



Family Letter

FROM THE HEAD

Thank-you for all of your support again this term as we have faced a Covid-19 spike like none other to date. Yet again the children have shown amazing resilience and adaptability as additional protective measures were put into place. Whilst the Lichfield rate still exceeds the Staffordshire, West Midlands and England rate, we have no cases currently in school. The children have earned a well-deserved break from school.

As I write, the children are thoroughly enjoying Story Telling Week here in school. It was lovely to welcome Peter Chand back into school yesterday, who entertained the children with lots of interesting stories from The Commonwealth. Thanks to our wonderful PTA for funding Peter's visit to school. Tomorrow, weather permitting, the children will enjoy their own Commonwealth Games event and we are looking forward to hearing from Beth Cobden, Commonwealth Games gold medalist and England Roses Goal Defence, who will be launching our event virtually.

It's been a busy half term here in school. From tree dedications in the churchyard to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne, to Chinese New Year celebrations in Reception and Bikeability in Year 5, it has felt as if some normality has been returning to school. Next half term we have World Book Day and our Book Fayre to look forward to, alongside our school choirs taking part in Zimbe in Lichfield Cathedral. Year 4 will be entertaining us with their Easter performance and we look forward to finding opportunities to welcoming you back into school as parents.

Continued on page 14

Excited to learn with confidence together in God's hands.

TRACK AND TRACE

Should you receive a positive Coronavirus Test result for YOUR CHILD during the holiday period **YOU MUST CONTACT** Mrs Robertson on the out of hours number below. Please send a text to the following number:

07598 766041

Please give the following information:-

- Name of Child
- Date of Birth
- Class
- Date of Positive Test Result
- Date Child's Symptoms Started

THIS IS A NO RESPONSE NUMBER

RECEPTION

What a start to 2022! We are so proud of how the children have coped with all the disruptions this half term due to COVID. It is lovely to see both children and staff all back and well.

Useful links

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/bo8dr13/numberblocks-series-1-the-whole-of-me>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/chinese-new-year>

Journeys and Transport

Despite the disruptions the children have enjoyed our topic on 'Journeys and Transport'. We have shared some lovely books around the topic and the children have produced some fantastic writing, including labelling vehicles and writing about where they would go on their aeroplane. The children also had lots of fun going on train journeys in our new role play area.

Maths

In maths, we have been looking at objects, numbers and their parts and components; for example part of a car is the wheel.

Chinese New Year

The children all looked wonderful dressed in red to learn about and celebrate Chinese New Year. They tasted noodles, used chopsticks, wrote their name using the



Noodle tasting

Chinese alphabet and collaged a tiger.



YEAR 1

Toys of The Past and Future

During this half term, we have been very busy in Year 1 exploring toys of the past and the future!

We have really enjoyed bringing in our favourite teddies and sharing stories about the toys that our grandparents and parents played with when they were children.

In our lessons, we have looked at the materials that toys are made of and how they have changed over the years. We then created our own 'Peg Dolls' to show what we have learnt about old toys.

Towards the end of this half term, we have also been looking at Clockwork Toys, such as Jack-in-the-Box. We have explored how they work and used this to create our own poems about how these toys move. Some of the ideas from our poems were then used to help us create a dance inspired by Clockwork Toys, as part of our PE lesson.

Art

In Art, we have been learning about Pablo Picasso, Van Gogh and Georges Seurat and the different skills that they use to create pieces of art. We then used this knowledge to create our own work inspired by these artists.



Pablo Picasso



"We have really enjoyed bringing in our favourite teddies"



Georges Seurat



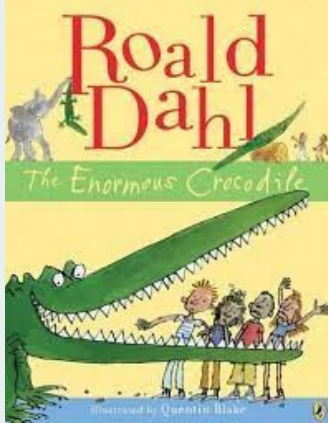
Van Gogh



YEAR 2

A Busy Half Term in Year 2!

It has been a very busy half term in Year 2.



“In English we have looked at the story of The Enormous Crocodile by Roald Dahl.”



English

In English, we have looked at the story of The Enormous Crocodile by Roald Dahl. We were thinking about the different characters in the story and were using lots of expanded noun phrases to describe them in our writing.

Geography

In our geography lessons, we have been learning about the different countries that make up the United Kingdom and we have also been learning about the different continents and oceans in the world.



PE

In PE, we have started to do tennis and have been practising our racquet control and have progressed onto hitting the ball at a target with increasing accuracy.



YEAR 2

Forest School

On a Thursday afternoon, some of us been having lots of fun at Forest School with Mrs Beddow. We have tied sticks together with ropes, made some fabulous dens and also made some clay gargoyles.



“We made some fabulous dens and also made some clay gargoyles.”

We even had a go at making some stretchers!



In class, when we have not been outside having fun with Mrs Beddow, the rest of us have been busy designing and making our very own bunting with Mrs Henson-Bailey and Mrs Kidner.

YEAR 3

Can You Feel The Force?

Year 3 have had a very busy half term with our new topic 'Can you feel the force?' We are enjoying reading Ted Hughes' 'The Iron Man'. We have loved learning about volcanoes in geography too; we used Google Earth to look at where volcanoes are around the globe and were astounded to discover so many!

Science

In science, we have been exploring forces and had immense fun experimenting with magnets and completing experiments to investigate friction.

The Stone Age

We also managed to combine our study of the stone age in history with art and created some amazing sunset images of Stonehenge, which we are really proud of.

Computing

Meanwhile, in computing we have been learning all about databases this term, and made our own 'Guess Who' games on BGFL.

We celebrated Safer Internet day in Year 3 by looking at what guidance we could give a visiting Alien to make sure we were all safe, happy and respected online.

See page 7 for more details.

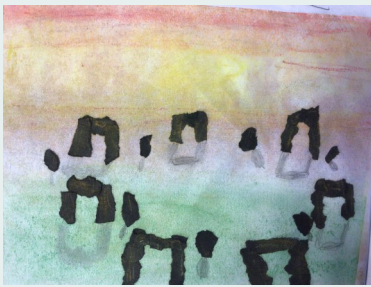
PE

Year 3 have also been particularly active this term and in PE have enjoyed gymnastics in the hall for the first time since lockdown. We have perfected our jumps, balances and rolls and worked well together to create our own routines. Both classes have enjoyed swimming too, where we have seen the childrens' confidence blossoming.

Story Telling Week

Finally, we have had a great time in story telling week, where our Year 3 Commonwealth nation was Jamaica.

In preparation for our commonwealth opening ceremony, we learnt some Jamaican dance moves, which was lots of fun. We made some amazing artwork and learnt lots about Jamaica and the other Commonwealth nations.



“Sunset images of Stonehenge, which we are really proud of.”



“In preparation for our commonwealth opening ceremony, we learnt some Jamaican dance moves, which was lots of fun.”

Safer Internet Day – 8th February
2022

All fun and
games?
Exploring
respect and
relationships
online



What guidelines can you give me to help everyone on Planet Gnimag feel **safe**, **happy** and **respected** when playing together online?



My guide on how to help everyone feel safe, happy and respected when gaming online

Make sure the games you play you are comfortable with.

DON'T friend people you don't know on games.

If something comes up on your screen don't press yes get an adult.

Make sure the games you play don't say rude words.

DO NOT spread you personal details online.

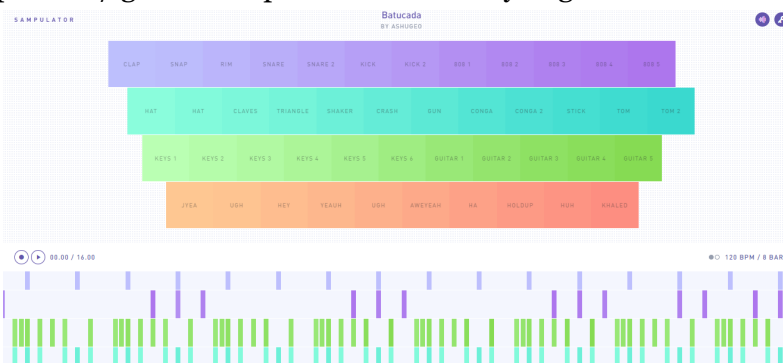
by Martha 3M

YEAR 4

Music

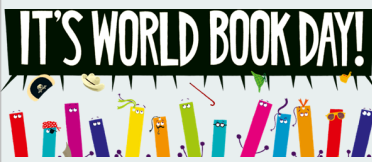
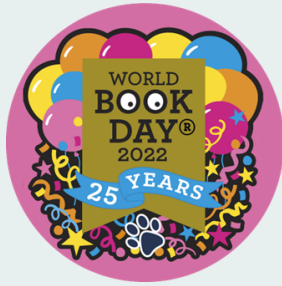
During our music sessions this half-term, we have been learning all about ostinatos (repeating pattern). Firstly we used our bodies to create some repeating sounds. We then moved onto making our music online.

The website we used was <http://samplerator.com/>. As you can see from the image, there are a variety of sounds for the children to choose from. They can build up their sounds by layering different tracks to create their own repeating patterns. Some of the children's work was especially pleasing; the sort of thing you might hear in the charts! Have a go at home at creating some more music and, who knows, we might hear you on the radio in years to come. Make sure that you have your parents'/ guardians' permission before you go online.



“Some of the children's work was especially pleasing; the sort of thing you might hear in the charts!”

YEAR 4



“It will take place on Thursday 3rd March – the first Thursday back after half term”



“We appreciate your patience with us as we try to navigate this event in a new way and look forward to welcoming you there.”

English News

World Book Day! Thursday 3rd March 2022

We are so excited to announce that we will be celebrating World Book Day in school once again and this year marks the event's 25th anniversary. It will take place on Thursday 3rd March – the first Thursday back after half term!

We invite all children to **come into school dressed as their favourite book character** and also encourage them to bring the associated book with them to school that day (only if they have a copy of course!). The children will have the opportunity to take part in some quality 'Book Talk' on the day along with some other exciting activities to celebrate all things books and stories.

If you'd like to find out more about World Book Day and the importance of the event in fostering a love of reading, scan the QR code with your phone camera and watch the video.



Scholastic Book Fair!

Thursday 3rd March – Tuesday 8th March 2022

Early March sees the exciting return of the Scholastic Book Fair at St. Michael's. Past events have proved incredibly popular with the children and the books on offer are carefully selected to be age-appropriate and appealing. Not only does the Book Fair encourage children to try a new author or genre, the school also receives commission from Scholastic to spend on other books for the children to enjoy too.

In order to keep everybody as safe as possible, this year the Fair will be set up on the foundation playground each day from 3:30 pm – 4:15 pm. We politely ask that parents and children line up along the colourful railings of the playground until being invited in by a member of school staff. If the weather is wet, the event that day will be cancelled - a text will be sent out by 3:00 pm if this is the case.

As with previous recent years, there will be the option to pay for the books by card and also online via smartphone by scanning a QR code at the event. If you wish to pay using cash this is of course accepted too.

We appreciate your patience with us as we try to navigate this event in a new way and look forward to welcoming you there.

YEAR 4

Luke Temple – Author Visit

Luke Temple visited school earlier this half term and brought his series of books to life with live workshops for children in years 1 through to year 6.

We were treated to live drama from Luke (with lots of funny wigs and voices), saw behind the scenes videos of his illustrator at work and even got the chance to meet him at a book signing event.

6 Book Reading Challenge

This term has seen the ‘6 Book Reading Challenge’ launched in year 4. All of the children are already up and running with one of the books and are enjoying exploring a range of titles. Throughout the rest of the academic year, pupils are encouraged to read their way through as many of the 6 titles as possible and they then have the opportunity to take an interactive quiz in school when they have finished each book.

We would like to note that these books are there to be enjoyed together with parents or older siblings – some of them may be quite a challenge to be read independently; we thank you for your support with this. There are plenty of copies of each book in school so there is no expectation for any to be purchased privately.

The books in the challenge this year are: Charlotte’s Web, Return of the 100 mile-an-hour dog, James & The Giant Peach, Dragon’s of Crumbling Castle, The Invisible Dog and Dominic’s Discovery.

Good luck with the challenge Year 4 and **HAPPY READING!**

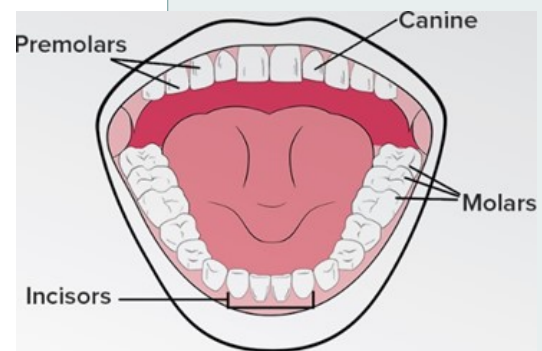
Science

We have had a very busy half term exploring two areas of Science: ‘States of Matter’ and ‘Teeth’.

In our states of matter learning, we have learned about the differences in particles within solids, liquids and gases and the processes each state goes through to change. We had so much fun conducting our own experiments to measure evaporation whilst taking care to make the test fair.



“The response was, in Luke’s words, “phenomenal”



Continued on page 13

*“The instructors
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*perseverance and
determination”*



*“Brooches were an
important item as
they showed status”*



*“We have built a
range of parachutes”*

YEAR 5

Bikeability

On the 6th and 7th January, Year 5 took part in their Level 2 Bikeability training. Despite the cold and wet weather, the children enthusiastically took part in activities related to bike maintenance and how to ride safely on the road.



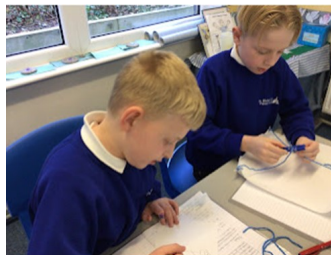
The instructors praised the children for their perseverance and determination and we are proud to say that all those who took part passed with flying colours!

Well done everyone.

Anglo Saxons

This term, Year 5 are studying how the Anglo Saxons lived and their influence on Britain. We have investigated place names and learnt what daily life was like for Anglo Saxons. After looking at the designs and decorations they used we have created our own brooches in clay. Brooches were an important item as they showed status and provided a fastening for clothing.

Science Investigation



Air resistance has been the focus of our latest Science investigation. We have built a range of parachutes in different sizes to answer the question:

Which is the safest parachute?

We have looked at how air resistance slows the parachute for a safe landing and how you can increase air resistance. We have also investigated friction on the soles of shoes and how sometimes friction is useful!

YEAR 5

Cooking in Year 5

During this half term we have been developing our culinary skills when we cooked vegetable quesadillas. After chopping, grating, frying and measuring we carefully seasoned and simmered our filling until it was the perfect consistency.

To complete our masterpiece, we filled wraps, added cheese and baked until crispy.

To the envy of all the other classes in the corridor, we tasted and evaluated our final product. We even asked a few members of staff to be our taste testers. Finally, we even washed up and cleared away!



“To complete our masterpiece, we filled wraps, added cheese and baked until crispy”.



YEAR 6

It has been another busy half term in Year 6! Here's a snippet of what we have been up to...



Junior Cadets Programme

We have started the Junior Cadets programme, led by a Police Community Support Officer from the Lichfield Police Unit. The course focuses on developing communication skills, building confidence and respect for others, understanding personal safety and the role of law in protecting communities and building a positive relationship with the Police. The children are really enjoying it so far and certainly have a lot of questions to ask, showing real interest in the life of a Police Officer!

Indoor PE

Indoor PE - We all love the apparatus at St. Michael's and Year 6 is no exception! The children have been focusing on moving across the apparatus safely, creating different shapes and routines, both individually and in small teams. We think we have some budding gymnast champions amongst us!



“We all love the apparatus at St. Michael's.

We think we have some budding gymnast champions amongst us!”

YEAR 4 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

In our teeth learning, we recapped our knowledge of the digestive system and how teeth play a crucial role within it. We have learned about the different functions of teeth, the different parts of a tooth and why it is important to take dental hygiene seriously. We even looked at the microevolution of wisdom teeth and how they have changed over time!

The unit ended with our own interesting experiment to test the impact that various liquids have on our teeth enamel. We submerged eggs into a variety of liquids (coke, milk, orange juice etc) for a week and made observations about what impact each liquid had on the condition and colour of the shell.

We made reasonable predictions, evaluated our results and were very surprised to see the damage that the sugary liquids had done!

Catapults Away!

Before Christmas, the children designed and created their own catapults in D&T as part of our Romans topic.

We had to use bowsaws safely and we learned very quickly that measuring accurately and patience was key to success. When we returned after Christmas, we had an amazing time testing the performance of our creations – some children managed a launch of over 10 metres!

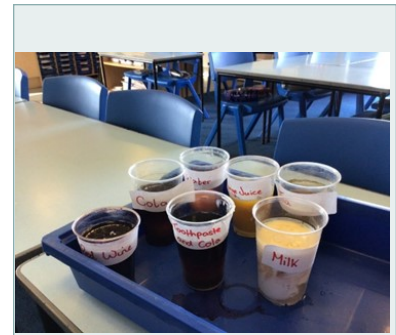
At the end of our Roman topic the children built their very own Mangonel (catapult). Initially, the children researched what a Mangonel was and this was particularly brought to life through the use of augmented reality (see photo opposite). Great fun was had and lots of new skills were learnt such as accurately measuring, sawing, fixing and problem solving.

Once all of the construction was complete, the children went outside to test their catapults. Each pair was given a unifix cube (maths cube) to fire as far as they could. Most groups managed to fire the cube several times before they eventually gave in to the strain being put on them. Quite a few teams managed to fire their projectile over 10m! Well done to everyone as a lot of perseverance was necessary in order to get a fully operational Mangonel out onto the test site.

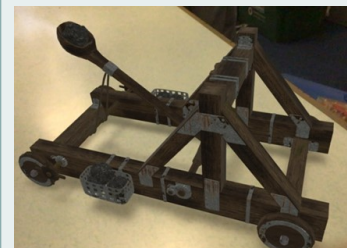
The website we used was:

<https://www.instructables.com/How-to-make-a-model-Roman-catapult/> .

If you do want to make another catapult, make sure that you have your parents'/guardians' permission and that they supervise you at all times.



“The unit ended with our own interesting experiment to test the impact that various liquids have on our teeth enamel.”



Mangonel (Catapult)

Useful Links

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z27kng8/articles/zsp76yc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHS27DHyIio>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkkg87h>



“St. Michael’s Church and local councillors dedicated a Hornbeam, a native English tree, as part of ‘The Queen’s Green Canopy.’”

The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

On Sunday 6th February, 2022 Lily, Finn and Oliver from our Year 6, led prayers at St. Michael’s Church Family Praise to mark the start of The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. To acknowledge the 70th anniversary of The Queen’s accession to the throne, the children joined members of St. Michael’s Church and local councillors to dedicate a Hornbeam, a native English tree, as part of ‘The Queen’s Green Canopy.’

The Queen’s Green Canopy encourages the planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen’s leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.



Continued from front page

We’re also delighted to announce the appointment of a new Rector for St Michael’s Church. Last Sunday the Churchwardens announced:

It is with great pleasure that we are able to tell you that Revd. Dr Abbie Walsh has accepted Bishop Clive’s offer of the position of Rector of St. Michael and St Mary Lichfield with St. John Wall. Abbie is at present in her 4th year of a curacy at St. Peter’s Collegiate Church and St. John’s in the Square in the parish of central Wolverhampton. Before her training for the ministry she worked as a GP in Stockport for some years. Those of us who were present at her interview saw that she had a real sense of vocation, not just to the ministry but also to our churches in the United Benefice. We look forward to helping and supporting her in her new role. We thank God for her and pray for her ministry among us.

Mr Jones and I had the pleasure of showing Revd. Abbie around school as part of her selection process and we are really looking forward to welcoming her to St Michael’s and working alongside her.

Mrs H Robertson—Headteacher



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THIS IS A NO RESPONSE NUMBER

St. Michael's CE Primary School
Cherry Orchard
Lichfield
Staffs
WS14 9AN

Phone: 01543 227425
E-mail: contactus@st-michaels-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk

Website: <https://www.st-michaels-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk>



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



DATE	EVENT	
Friday 18th Feb	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY STAFF ONLY	INSET DAY
Monday 21st Feb— Friday 25th Feb	HALF TERM HOLIDAYS	Inclusive
Monday 28th Feb	SPRING TERM (2) BEGINS	
Friday 8th April	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY STAFF ONLY	INSET DAY
Monday 11th April - Friday 22nd April	EASTER HOLIDAY	Inclusive
Monday 25th April	SUMMER TERM (1) BEGINS	
Monday 2nd May	MAY DAY HOLIDAY	BANK HOLIDAY
Monday 30th June - Friday 3rd June	HALF TERM HOLIDAYS	Inclusive
Monday 6th June	SUMMER TERM (2) BEGINS	
Friday 1st July	INSET DAY (all staff)	INSET DAY
Thursday 21st July - Monday 5th Sept (inclusive)	SUMMER HOLIDAYS (Including Jubilee Bank Holiday)	Inclusive

TERM DATES—ACADEMIC YEAR 2022

You can click on the link below for this year's term dates:

<S:\MIS Shared Documents\DOCUMENTS 2020-2021\Term Dates\Term Dates Autumn 2021 to Summer 2022.pdf>