

To, all parents of our Foundation 1 children...

Welcome to Foundation 1...!

Your children have settled into school life incredibly well—and in such a short time. There are new teachers, new rules and routines and lots of new friends! It has the potential to be so overwhelming but your lovely little ones are taking it all in their stride and showing us what big boys and big girls they are! Myself and Miss Chloe are loving getting to know each and every one of your children and we look forward to continuing to do so.

Usually this half term, we would arrange to have a Stay & Play session to welcome you all into the classroom and show you how brilliantly your children are getting on in their new classroom... but unfortunately, like with many other things during this strange time, we are unable to do this. At this session we would usually take the opportunity to share some insight into the year ahead, so we hope this letter provides some useful information for you.

We have obviously also been unable to hold our usual 'Welcome Meeting' in which we would share with you what to expect for your child from their full year in Foundation 1 and the expectations that we have for your child, so I have outlined some main aspects of development that we will be working on and striving to achieve by the end of this year:

❖ **Independence** – we want to start hearing “I can do it myself”. This is music to our ears when children have the confidence in their own ability to have a go on their own! Whether it be taking off a jumper or zipping up a coat – we are aiming for your children to have more independence. We know it can be a difficult adjustment when you feel like your little one no longer ‘needs’ you for everything... but this just means that you are doing a great job in supporting their growth.

❖ **Emotional Resilience and Managing Behaviours** – being 3-4 years old can be a turbulent time emotionally. Your children are encountering and feeling new emotions daily. As their maturity develops, they will begin to learn how to manage their feelings and how to deal with new emotions. We support this development through our PSE learning.

❖ **Communication** – communication plays a key role in ALL of your child’s learning, The more effective the communication skills, the more successful the learning will be! Communication skills we will focus on are:

- increasing vocabulary
- improving understanding of language
- developing children’s use of language to express themselves

❖ **Physical Development** – when thinking about preparing your children for Foundation 2, we think about getting them ‘ready to write’. Learning to write is a massive task for such little people! But it is one that they will master in F2 with the correct preparation work. A crucial part of being able to achieve this task is being able to physically hold, control and manoeuvre writing equipment. We will be focusing on the development your child’s core strength and stability and the strength and control of their arm, shoulder and hand.

❖ **Phonics** – your child will be primarily learning and becoming secure in Phase 1 Phonics during their time

in F1. (At St. Michael's we follow the Letter and Sounds Phonics document). This means we will be developing and refining their listening skills. Phase 1 phonics learning is the precursor to being able to effectively read and write once they get to F2, so it is very important to lay the correct foundation work this year in order for your child to be able to cope well with the increased academic demand of Foundation 2 next year.

- ❖ **Maths** – This will be much more than learning to count out loud. Your child will be learning about the value of numbers, how they can represent number and how they can see number in a variety of ways. We especially focus on how and where we can see everyday maths in the real world. Another aspect of Maths we will explore is called Shape, Space and Measure. This is a much more language based aspect of Maths in which your child will expand their knowledge and vocabulary in relation to shapes, length, size, weight, etc.

I promise a Foundation 1 year filled as equally with fun as it is learning and we hope that you are as excited about what your child can achieve this year as we are! If you have any questions at all about the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

From, Miss Purdie xx