



FROM MRS ROBERTSON ...

It has been an action packed half term with the children showing a real sense of 'Belonging', our core value for this half term. Whether in their full school uniform or their hoodied PE kits, the children wear their uniform with pride. It has been an absolute privilege to interview our Year 6 Head Boy and Head Girl candidates and I know that the staff involved in the interviews for House Captains and Value Ambassadors were also blown away by the children's confidence, passion and ability to reflect. Our Head Boy and Head Girl have already shared their views on school life with some of our prospective parents for next year. It is also joy to have such a fantastic team of Play Leaders who have been supporting our younger pupils at lunchtime. Thank-you Year 5 for volunteering and for those of you who have been invaluable helpers at the end of lunchtime each day. We really couldn't get the hall ready for afternoon lessons without your help. Our School Council are also back in action. Thanks to Mr Greenway for facilitating their meetings and enabling the children's views to be shared.

Thank-you to everyone who entered our school prayer competition. We're looking forward to sharing the winning prayers in our worships after half term.

In our classrooms there has been lots of exciting learning taking place and it is lovely to see the children confidently embracing all that comes their way.

[continued on page 3]

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

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>

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

LEADERS AND LEARNING AMBASSADORS

As the eldest children in school, Year 6 were given the opportunity to apply for the roles of Head Boy, Head Girl and House Captains. This was a tough process which required children to show commitment to the role by writing a personal statement, and also taking part in an interview with members of school staff. We were so impressed by the quality of the applications - the staff involved had a very hard time making the decisions of who would take on each role. During the process, a number of children also shone out as courageous advocates for our school values. After discussions, we felt it would be appropriate for these children to take on the roles of Value Ambassadors within school. Therefore, we would like to introduce to you our team of Pupil Leaders 2021.

Thank you to everyone who applied.

LEADERS AND VALUE AMBASSADORS

St. Michael's Pupil Leaders




Head Boy
Will



Head Girl
Lily



Wedgwood



Anson



Tom and Izzy




Fynn & Mia




Mitchell Johnson




Harry and Gracie




Oliver and Freya




St. Michael's Value Ambassadors




Belonging - Elysia



Belonging to me means wherever you go there is a place for you to share your feelings. Belonging means there is always someone to help you.

Perseverance - Zain

Perseverance to me means not giving up and keeping on trying. You might have to have perseverance in sports to keep on going until the end of a game.

Friendship to me means being selfless and kind to others. Friends are supportive and loving to others.



Friendship - Maizie-Rai

Respect - Hayley



Respect to me means being kind to everyone and understanding other people's opinions.

Courage - Maisie

Courage to me means that you are not scared to do something, and if you are scared, to try not to hold yourself back from



Forgiveness to me means not holding on to disagreements with people. Forgiveness means not arguing, and forgetting about something and moving on.



Forgiveness - Tom

OUR SCHOOL PRAYER

A big thank you to all the children who took part in this year's School Prayer Writing Competition. It was very hard to choose with so many thoughtful prayers written by you all; thank you so much. Three prayers have now been chosen, so well done to Charlotte, Thomas and Sam. Your prayers will be displayed around school and used in worships for the rest of the school

[continued from front page]

Our Reception children are settling in and Year 1 even managed to visit Packington Farm. Year 3 created some beautiful flower arrangements for Harvest Festival in St Michael's Church. In spite of having to return to year group bubbles, the children are as enthused as ever.



We have lots of exciting plans for next half term which, if necessary, we can adapt to ensure that the children experience a full and varied curriculum. We're looking forward to our Ready, Steady, Read event (see later in the newsletter for more details) and our creative PTA have lots of ideas as we approach Christmas. We are very grateful for their energy, enthusiasm and creative thinking.

Thank-you for all of your on-going support, especially during the last three weeks as we have adapted to requests from the Local Authority to implement protective measures. We really do appreciate your understanding. A separate letter will follow with arrangements for after half term.

Today we say a very fond farewell to Mrs Manton, who has been a fantastic leader of the office team for the past 12 years. I am sure you will join me in wishing her a long, happy and healthy retirement. I am also delighted to announce that Mrs Friend will be taking over as our Office Manager from after half term. Please be patient with us as we make the transition.

I hope that everyone has a restful and relaxing half term. The children have earned a rest.

Foundation Stage Prayer

Dear God

Thank you for looking after the children.

Thank you for the toys we play with.

Thank you for the food we eat.

Thank you for everything.

Amen

Key Stage 1 Prayer

Dear God

Thank you for our family and friends and our teachers who help us to learn.

Thank you for our food that keeps us healthy and our toys that keep us entertained.

Thank you for the sun so we can go outside.

Amen

Written by

Key Stage 2 Prayer

Dear God

We thank you for our school.

We thank you for all the teachers and staff who work here.

We thank you for all the children who study here.

We pray that our school is full of joyfulness, creativity and learning.

We shall make it a place where we love to learn and where the teachers help us learn to love.

Amen

Written by
Sam, Year 5

RECEPTION



What a busy first half term we've had in Reception. The children have all settled into their new classes very well and have got to grips with all the new routines. We have learnt a lot about each other as part of our Me and My World topic and we have especially enjoyed sharing your All About Me collages. Thank you to everyone at home for your support with creating these. This term the children have enjoyed making new friends and exploring lots of fun activities in both our indoor and outdoor classrooms. The children have been developing their sharing and turn taking skills through a range of different board games, joining in with our daily phonics sessions and participating enthusiastically in our Wiggle Wednesday and Funky Friday Dance sessions. We have also started our weekly music sessions with Mr Walters and we hope you enjoyed the children's Harvest song.

We look forward to seeing what the next half term has in store. Enjoy your break Reception.



FARM FACTS

Did you know? Pigs roll in mud to protect them from the sun so while we may put sun-cream on, pigs just cover themselves in mud!

Did you know? Sheep have excellent memories; they can remember the faces of humans and other sheep for years.

If you'd like to know more about Packington Farm and the work Farm Link do with the community, follow the link <https://www.farmlink.org.uk/>



BAKE AT HOME



If you'd like to try baking some gingerbread men at home, here's the website. Happy baking.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/gingerbread_men_99096

YEAR 1

Packington Farm Trips wb.4.10.21

1G (Monday) and 1D (Friday) had a great time at the farm. For many of the children, it was their first school trip and, in some cases, their first time on a coach so we were all very excited before we had even got there! Throughout the day we had lots of fun meeting the animals and learning all about what happens on the farm. We built dens, went on an animal trail, planted seeds and learnt all about what the farm grows and how they turn it into the food and ingredients we may have at home. A big thanks to Jules and Roy for a lovely day out for each class and well done to all the children in Year 1 who represented the school positively on their first (hopefully of many) school trip!



Year 1 Gingerbread Biscuits

As part of our 'Once Upon a Time' topic and to help with our learning about verbs, we have been baking gingerbread biscuits in Year 1. We, of course, shared the story of the Gingerbread Man (and the Ninjabread Man) then we focused on the verbs used to turn our ingredients into delicious gingerbread biscuits. We had great fun cracking, mixing, weighing and kneading and most of all eating (or should we say devouring!) The hands-on experience meant the children did some super instructional writing using the verbs we had experienced in the baking process. Well done Year 1!



YEAR 2

During this half term we have been very busy in Year 2.

In English we began the half term by reading the book 'Dinosaurs Love Underpants' by Claire Freedman and we described some of the different characters in the story. We also read 'The Bear and the Piano' by David Litchfield and described some of the different settings that appear in the story like the amazing New York City. Towards the end of this half term we have started to read 'The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson and we have been exploring the main character, Plop, and are starting to understand why he is so frightened of the dark.

During this half term, we have also been learning about some different dinosaurs during our Topic lessons on a Monday afternoon. The dinosaurs we have been learning more about have been T – Rex, Tylosaurus, Spinosaurus and Anchiornis.



On a Thursday afternoon, some of us have been having lots of fun at Forest School with Mrs Beddow exploring a variety of natural colours and making dens for people and animals. We have also been discovering the different mini beast habitats. In class, when we have not been outside having fun with Mrs Beddow, the rest of us have been busy making some fantastic owl bowls out of clay with Mrs Henson – Bailey and Mrs Kidner.

On the weeks when we have not been completing Forest School activities, we have been busy having a fantastic time during our music sessions with Mr Walters whilst we have also been enjoying doing Yoga Bugs with Mrs Steele.

DINO FACTS

We used the following websites to learn more about dinosaurs.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/prehistoric>

<https://www.kids-dinosaurs.com/dinosaur-facts.html>



There are 5 other books in this series which are suitable for children aged 7–9. Why not have a look at other stories in this series?

YEAR 3—USEFUL LINKS

Human Body (KS2)
BBC bitesize

[https://
www.bbc.co.uk/
bitesize/topics/
zcyycdm](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcyycdm)

You can explore bodies
and bones on Discover
Espresso, including:

Match the bones snap

[https://
app.discoveryeducation
.co.uk/learn/player/
bc1d7a00-5e57-4dad-
811b-3666022cb562](https://app.discoveryeducation.co.uk/learn/player/bc1d7a00-5e57-4dad-811b-3666022cb562)



YEAR 3—FANTASTIC

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the year. All have settled in really well and we have all enjoyed learning all about first topic, Bodies and Bones. We definitely have some experts and future doctors in the making amongst us! Alongside this topic we have enjoyed reading 'George's Marvellous medicine' and have completed some amazing work using this as a text. Both classes loved making their own marvellous medicine and we had lots of excitement as it fizzed and overflowed!



As well as mastering their dance moves as part of indoors PE, year 3 have also enjoyed developing their Tennis skills, courtesy of Tennis sessions with Dan from Micro:Sports . We learnt new skills by playing games that perfected our techniques and volleys.

In our IT lessons this term, the children have shown their talents for computer programming and their ability to debug programs. They even learned how to create a 2-way conversation on J2Data, with a fantastic programme where 2 characters tell a joke. They were very funny indeed!

Finally, one of the highlights for this term for the children was when they showed off their creative skills whilst making flower arrangements for the harvest festival at St. Michael's Church with the help of some lovely ladies from the Church. They enjoyed selecting their blooms and making their own beautiful creations—they were clearly very proud.

We have had a great first half term and wish the children a restful break.



YEAR 4

Exciting PE Lessons

We have had an incredibly exciting start to our PE lessons in year 4 this academic year. On a Wednesday afternoon, during our indoor games slot, we have been developing our own street dance jams. We watched some professionals in action, learned some individual moves and then incorporated these into our own routines. We learned the importance of freeze frames, being in sync and repetition. We showed great courage when performing these jams in front of our peers.



On a Friday afternoon, we have taken part in some tennis coaching sessions to develop our skills and technique. It started with throwing accuracy and slowly progressed to serving and rallying over a net. We had great fun and lots of us have said we want to continue outside of school.

Rotten Romans!

We have had great fun learning about the Romans this half term and started the year by placing the key years of the Roman Empire on a giant timeline. It was interesting to see where it fit in with the Stone Age and Ancient Greeks which we learned about in Year 3. After that, we have looked in depth at Roman armies and what the soldiers wore, created 3-D fact files on the colossal colosseum and researched some famous (and unique) emperors. After half term, we are excited to learn more about Emperor Claudius who successfully invaded Britain and look into how this changed our country.



TERRIFIC Times Tables!

The children have been working incredibly hard on their times tables this half term and are leading the way in the 'Lichfield Schools Autumn Competition'. 4F and 4G are currently sitting healthily in first and second place out of EVERY class in Lichfield schools – WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT CHILDREN! Keep up the great work – you're all times tables wizards!

Position	Class average / user
1	6,950
2	5,004
3	4,576
4	2,544
5	2,023
6	1,649
7	1,520

Interesting Links

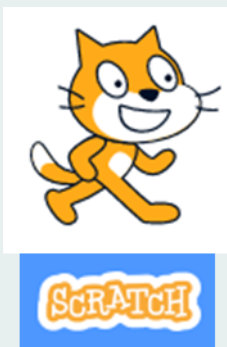
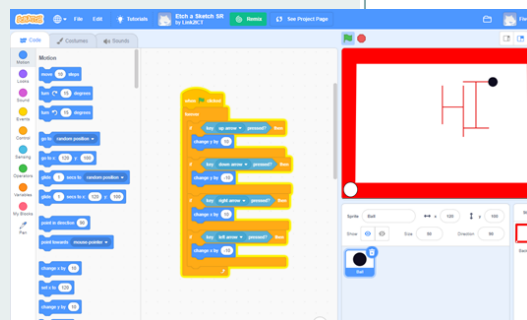
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwmpfg8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-x74MFiWkg>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/>

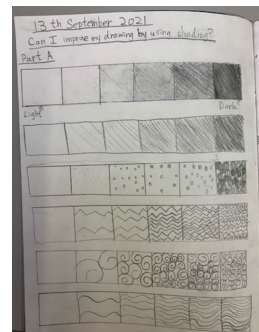
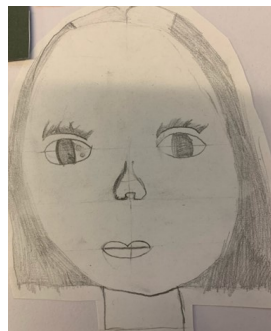
Computing

We have been showing off our skills as game designers in computing this term. We have created our own games using Scratch which is a block coding program. Creating code to control a character (sprite), designing a backdrop and de-bugging are some of the skills we have developed and used in our games.



YEAR 5 - ARTS AWARD

In Art this year, Year 5 will be working towards their Arts Award. This qualification is achieved by completing art activities using different mediums, reflecting on their own art journey and researching the work of other artists. We have already used different techniques and skills in sketching and are creating 'All About Me' collages.



YEAR 5—PLAY LEADERS

In Year 5, we have recently been given the opportunity to volunteer to become playleaders at lunchtime. Quite a few of us have now spent some time helping the younger members of our school to learn new games and have fun at lunchtime.



YEAR 5 - CLASS READING

Journey to the River Sea

In year 5 we have been reading a book called Journey to the River Sea which is written by the author Eva Ibbotson. It is a true to life story set in the early 1900s. The main character is a young girl called Maia who is an orphan. One day she finds out that she has relatives who live in the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil. Her journey takes her from London, where she leaves her friends at the Academy to Liverpool where she and her governess, Miss Minton, board the Cardinal set for Manaus.



The book is true to life and has raised many themes including: loss, journeys into the unknown, selfishness, racism, deception, over-coming barriers and much more. We are really enjoying this book and each page turn brings new discoveries and excitement.

READY STEADY READ!

Friday 5th November – Friday 12th November

Here at St. Michael's, we will be running a sponsored read event to encourage children to read and explore new books and titles. Your children will each come home with a sponsorship form and reading log on the first day of the challenge (Friday 5th November) and will have one week to read as much as they can. Anyone can sponsor them and all of the money raised will go towards books for our school. We will be opening ParentPay for you to donate your sponsor money—details of which will following after half term. Usborne will even give us additional free books based on the amount of money our pupils raise! An additional prize will also be awarded to the class in school who reads the most in the week.

Further information about this event will follow in the first week after half term and keep your eyes peeled for the printed letter, sponsor form and reading log required to participate. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Mr Freeth.



USBORNE'S SPONSORED READING CHALLENGE
Ready Steady Read!

Up for a Challenge?

Take part in our
Ready Steady Read
from 05/11/21 to 12/11/21

GET SPONSORED, GET READING
AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE!

YEAR 6 - BUSY FIRST HALF OF THE TERM

Year 6 have had a busy start to the year already. Within our class topic of Amazing Journeys, we have been learning all about Italy. We created fact files to present our knowledge, including the method for making olive oil (it made us very hungry!).

During our PE lessons, we have been learning about dances from around the world, starting with Morris Dancing from England and The Tarantella Dance from Italy. Interestingly, we learnt that the tarantella dance originated as a way to rid poison from the body after a spider bite.

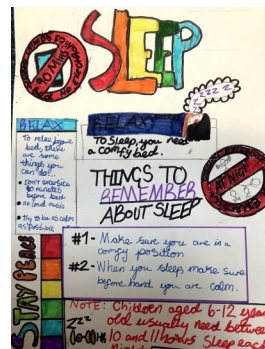


In our outdoor PE sessions, Ultimate Frisbee has been our new challenge - learning a forehand and back-hand pass, as well as learning some basic rules of Ultimate Frisbee.

Our first RE topic has been The Story of Creation. This has inspired lots of discussions and deep thinking about how the creation story and cosmology can explain different aspects of our world. To share our learning about this, we wrote poems about The Creation Story.



During PSHE, we have been discussing what our bodies need to stay healthy, particularly looking at why sleep is important. We created our own posters sharing our top tips for good sleep.



2 Skip counterclockwise while tapping your instrument. The first move in the tarantella is to travel in a counterclockwise circle. Skip in time to the beat for 16 counts (2 x 8 counts). Tap your percussion instrument in time to the beat.^[11]

Other events/fundraising – coming soon

We have been busy collecting raffle prizes for the Christmas raffle and there are some goodies (swimming lessons or a night in a hotel with breakfast anyone??) so look out for that after half term.

Thank you to the committee for gathering prizes and to Julie George and Katie Quantrill for organising.

We also are planning to offer the Christmas Eve activity packs again so look out for the pre-order information coming soon. Thank you in advance to Rhiannon Gallen for organising.

Anyone fancy being a Father Christmas helper and helping the Round Table visit the houses around school? Keep your eyes open for how you can help.

Fingers crossed we can also run the postponed Autumn disco in the Spring term.

How can you get involved?

If you would like to hear more about what your PTA do, and how to get involved please join our Facebook group (St Michael's School PTA) or send us an email at stmichaels.pta@hotmail.com

FROM THE PTA

Well this half term has flown by and the PTA have been busy! We've already funded and taken delivery of 240 new chairs. We are also busy behind the scenes planning the Christmas parties for the children and some other Christmas events (details to be announced soon) and we've committed to funding the Storyteller after Christmas. Thank you to Dave Wilkes who has also kindly arranged a donation of a Christmas tree for school.

The money the PTA raises really makes a difference to all the children in the school, so we just wanted to say thank you for all your support with all our fundraising activities especially over the last 18 months. Thank you also to members of staff and the parents who help with setting up and running of the events and fundraising ideas – we couldn't do it without you.

Smarties challenge

Thank you for everyone who collected spare change over the holidays. We raised over £500. Thank you to Geoff Williamson for counting so many coins.

Welcome events

Thank you to Reception and Year 1 for coming to our welcome events. We enjoyed welcoming you to the school and seeing the children so happy. Year 1, we hope the magician helped to make up for the delay to your welcome event. Thank you to the committee for organising, doing a booze run, arranging a float and for giving up your Friday nights. You are awesome!

100 Club

Our 100 club is now full and the draws have recommenced, hope the lucky parents enjoyed their winnings. Thank you to Kirsty Bishton for her organisation skills.

How can you help support the PTA over half term?

Black Friday or early bird Christmas shopping..

The PTA is registered with Amazon Prime and Easy Fundraising so please select us as your charity and the PTA will get some funds directly.

Non uniform day

Please take part in our Non-Uniform days on Tuesday 2nd November (Reception, Year 1,2,3,4 and 6) and Wednesday 3rd November for year 5. Please donate on ParentPay.

Christmas cards

We hope everyone has come home with their Christmas Card forms and are thinking about their designs. Please can everyone bring these back into school by 5th November and give them to your CLASS TEACHER (not the office). Thank you to Rachel Snary for helping with this event.

LIGHT PARTY!

Alternative Halloween!

St. Michael's Church

4.30 - 5.45pm

Sunday Oct 31st

Free! Craft, food, bible story, songs, pumpkins!

DRESS SPARKLY OR SUPERHERO!

(nothing scary!)

LIGHT PARTY!

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-litchfield.staffs.sch.uk/home>

PTA

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 subscription is a member of the NameTag ordering system.

Thank you for your continued support.

St Michael's C.E. (C) Primary School, Suggons Hill, Litchfield, Staffordshire, WS14 3AW
Head teacher: Mrs Helen Robertson Tel: 01543 327425 Fax: 01543 510782
Web: www.st-michaels-litchfield.staffs.sch.uk
Registered Charity no: 1122924

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Monday, 1st November	AUTUMN TERM 2 BEGINS	
Wednesday 10th November	Year 2 Dinosaur Day	All day
Thursday 25th November	Year 5 Rainforest Roadshow	All day
Tuesday 7th December	Flu Vaccinations—Whole School	All day

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>

HELP US WITH LOST PROPERTY

A huge thank you to parents who have been able to name their children's belongings—it really does help us keep down the enormous and growing amount of lost property.

Pictured here is the lost property that is unnamed so there's no possibility of reuniting it with its owner! If unclaimed, we have to dispose of it and it really is such a shame.



Even if you haven't ordered name tags for your children's belongings, please just biro a name or initials into the label—it really does help us reunite stray belongings.