



Through God, We  
Love, Laugh and  
Learn.

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

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16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

## Happy New Year

We hope you had a lovely break over the Christmas holidays. We want to make sure that you have all of the relevant information that you need to know for spring term 2026.

### **What to Bring to School Each Day**

All children should come to school in school uniform and with a school bag. Pupils should pack a drink bottle (containing water only) and their reading folder, containing their reading book and diaries, every day. Please make sure all personal items and uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Reminder: Jewellery (apart from a **single stud** earring in each ear) should not be worn, although we would encourage the children to wear a wrist watch, as this helps with the teaching of time and is good preparation for middle school. Hair **must** be tied back at all times and any hair accessories need to be school colours (**blue/white**).

### **Topics**

We would be grateful if you could support your child's learning by discussing with them what they have learnt in school. If your child has any items or books that are linked to our topics that the children wish to share with the class, these can be brought in to show. These are the only items that should be brought into school to 'show and tell'.

Our topic for the whole of this term is 'Stone – somewhere to settle'. Throughout this topic, we will be looking at both the history and geography of our local area.

In Science, the children will be learning all about Sound; Data collection; Electricity; Energy. In RE, we will be studying a key, religious figure: Abraham and also, Attributes of God. In Computing, the children will be learning about the Programming – repetition and shapes and Data Logging.

In Music:

Year 3 children will be continuing to play Glockenspiels with a specialist teacher.

Year 4 children will continue to play the recorder during this term within their normal music lessons covering Developing Pulse and Groove Through Improvisation plus Creating Simple Melodies Together. Please ensure your child has their recorder in school every Friday.

### **Physical Education**

Our PE days are as follows:

- Indoor PE – Y4 Monday & Y3 Wednesday Afternoons – Dance
- Outdoor PE – Y3 Monday & Y4 Wednesday Afternoons – Ball skills then Football

Children are allowed to come to school on their outdoor PE day in their kits.

## **Forest Schools**

A text will be sent home when Forest School clothing is required.

## **Home Learning**

As a school, we believe that family time is extremely important and that onerous amounts of homework impact negatively upon this time. We do however recognise that it is important to prepare the pupils for the future, where there is an expectation for them to complete homework on a regular basis.

**Reading** – Daily reading with your child is vital for them to make the expected level of progress, both with their reading fluency and comprehension skills. Reading diaries should be completed each time you read with your child and should be sent into school daily. As part of our rewards, alongside other challenges throughout the year, children will be given two team points each week that they have read at home at least 3 times, 3 team points for at least 5 times and a gold star (worth 5 team points) if they have read every day. This must be recorded each time in their reading diaries. Class teachers will let your child know which day their reading diaries will be checked each week.

**Multiplication Tables** – The government expect all children to be able to recall their multiplication tables up to 12x12 by the end of their time in Year 4. These will be tested through the Year 4 National Multiplication check during the summer term. In preparation for this, all children in KS2 will complete a weekly multiplication test. Also, at home there is the TT Rockstars website – an online platform where children complete multiplication challenges to earn digital rewards. The site provides an excellent platform to prepare for the multiplication check and can be used at home (the same username and password used for Numbots in Year 2 works for TT Rockstars).

**Spelling** – Please help your child to learn their spellings over each half-term. These will be sent home and tested half-termly. We recommend that you choose 3-5 to focus on to begin with and then keep adding to these throughout the half term.

## **Year 4 only - Laches Wood Residential**

This term, Year 4 will be participating in the residential visit to Laches Wood (27<sup>th</sup> January 2026). This is an experience that the children enjoy and where they will make many life-long memories.

## **Communication**

If you have any queries or concerns about your child, then please speak to us in the first instance. Feel free to catch Miss Whitney, as Key Stage Lead, if it is one of her duty days on the gate. However, when in class we cannot hold discussions with parents at the start of the school day as we are supervising the children. It is possible to arrange a telephone call during the day for urgent issues and also to leave messages via the school office.

We are so looking forward to continuing to work with our wonderful Year 3 & 4 pupils. Please do contact us if you have any further questions regarding your child's time in KS2.

Yours sincerely

The KS2 Team

Map showing the position of Stone within the ST15 postcode district

