



Through God, We  
Love, Laugh and  
Learn.

# ST. MICHAEL'S CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL

Weavers Lane  
Stone  
Staffordshire  
ST15 8QB

T: 01785 334930

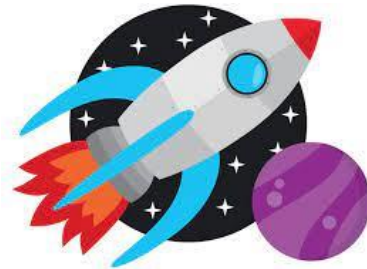
email: [office@st-michaels-stone.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-michaels-stone.staffs.sch.uk)

Twitter: @StMichaelsStone

**Headteacher:** Mrs J Wass BA (Hons) NPQH

7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Our Topic for this Half Term is Up,Up and Away



Happy New Year to you all. Thank you for your kind Christmas gifts.

Our new topic in Nursery for this half-term is called 'Up, Up and Away'. We will be learning about day and night, and thinking about what we see and do in the daytime, and in the night time. We will start to learn about animals and birds that are nocturnal and diurnal. We will also begin to explore Space.

In Literacy we will be reading stories linked to day and night, including 'Owl Babies', 'How to Catch a Star' and 'The Gruffalo's Child'. We will be learning more nursery rhymes and further developing our knowledge of phonics. The children are doing really well in our daily phonics lessons, following the Little Wandle phonics scheme. Don't worry if your child has only just started at Nursery, we always revisit and revise previously taught phonemes each week. Remember, we always send home copies of each week's phoneme and Nursery rhyme in your child's library bag for your information.

Please remember that Wednesday is Library day, please return your child's plastic library bag and book to change every week (if your child is not in school on a Wednesday we will still change their library book with them on the closest day that they are in school). Remember, we use your child's library bag to send home paper copies of homework ideas etc, so it really is important to make sure your child has this bag every week so that important information doesn't get lost.

New pictures for our learning wall will be sent out shortly in your child's library bag. Please think of something that your child has learnt, and something they would like to learn next, and return them to Nursery to share with our friends. Please share something that your child has learnt on the sunshine, and something that they are learning to do on the star.

Your child is welcome to bring show and tell in on a Monday or a Friday to help develop their communication and language skills. We will also continue to share pictures that you put on tapestry – your children really do love to talk about these with their friends. Remember to keep checking Tapestry for reminders, updates and useful information. The school office will still remain the main form of communication between home and school. We use Tapestry to share our learning each week.

In Mathematics we will be continuing to explore different 2D shapes and use them to create pictures. We will also be naming, matching and sorting shapes, and exploring 3D shapes. We will continue to practise saying number names in order, and using this to help us to count small sets of objects by touch counting - saying number names in order for each object that we touch. We will also be practicing our super subitising skills, learning to recognise groups of up to 3 or 4 objects without needing to count them. We will begin to look at making and continuing some simple patterns.

In Understanding of the World we will continue to explore our environment and learn to comment on seasonal change. We will be using descriptive language about the weather, participating in topic walks and commenting on observations of the world around us. Forest school will continue to be on a Tuesday morning, so don't forget we will still need wellies in school and puddle suits too if possible.

In Religious Education, we will be finding out all about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. As part of this we will be tasting different Chinese foods. Later in the term, we will be finding out about Shrove Tuesday and tasting pancakes. Please keep up informed of any changes related to allergies.

Physical Education (PE) will continue to take place on Thursday mornings in the hall, so please return your child's indoor P.E. kit as soon as possible: white t-shirt, black or navy shorts and joggers and jumper/ hoodie - plus socks if your child wears tights to school. Trainers aren't needed this term.

The cost of tuck is still 30p per day please (sent in a purse or envelope) and hot dinners are to be paid online as usual.

Thank you to all of the parent's that have been encouraging their child to come into Nursery on their own, it really does help us to get the children into Nursery calmly, as our cloak room is only small and can get very busy in the mornings. Please remember though, that we understand if your child is not yet ready to do this, each child will be ready in their own time.

Can we please remind you that all children should be in Nursery by 9am, so that the gates can be locked and the teacher on duty outside can get back promptly to their own class, and that our day's learning can begin.

Thank you for all your support.

The Nursery Team

