

St Michael's CE Primary
School



Newsletter Date
Autumn 2, 2021



Please find a fully packed newsletter covering the learning and activities the children have enjoyed over the past half term.

We were so pleased to be able to welcome parents into school to see our Christmas performances and, with the help of technology, share our Advent Carol Service.

Even though we were unable to run our usual PTA Christmas Fayre, the PTA team brought a whole new activity to school and everyone was able to enjoy the St Michael's Santa Dash; as well as raising valuable funds for school, the children had a fantastic time.

Thank you to everyone who entered the Christmas Decoration Competition—we had some amazing designs.

Winners are:-

Sam G - Reception
Elise D (KS1)
Bertie M (KS2)
Amelia T (Upper KS2)



Wishing you all a very happy and safe Christmas and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Wednesday, 5th January 2022.

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TRACK AND TRACE

Should you receive a positive Coronavirus Test result for YOUR CHILD during the holiday period please contact Mrs Robertson (Headteacher) 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**

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

RECEPTION

Wow, what an exciting half term we've had in Reception. We are really proud of all the children for all they have achieved this half term. After returning from our half term break the children wrote about the fire-works they had seen and produced some wonderful firework pictures.



This term we have also done a lot of work about our feelings and emotions. We shared the story The Colour Monster, discussed how we feel in different situations and talked about and shared ideas of what we can do when we feel different emotions.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed Muddy Monsters each Friday. We've made dens, hunted for worms, balanced on logs and cooked up a storm in the mud kitchen, to name just a few of the



things the children investigated.

December saw the excitement of Christmas preparations. The children made some beautiful cards, calendars and presents with great care. They have learnt about Advent and the Nativity story and worked so hard to learn all their lines and songs to perform their own Nativity. It's safe to say the children made the whole audience smile! Well done Reception!

Parents thank you for all your support this half term. We wish you all a very happy Christmas!



YEAR 1

Visit to The Crib at Lichfield Cathedral

The children in year 1 were lucky enough to visit Lichfield Cathedral as a Christmas treat. It was lovely to see our beautiful Cathedral decorated and ready for Christmas! Throughout the morning, 4 groups from Year 1 had a guided tour of the Cathedral, which brought the story of the 1st Christmas to life. As part of our tour, we saw all the amazing Christmas trees - including a very special one, decorated by our friends in Year 6. We voted for our favourites ... don't worry Year 6, you got a few votes! We also had the opportunity to colour-in a Christmas decoration to take home. It was a lovely morning and we'd highly recommend visiting Lichfield Cathedral over this festive period. Thank you to all the parent helpers for joining us and, of course, all at the Cathedral for giving us this wonderful festive treat.



TTRockStars: Tops of the Rocks Autumn Challenge

Once again the St Michael's Mathematicians have been amazing in the Autumn term - amassing an incredible 687,970 points - the most points from any of the 10 schools involved in Lichfield! Well done 'Rock Stars' - the Spring challenge begins on 4th January so get practicing!



Year 4 have led the way with 4F scoring 308,680 (2nd in Lichfield) and 4G scoring 296,974 (3rd in Lichfield) and much of this is down to 3 of the top 4 rockers in the whole of Lichfield! A huge congratulations to Edward (4th with 95,784), Thomas (2nd with 126,982) and Oliver (1st with 136,272)!

Keep up the good work and I hope we can see another year group challenging the Year 4 dominance in the Spring Term!

USEFUL LINKS

Please see below link for dates of Cathedral events.

<https://www.lichfield-cathedral.org/advent-christmas/special-services>

YEAR 2

We have done a lot of research on dinosaurs generally and on our Dinosaur Day we had the pleasure of meeting this

giant T Rex, lots of different reptiles and amphibians that we were able to touch and we went excavating dinosaur bones!

We have loved taking part in our Christmas Production of 'Don't be Afraid' with all the lovely songs, costumes and acting.

We have loved our class reading book The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark by Jill Tomlinson and it was lovely to see Plop become more confident as the book progressed.

We have shown great skills at Hockey during our PE sessions and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves whilst completing the Santa Dash last week—thanks to the PTA for organising such a fun event.



INTERESTING LINKS

<https://www.dwaec.co.uk>

YEAR 3

Santa Dash

Year 3 children had a fabulous time taking part in the Santa Dash to begin our Christmas Celebrations in school. They looked wonderful in their Santa hats and were delighted with their medals too. Many thanks to the PTA for providing this for the children.

Lights, Camel, Action



Our Nativity this year bore a Strictly Come Dancing theme. The children (and in particular, Mrs Mack), had endless fun learning the dances. We were so proud of them as they showcased not only their ability as performers and singers but also their amazing dancing skills. Congratulations go to those children who were needed to 'step in' at the last minute too. What a wonderful group of performers they are.

Juggler

As with many things again this Christmas our 'party' day was slightly different to our usual disco dancing. However, the children were absolutely enthralled with the juggler who captivated both their attention and imagination. Again, many thanks to the PTA for providing this wonderful opportunity.



Christmas Forest School

Over the past term, Mrs Beddow has been taking small groups of children into Forest School to take part in a variety of activities. To finish off this term, the children have enjoyed hot chocolate and smores in Forest School this week. We would like to send our thanks to Mrs Beddow and Mrs Brown for enabling this to happen and for rounding off our Christmas celebrations nicely.



YEAR 4— A VERY BUSY TERM

As part of our learning focusing on 'Escape from Pompeii', year 4 enlarged and chopped up one of Christina Balit's intricate illustrations from the book and created our own mixed-media piece of art. Each member of the class had one tile to recreate using a range of papers and materials, paying close attention to the shapes, shades and textures in the original image. The final pieces are spectacular and all of the children should be proud of their resilience and patience when creating their piece of the puzzle.

The children are very much looking forward to singing in part of the Virtual Music Festival on Thursday and making Roman Catapults in our DT session during the last couple of days of term.

Year 4 had a great time last week designing, baking and decorating our Christmas-themed biscuits. We first did a tasting of some well-known biscuits to explore what textures, flavours and designs we like most before carrying out some market research to gauge people's preferences.

On the day of the bake, we learned all about how to bake in a hygienic setting and talked about the importance of working safely and sensibly. We really enjoyed measuring the ingredients, rolling and cutting out the dough and decorating them to make them look appetising. Eating them was the best bit though! Thanks to the lovely ladies in the school kitchen for all of their help with the baking on the day.



Useful Links

Baking for kids recipes

[https://
www.bbcgoodfood.com/
/recipes/collection/
kids-baking-recipes](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/kids-baking-recipes)

Escape from Pompeii
EBook

[https://www.south-
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204/22nd%20june/
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lish/892502AF530891
7B156DE586AF5D742
B.pdf](https://www.south-farnham.surrey.sch.uk/site/data/files/users/25/year%204/22nd%20june/eng-lish/892502AF5308917B156DE586AF5D742B.pdf)

Create a mosaic online

[https://
www.theedkins.co.uk/
jo/mosaic/
mklarge.htm](https://www.theedkins.co.uk/jo/mosaic/mklarge.htm)

YEAR 5—WRITTEN BY PUPILS

Rain Forest Day: On our Rain Forest Day in November, a real-life explorer came into school to teach us all about the rain forest. Sue, showed us a range of artefacts from the Amazon, Malaysia and The Democratic Republic of Congo. We got to see blow pipes



that are used for hunting and some of them are 10 or 11 feet long! There were also masks and weapons. One highlight was the rain forest creatures that we got to handle such as giant stick insects and tarantulas. Did you know that you have to talk quietly around tarantulas



because sound causes vibrations in the air that frighten them? We also did some close observational drawing, made jewellery and had our faces painted. It was an amazing experience and we learned some fascinating information.

Santa Dash: In the lead up to Christmas, all of Year 5 were invited to wear a festive jumper and take part in the Santa Dash. We were put in groups to answer a series of Christmas related questions. Each child got given a red and white Santa hat to help get into the Christmas spirit. After visiting all the control points and having our answers checked we got given a Santa Dash ticket along with a medal and a chocolate lolly.



Arts Award Project: Recently, Year 5 have been gathering information and ideas to use to decorate our 'Eco Bags'. We have been making stencils that we will use to put the designs on the bags using the colours of the Brazilian flag (yellow, white and blue). Afterwards, we will sell these beautiful bags to raise money for the charity 'Cool Earth' who support people in the rainforest to protect their environment.

Over the last few weeks, we have been working with Mr Ford to investigate how different countries represent Santa Claus. We have found out that some of the 'Santas' weren't that nice! He has helped us find out about famous artists who have drawn Santa such as Haddon Sundbloom. This artist worked for Coca-Cola and his art shows Santa in a red suit.

All the art work we are creating is being recorded in our Art Book as evidence towards our Art Award.

YEAR 6



Lichfield Cathedral Christmas Tree Festival

This year, we were lucky to be able to sponsor a tree and Year 6 were given the important task of making all the decorations which were displayed beautifully by our school representatives. They made salt dough from scratch (very messy!), moulded and decorated their baubles and wrote some fantastic poetry on the theme of *what Christmas means to me*. A big thank you to our wonderful kitchen staff for baking the decorations for us and to our fantastic teaching staff and cleaners for sorting out the aftermath of flour, salt and water! The whole of Year 6 also had the opportunity to visit the Cathedral to see our tree and the whole festival in its full glory. We had a lovely afternoon and the children's behaviour was said to be "exemplary" by one of the Cathedral stewards. Well done Year 6! Remember, the festival is on until early January so please visit if you can and vote for your favourite tree! The winning school receives £250!

YEAR 6

We really enjoyed our **Advent** service in Church this year which was inspired by COP26 and what we can do to look after our planet Earth. The children sang beautifully and with such enthusiasm. We were very proud of them. Despite some technical difficulties, we hope parents enjoyed sharing it with us.

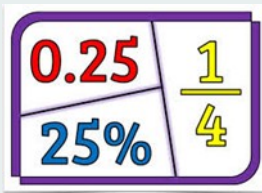


Remembrance To mark this important time, the children produced some beautiful artwork which you may have seen displayed in our classroom windows. Mr Hayward also kindly put together a worship recorded at the National Memorial Arboretum which we watched with great interest. Thank you, Mr Hayward!



English and maths learning

We have enjoyed our autumn term text *Kensuke's Kingdom* and have produced some super stories and art work using the text as inspiration. In maths, we have been focusing on fractions and decimals. Always a tricky one but the children have persevered and made some good progress in a challenging area of the maths curriculum.



READY STEADY READ

The results are in!

Ready Steady Read 2021

A **HUGE** congratulations to our winning class, **6L**, who have won this year's 'Ready Steady Read Challenge', racking up a collective total of over 13,000 minutes spent reading! They have won the prize of an additional £100 to spend on exciting books for their classroom.

Another huge thank you goes to all of you at home for helping to promote this event with your children too. We accumulated an impressive whole school total of over 70,000 minutes reading across the week and have received an incredible total of £6443 in sponsorship money (including Usbourne's 60% top-up contribution for passing our £600 target). This money will be spent directly on titles to support whole class reading and will help us to continue with our endeavour to ensure all books in school are appealing, age-appropriate and inspiring for the children.

A huge thank you to Mrs Walton who supported the school with this incentive and created an inspiring video to encourage the children to take part.

Thank you so much again everyone and well done!

If you would like to get involved in working with the PTA please join our Facebook group (St Michael's School PTA) or send us an email at stmichaels.pta@hotmail.com

FROM THE PTA

A huge thank you for all the fundraising this half term. In what continues to be changeable and difficult times, it really is fantastic. A special thanks to all of the PTA committee for giving up their time to help organise, attend meetings, bank and count cash, authorise spend, deliver things to school and promote fundraising within their classes. Thank you also to the office for co-ordinating everything and helping with enquiries.

The money the PTA raises really makes a difference to all the children in the school, please read on to find out how...

Fundraising activities

100 Club

Hope the lucky parents continue to enjoy their winnings. Thank you to Kirsty Bishton for her organisation skills.

Non uniform day

Thank you to everyone who helped us raise £270 by taking part in our Non-Uniform days.

Christmas cards

Thank you to everyone who helped us raise £412 for school and a special thank you to Rachel Snary for helping with this event and Geoff Williamson and Helen Peters for sorting all the orders into classes.

Raffle

Thank you to everyone who helped us raise £1,129 by taking part in our raffle. A special thank you to everyone who donated and sourced raffle prizes with some truly wonderful prizes – Claire and Andrew Kimberly a special thanks for getting so many great prizes. Thank you to Julie George, Katie Quantrill and Geoff Williamson for their help in running, distributing, drawing, counting coins and making everything legal.

Santa Dash

Thank you to everyone who helped us raise £1,008 by taking part in the school's very first Santa Dash. Thank you to Miss Lewis and Mr Hayward for organising the orienteering quiz. A special thank you to Dan Turner for his banner and Santa cardboard cut outs. Thank you also to Julie George, Katie Quantrill and Tom Chapman for making 419 medals and Kirsty Bishton for sourcing the chocolates.

Christmas Baubles

Thank you to everyone who created and made a lovely bauble for the tree. The tree looks fantastic. Winners to be announced this week. Thank you to Dave Wilkes who kindly arranged a donation of a Christmas tree for school.

How have the PTA funds been spent this term?

Purchasing the final class chairs so every child will have a new seat for learning.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Tuesday 4th January	INSET DAY—Staff Training NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL TODAY	All day
Wednesday 5th January	STAFF AND PUPILS RETURN FOR SPRING TERM 2022	
Thursday 6th January	Year 5 - Level 2 Bikeability	
Friday 7th January	Year 5 - Level 2 Bikeability	
Friday, 14th January	CLOSING DATE FOR RECEPTION 2022 APPLICATIONS (on line applications to Staffordshire County Council).	

To check what's on the menu you can go to our school website and click on 'More About Us' then 'School Lunches'.

<https://www.st-michaels-leighfield.staffs.sch.uk/home>

TERM DATES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022

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>

LOST PROPERTY—please help!

The problem of lost property isn't really improving. Children remove their jumpers during the day and if there's no name in them, it is absolutely impossible to return them to their rightful owner. This causes a huge build up of unnamed blue tops in the lost property boxes; similarly with coats, PE kits, lunch boxes and water bottles.

PLEASE , PLEASE mark your children's belongings even it's only with a biro to mark initials on the labels or similar. There is simply no other way of reducing the problem. There is literally hundreds of pounds worth of clothing being thrown away at the end of each term because we have nowhere to store it.

Thank you.

If you want to buy labels for belongings see below:-

Thinking about getting organised for September? You can help raise funds for school by simply ordering name tags.

Don't forget to add the school's ID number **30219** before you check out. This can be found at the bottom of the checkout page.

My PTA's schoolbag is a member of My NameTags

Thank you for your continued support.

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