

25th November 2016

Dear Parents/ Carers

As you know, here at St Michael's we love to read! Throughout the next year we will be hosting a variety of opportunities and events for both you and your children to develop further a love for reading. We will keep you updated about termly events and hope that we have your full support to develop a 'reading culture' at our school.

We would like to know how you feel about your child's progression within reading and half of our parents will receive a reading survey attached to this letter. The other half will receive a general survey and we would ask you to please complete and return them. Please be as honest as you can when answering the questions, your feedback and opinions are vital to our schools progression.

Currently we are in the process of updating our school website where there will be a designated section for reading. Here you will find termly reading events, recommended books for your child's age, book reviews written by children and much more. In the meantime here are some recommended reads; perhaps children might like to add some of these to their letters to Santa!

Ages 0-5	Ages 6-8	Ages 9-11
Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet & Allan Ahlberg	The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton	The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken
The Jolly Postman or Other People's Letters by Janet & Allan Ahlberg	Five on a Treasure Island by Enid Blyton	Skellig by David Almond
The Snowman by Raymond Briggs	A Bear Called Paddington by Michael Bond	Carrie's War by Nina Bawden
Gorilla by Anthony Browne	The Milly-Molly-Mandy Storybook by Joyce Lankester Brisley	Millions by Frank Cottrell Boyce
Would You Rather? by John Burningham	Flat Stanley - by Jeff Brown	The Witches by Roald Dahl
Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell	The BFG by Roald Dahl	Once by Morris Gleitzman
		Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson

There are also a number of storytelling events going on around the city if you are looking for a festive family day out leading up to Christmas.

The Everyman Rock 'n' Roll panto Beauty & the Beast

Regular writers Sarah A Nixon and Mark Chatterton have adapted the traditional fairy tale that will be 'Simply the Beast' panto around! For more information go to <http://www.everymanplayhouse.com/whats-on/beauty-the-beast>

Tatton Park

Step in to the Christmas mansion and in to Roald Dahl's magical world as his extraordinary storytelling weaves itself through the grand staterooms and into the bustling servants' quarters. See their website for full list of events and dates:

http://www.tattonpark.org.uk/events_at_tatton_park/events_at_tatton_park.aspx

Christmas Launch Night at Anderton Boat Lift

Enjoy a fantastic night of festive, family fun on Friday 2nd December! Arrive at 6pm for a drink and tasty treat, before Story Time at 6.30pm! Listen to Able the Elf telling Christmas stories, visit the elves working away in the Toy Workshop and you might even spot Santa on top of the Boat Lift! Further information and directions can be found at:

<http://www.visitcheshire.com/whats-on/christmas-launch-night-at-anderton-boat-lift-p227521>

St George's Hall - Storytime with Santa

Story time with Santa is an interactive family show with Father Christmas and his Elf. Mixed with traditional and modern stories plus a song or two it's a fun experience for all the family. Every child gets the opportunity to talk to Santa and give him their Christmas wishes and receive a gift. Dates and tickets can be found at:

<https://www.ticketquarter.co.uk/Online/storytime-with-santa>

We hope you and your children can share the love of reading and look forward to updating you with more exciting events in the near future!

Yours sincerely

Miss Christie

Survey: Helping your child to enjoy reading

Questions about your child's reading

Name of child: _____

How old is your child? _____

1. How much does your child enjoy reading? (Tick one box only)

Not at all	A bit	Quite a lot	Very much

2. How often does your child read? (Tick one box only)

Every day	Once or twice a week	Once or twice a month	Never

3. Which of the following does your child read outside of school? (Tick as many as you like)

Websites		Magazines		Fiction		Poetry	
Newspapers		Factual books		Comics		Song lyrics	

4. How do you encourage your child to read? (Tick as many as you like)

Read to them		Discuss what your child reads		Play reading related games		Make a point of being seen reading at home	
Ask them to read to you		Buy books as presents		Through films and TV programmes		Encourage older siblings to support younger children	

Questions about your reading (parent/carer)

5. Which of the following do you read / would you like to read more of? (Tick as many as you like)

Newspapers		Magazines		Factual books		Fiction	
Poetry		Biographies/ Autobiographies		Travel books		Websites	

6. How often do you read? (Tick one box only)

Every day	Once or twice a week	Once or twice a month	Never

7. How often do you talk about reading materials at home to your child/ren? (Tick one box only)

Every day	Once or twice a week	Once or twice a month	Never

8. Would you be interested in getting involved in activities organised by the school in the following areas? (1 = very interested to 5 = not interested)

	1	2	3	4	5
Reading					
Television and film					
Arts and crafts					
Visiting the library					
Sports and fitness					
Cooking					
ICT					

Do you have any other interests not listed above?

9. Are you a member of your local library? (Circle answer)

Yes / No

Reading and our school

10. Do you think the school does enough to encourage your child to read for pleasure?
(Circle answer)

Yes / No

If your answer is no, can you explain why?

11. Would you like to get more involved in reading-related events and activities in school? (Circle answer)

Yes / No

12. Can you think of any activities you would like the school to organise to encourage your child to read more?

13. Is there anything that would make getting involved difficult for you? Are there any solutions the school could provide to help overcome these barriers?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey, your feedback is very important to us and to your child/children.