half Term |
| 23 rd March – 25 th March | Year 4 Robinwood residential |
| Thursday 2 nd April | Finish for Easter Break at 3:30pm |
| 20 th April | Children return to school at 8:50am |
| 4 th May | Bank Holiday Monday |
| 25 th May – 29 th May | Half Term |
| 16 th July | Finish for Summer Break at 3:30pm |
| 17 th July | Inset day – Staff only |
| 1 st September | Inset day – Staff only |
| 2 nd September | Children return to school at 8:50am |

Useful Links

School Instagram Account <https://www.instagram.com/st.michaelsceprimaryschool/>

School Facebook Account <https://www.facebook.com/HoweBridgeStMichaelsPrimary>

School Lunches to be ordered on <https://app.schoolgrid.co.uk>

School Payment for trips and clubs - <https://eduspot.co.uk/>

Internet Safety Links: [Safer Internet Day 2025 - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Mental Health and wellbeing details – www.actionforhappiness.org

Samaritans 116 123 (freephone 24 hours a day)

Mind - www.mind.org.uk

Online resources

For parents:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

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

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

For children:

<http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/personal-safety/staying-safe-online/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/6-10/>