

St. Michael's C.E. Primary School

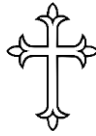
Headteacher:

Mrs S. Dring MA, BA
(Hons), 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 **9th January 2026**

Welcome Back & Happy New Year!

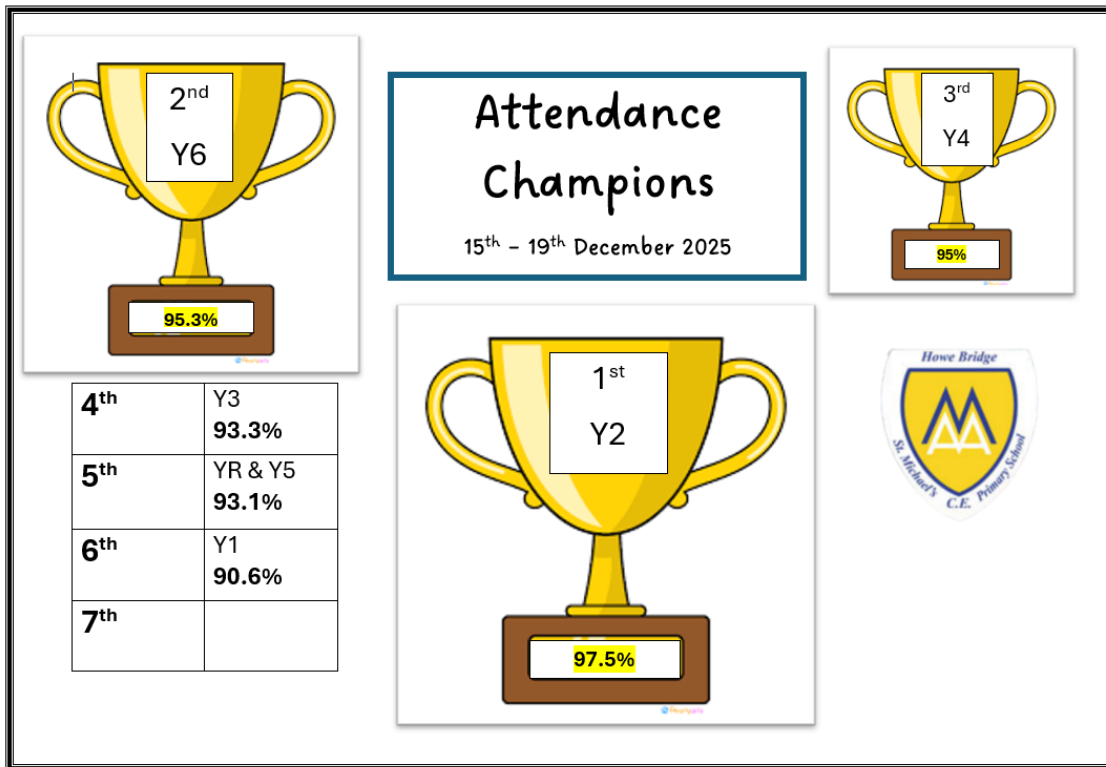
We would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. It has been wonderful welcoming the children back to school this week, and it has been lovely to see how smoothly they have settled back into their routines. The children have returned with fantastic, ready-to-learn attitudes, which has been a joy to see.

They have also enjoyed sharing their Christmas holiday news with friends and staff, filling the school with excitement and smiles.

Hard as it is to believe, we have now completed our first full term of the 2025/26 academic year. The children are eager and motivated as they begin their learning for this second term, and we are very much looking forward to the weeks ahead and we can't wait to see what this term brings! ✨



Weekly Class Attendance



Cold Weather Reminder ❄️🧣🧤

With weather forecasts predicting colder conditions over the coming days and weeks, please ensure that children come to school dressed appropriately for the cold weather.

Children should wear warm coats, jumpers, hats, scarves and gloves where needed, as we will continue to make use of outdoor playtimes whenever it is safe to do so. Please also ensure all items are clearly labelled.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep everyone warm, comfortable and ready to learn.



Online Safety – Keep it Age-Appropriate

Please check that the games, apps and videos your child is using are suitable for their age.

Top tips:

- Check age ratings
- Use parental controls
- Keep screens in shared areas
- Talk to your child about what they're watching or playing

Remind children to be kind online and tell an adult if something worries them.

Together, we can help keep our children safe and happy online!

Uniform, PE Kit & Birthday Reminder

A quick reminder to help keep our school days running smoothly:

- Please make sure your child wears full school uniform each day.
- Label all clothing clearly – jumpers, coats, hats – so lost items can be returned.
- Children should come to school in their PE kit on PE days.
- Encourage your child to wear appropriate shoes and coats for outdoor play, especially in winter.
- Birthday celebrations: Children can wear their own clothes on their birthday
 - If their birthday falls over a weekend or holiday, they can choose a school day to celebrate at the first opportunity.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone smart, safe, and ready to learn!

Is My Child Too Ill for School?

We know it can be difficult to decide whether your child is well enough to attend school. Government guidance helps schools manage common illnesses.

Please remember:

If your child is unwell and not attending school, contact the school each day to let us know the reason.

General Guidance

- **Coughs & colds:** Children can attend with mild symptoms. Keep them at home if they have a high temperature.
- **High temperature:** Children should stay at home until it has gone.
- **Vomiting & diarrhoea:** Children must stay at home for 48 hours after the last episode.

Common Infections

- **Chickenpox:** Stay off school until all spots have crusted (usually 5 days).
- **Conjunctivitis:** No need to stay off school.
- **Cold sores:** No need to stay off school.
- **Head lice:** No need to stay off school – please treat as soon as possible.
- **Hand, foot and mouth:** Children can attend if they feel well enough.
- **Slapped cheek syndrome:** No need to stay off school once the rash appears, but please inform school.

Other Conditions

- **Ear infections:** Keep at home if there is a high temperature or significant pain.
- **Impetigo:** Stay off school until sores have healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotics.
- **Scarlet fever:** Children may return 24 hours after starting antibiotics.
- **Ringworm:** Children can attend once treatment has started.
- **Threadworms:** No need to stay off school – treatment can be given at home.
- **Sore throat:** Children can attend unless they also have a high temperature.

Summer swimmers are made in winter.

Get the kids ready for the summer holidays with Be Well's Learn to Swim programme! Keep them active, happy, and healthy over the winter months as they build confidence, learn valuable life-skills and make friends. Use the following link [BeWell Wigan Offer](#) now to secure 50% off for your child's first 2 months membership.

Stars of the Week

Star of the Week





Consultation on admission arrangements 2027/28

Some Wigan schools are consulting on their admission arrangements for admission to reception class and year 7 for the academic year 2027/28.

The web address is –

www.wigan.gov.uk/consultations

Next week at a glance

Week beginning	Before school	During the school day	Music tuition	After school
12 th Jan				
Monday	Breakfast club	Whole school Collective Worship Year 1 outdoor PE Year 4 outdoor PE Year 3 indoor PE First IRock band practise in the afternoon 	Guitar	ABC childcare Year 1 phonics workshop 3:30pm

Tuesday	Breakfast club	Whole school singing worship Y3 outdoor PE	Drums Violin	ABC childcare
Wednesday	Breakfast club	Whole school Collective Worship Rec indoor PE Year 1 outdoor PE		ABC childcare
Thursday	Breakfast club	Class Worship Rec indoor PE Y5 indoor PE Y6 indoor PE Year 2 outdoor PE		ABC childcare
Friday	Breakfast club	Whole school Celebration Worship Year 5 Swimming Year 2 outdoor PE Year 6 outdoor PE Year 4 indoor PE Parent Workshop on Autism led by TESS AT 9:15am	Keyboard	ABC childcare

Future dates for your diary

(Please note, these will be added to frequently)

5 th February	Young Voices
16 th February – 20 th February	Half Term
23 rd March – 25 th March	Year 4 Robinwood residential
24 th March	Year 1 Blackpool Zoo Trip
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
29 th June – 3 rd July	Year 6 Residential trip
6 th July	Year 1 Bring Yer Wellies trip
9 th July	 
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
9 th September	Rock Kidz 🐱 🎸

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>

Apply for Free School Meals <https://forms.wigan.gov.uk/xfp/form/750>

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)

Consultation admission arrangements 2027/28 - www.wigan.gov.uk/consultations

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/>

IMPORTANT AND USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

TERRY & PAT DALY	07412 521040
Council Tax	01942 489001
Housing Benefits benefits@wigan.gov.uk	01942 489002
Registrar / bereavement services	
wiganregisteroffice@wigan.gov.uk	01942 489003
Environmental Services	01942 489004
Housing Register for Housing applications	
houreg@wigan.gov.uk	01942 486182
Housing – General	01942 489005
Housing-Homeless	
hoac@wigan.gov.uk	01942 487732
Housing-Tenancy Services	
myhome@wigan.gov.uk	01942 486353
Rents Team myrent@wigan.gov.uk	01942 486865
Blue Badges bluebadgeservices@wigan.gov.uk	
Welfare Support	
welfaresupport@wigan.gov.uk	01942 705221
Welfare Rights	
welfarerightsadvice@wigan.gov.uk	01942 705221
Licensing licensing@wigan.gov.uk	
Parking Services—Parking Permits	
parking@wigan.gov.uk	01942 488280
Covid 19 Support Line	01942 489018
Citizens Advice Bureau	0808 278 7801
Department of Work & Pensions	0843 515 8313
Universal Credit—New Claims	0800 328 5644
Be Well Wigan	01942 404220

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT JO PLATT, jo.platt.mp@parliament.uk

ELECTED COUNCILLORS

Atherton South & Liford Ward

John Harding	j.harding@wigan.gov.uk	07917 553527
Debra Wailes	d.wailes@wigan.gov.uk	07867 537477
Lee McStein	L.McStein@wigan.gov.uk	07864 618986

Atherton North

Stuart Gerrard	S.Gerrard@wigan.gov.uk	07368 163575
Jamie Hodgkinson	jamie.hodgkinson@wigan.gov.uk	07523 419344
James Watson	james.watson@wigan.gov.uk	07544 533636

AWARD WINNING TRADERS & RECOMMENDATIONS

AWARD WINNERS	FROM RECOMMENDATIONS
Electrician	Jeff Case 07784 328980
Aerials & Satellite,	Lowton 07707 252250
Plumbing	Zest 07857 333304
Drain Services	Atherton, 07733 211719
Tiling Services	Stephen Lyth 01942 791040
Garden Services	MLS 07927 960281
Driving School	GJM 01942 466309
Roof Repairs	Makerfield 07939 771477
Handyman	Leigh 01942 269178
Decorators	SMP, Leigh 07504 861813
Joinery & Building,	A M Joiners 07713 660470
Carpets	Carpet Corner 01942 873580
Signs & Graphics	Nexgen 01942 369905
Locksmith	Train Locksmith 01942 886452
Fencing	Bag Lane 01204 318949
Timber	Aldred 's Timber 01942 873330
Taxi	J R. Leigh 01942 681168
Outside Catering	Market Snack Bar 01942 871481

ATHERTON / TYLDESLEY EVENTS

Every Tuesday morning, FREE Coffee Morning at Atherton Chowbent

Chapel Hall 10-30 to 12-00

2ND Wednesday in Month, Forgotten Regulars, Dementia Group,

Union Arms, Tyldesley, 12-00 to 2-30

Last Wednesday in Month, Happy Timers, Tyldesley Methodists,

ring Marlene on 07734 070203 to book a place 11-30 to 2-00

February 25th “ WELL BEING INFORMATION EVENT “ at Howe Bridge

Leisure Centre, 10-00 to 14-00, 25 stalls including Health Checks,

Community Services, Volunteering Opportunities, Advise &

Information Services.