



# Family Letter

19TH JULY 2019 — SUMMER 2

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## UNIFORM

If you need to purchase school uniform over the holidays, the providers are Uniform Plus.

## A Fond Farewell to Year 6



Y6 enjoying a fantastic trip to London

After surviving SATs Week, the long awaited trip to London had finally arrived. Early on Wednesday morning, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019, we gathered at Lichfield Trent Valley station to board the 9.01 am train. The sleek Virgin train arrived bang on time and we all climbed aboard, found our seats and settled in for the short 1 hour and 10 minute journey to London Euston. During the journey, we even used the toilets and they spoke to us!!

An interesting journey on the London Underground followed and we emerged into the glorious sunshine of Green Park. We strolled past Buckingham Palace, waving at the Queen as we went by. As we continued our walk through St. James's Park, we entered into Horse Guards Parade to the spectacle of the mounted Horse Guards soldiers preparing

for their march to the Palace.

Upon arrival at the London Eye, we boarded the 'Silver Bonito' and sailed along the River Thames listening to a fascinating commentary about the famous iconic landmarks. At last, the time for lunch had arrived – what a brilliant picnic spot under the London Eye.

A short walk took us to our final destination: The Lyceum Theatre. 'The Lion King' was amazing – brilliant choreography, stunning sets and fantastic costumes. No wonder this show has won so many awards!

Our day drew to a close as we returned from Euston back to Lichfield Trent Valley, tired but with so many memories to share with our families. What an unforgettable day.

## REMINDER

SCHOOL OPENS FOR THE AUTUMN TERM ON  
WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2019

St Michael's: 'excited about learning'



# Headteacher's Report

Wow! What a year we have had! It has been a fun filled, action packed year full of achievements, experiences and courageous advocacy. The children have more than lived out our core purpose of being 'Excited About Learning' and have modelled our values of belonging, friendship, forgiveness, respect, courage and perseverance. They should feel extremely proud of all that they have achieved and deserve a very well earned summer holiday.

This weekend sees the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first landing on the moon. What a leap of faith Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins took when they headed off on the Apollo 11 mission. Our Year 5s experienced the 'leap of faith' during their trip to Whitemoor Lakes earlier this term and our Year 6s will take their own as they move on to pastures new. They have been an exceptional year group who have given so much to the school and I wish them every success for the future.

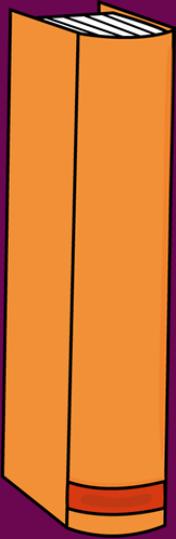
This half term we have been focusing on courageous advocacy as a school, particularly in our school worships. As courageous advocates we have challenged ourselves to think about disadvantage, deprivation and the exploitation of the natural world. We are also beginning to think as a school about how we can challenge injustice and inequality. Thank you to everyone who sent in food for the Lichfield Foodbank. We aimed to provide 475 meals for the Summer holidays as on average 3 families have required the support of the Foodbank each day in the last 12 months. Our new House Captains helped to deliver the food to the warehouse and saw its workings first hand. They will share this with the rest of the school early next term, when hopefully we will know how many meals we provided.

During our Kenya Day, we learnt more about the Victory School, Kadawa Village who we have been supporting for a number of years now. You can find out more later in the newsletter, but this is a great opportunity for our children to learn about a community in a very different part of the world.

Our School Council have been amazing courageous advocates, challenging the way we think about our natural world and have charged us all to avoid single use plastics. They have had the bit between their teeth now for several months and led an inspirational whole school worship on plastics. The session had such an amazing impact that their fame spread and last Sunday they led part of the Family Praise Service in Church, challenging members of St Michael's Church to reconsider their use of plastics. The congregation were blown away by the children's message, their passion and their confidence. They were fantastic ambassadors.

We say farewell to two established members of our community this week: Mrs Jones, a wonderful Teaching Assistant who has given greatly to the school for many years and 'Sam' our fantastic school crossing patrol warden. They will both leave huge holes in different ways and we wish them both every happiness in the next chapter of

Continued on page 4



## Children invited to join Space Chase at Staffordshire Libraries

Staffordshire libraries are calling for children to sign up to read six books this summer as part of Space Chase, Summer Reading Challenge 2019.

The Summer Reading Challenge asks 4-11 year olds to borrow and read any six library books over the summer. The theme for the 2019 Summer Reading Challenge is Space Chase, inspired by the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first moon landing.

Children will team up with futuristic family The Rockets for an exciting space mission as they track down books nabbed by a mischievous band of aliens. As children read library books for the Summer Reading Challenge, they will receive special stickers, some with mysterious smells. By adding these stickers to their collectable mission folders, young readers will help the Rockets solve clues, dodge asteroids and discover the missing books, having lots of fun and adventures along the way.

To take part in Space Chase, all children need to do is sign up at their nearest library, where they will be given a FREE collector folder to keep a record of their Summer Reading Challenge journey.

Space Chase launches in libraries across Staffordshire Libraries on Saturday 13th July and runs until 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

There's a whole programme of events and activities planned at Staffordshire libraries for families over the summer to celebrate the Summer Reading Challenge, including events at Lichfield Library including finding out about animals in space with Zoolab, Space ice cream with the Fizz Pop Science Co. and a Space camp. For more details pop into the library for a leaflet or see our events page <https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/scc/eventscalendar/>

## Parent Information Events

### **IMPORTANT: Parent Information Events—Diary Dates**

Please come along to any of the meeting dates below when you will have the opportunity of meeting your child's new class teacher.

We will share with you our Curriculum expectations for the year, along with ideas about how you can support at home.

<i>Years 5-6</i>	<i>Monday, 9th September</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>
<i>Years 3-4</i>	<i>Tuesday, 10th September</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>
<i>Years 1-2</i>	<i>Wednesday, 11th September</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>

Anyone who wasn't able to make the above dates:

Thursday, 12th September      3.30—5.00pm

[From the Headteacher continued ...]

their lives.

Finally a big thank you to you as parents for all that you do. We could not achieve the wonderful things that we do without your support. A special thanks too to our wonderful PTA who provide lots of extras, which in this time of austerity, are hugely appreciated by us as staff.

Have a wonderful Summer and I look forward to working with you all again next year.

## Times Tables Rock Stars

### Summer Holiday Challenge—Boys vs Girls

We have set-up a challenge to keep your times tables skills ticking over - during the long hot summer! Who will win Team Girls or Team Boys? Who will be the individual highest scoring rock god and rock goddess? Join in the fun and log-on to Times Table Rockstars!

Your rock band needs you!

P.S. 2018/19 Year 6 children feel free to join in!



## Superhero Day

On Tuesday the 9th July, Year 2 were joined by Dantastic Education who helped us enjoy Superhero Day at school. We all dressed up as a favourite superhero and, through a series of really exciting workshops the

children learned about lots of historical superhero characters which we hope will have inspired the children's literacy skills and sparked creative imaginations. We were joined by Aqua Dan who shared lots of really interesting facts about all the different superheroes, their powers and weapons. Thanks to all parents for supporting this event.



# Carousel

Wednesday, 26th June saw our 5th Carousel Concert. It continues to be a fabulous musical event seeing children who play musical instruments and choir members taking part in an amazing show of musical talent and harmony.

Thank you to everyone—children, staff and peripatetic teachers for their support in producing this lively annual event which is always a perfect finale to the school year for those involved in music.



# Cathedral Primary Engineering

On Tuesday 25th June, Mrs Haber accompanied Lucy and Daniel to Lichfield Cathedral to show case their Design and Technology project in the Primary Engineer Programme.



We were very proud when their vehicle travelled some distance in a very straight line.

Well done Lucy and Daniel!

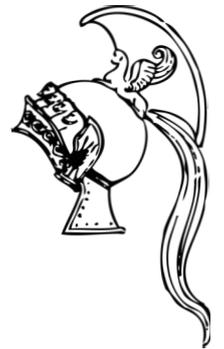
## Reception Bug Hunting

We had a very busy and exciting time at Beacon Park. We went pond dipping in the stream, bug hunting in the long grass, tree hugging and completed the Egg Box Challenge. We also had a lovely picnic in the park with the members of our families who could join us—thank you to everyone who was able to share the day with us.

Reception spent a lovely time in Beacon Park.



## Year 3 Greek Day XXDVIII



Year 3 had a fantastic Greek Studies Day. Children and staff dressed up in very beautiful Greek costumes—we had soldiers, gods and toga wearing servants. During the day we enjoyed recreating the Olympic Games, we made laurel crowns and city state flags and we had an interesting story telling session with Mr Hayward who told us Greek myth.

Thank you to parents for supporting children in this really colourful event.

# Year 5 Wartime Activities



## Evacuee Day

Our Evacuee Day began with a walk to Lichfield City Train Station where we were met by parents who waved our evacuees off on our journey (to Trent Valley!). The children wore the most amazing clothing of the wartime period which really helped to bring the event to life. Thank you to parents for putting so much thought and effort into the event.



On our return to school, the children enjoyed their wartime rationed snacks. In the afternoon, vintage singer, Simon Partridge, sang a repertoire of wartime songs and gave us information about the impact of music on the lives of those during WW2 and its history.

## WW2—The Home Front

Continuing Year 5's investigation into WWII, Mabel Make-Do (also known as Mrs Barker) visited to share her passion for all things related to the Home Front. Stories, songs, costumes and artifacts helped to develop the children's understanding of what life was like during the war years for those at home.

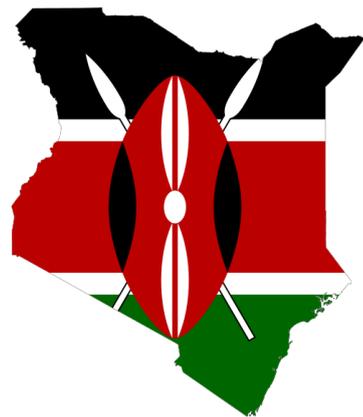


## Kenya Day 201

On Monday 1st July, we celebrated our annual Kenya Day.

We began the day with some updates from Kadawa Village and saw some pictures and videos of how the farm, church and school developing. During the day we had great fun learning all about life in Kenya and the how different it is to life here.

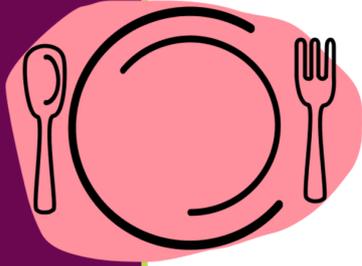
Thank you to parents and children to helped to raise **£275.70** which will help to fund an ICT suite at the Victory School.



## Year 2 Songbirds Concert

Year 2 took part in the Songbirds Concert at the Coton Centre, Tamworth with 3 other schools. We performed lots of the songs that we had be rehearsing in school with Mrs Marsden and Mrs Kimber. We had a super time and were lucky enough to be joined by some of our parents in the audience.

# ParentPay & Snack Prices



Remember that for children moving into Year 3 in September, Universal Free School Meals will stop and you will need to credit your child's dinner/snack account with enough funds to cover all the lunches and snacks your child is likely to have (£2.30 per day) and snacks as follows:-

- Toast (Year 6 only) = 30p
- Crumpets = 35p
- Scotch Pancakes = 35p
- Water Bottles = 30p

ParentPay is not a credit facility so it should be kept **IN CREDIT AT ALL TIMES**. If for some reason your account falls into debt we send a text out from school on a Friday. Please do not rely on the text as a way of managing your accounts.

Snacks will NOT be given to children whose accounts have fallen into debt.

The most effective way of managing your account is to set up a request on **ParentPay** for a **FREE low balance e-mail** reminder which alerts you when the balance of your account falls below a certain level. You can choose what this level is. Click on the communications tab to set this up.

- ◆ Log in to ParentPay
- ◆ Click on the Communications tab
- ◆ Click on Change Alert Settings
- ◆ Select E-mail Alert (NOT TEXT as this is chargeable)
- ◆ Enter your own reminder threshold e.g., £5.00
- ◆ Click on Save

# PTA News

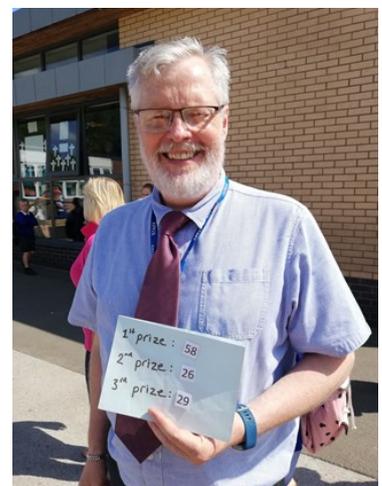
The big event this term was the Summer Fayre. We just wanted to say a massive thank you to everybody that helped us in the run up or on the evening itself - we really couldn't run this event without you. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying the evening sun, and we can now reveal that, together with the raffle, we raised £3700 - Wow! We wanted to say a special thank you to the Year 6 Entrepreneurs who came up with their own ideas and ran stalls themselves. We were very impressed with the quality of their ideas and their attitude on the evening, and together their stalls made £350. They should be very proud of themselves.



As well as the summer Fayre we have also continued to run some of our ongoing fundraising activities. You donated a MOUNTAIN of clothes which raised £250 and we also raised another £60 by recycling your old printer cartridges this term (please remember to drop these off in the box in reception if you have any). We also recently held the July draw of our 100 Club raffle which is our monthly lottery. Congratulations to Caroline Radnor who won the first prize, and Shell Colley and Chris Camp who won second and third this month. It costs just £12 to enter for 6 months and you could win up to £50 every month. We will have places available from September, email us on [stmichaels.pta@hotmail.com](mailto:stmichaels.pta@hotmail.com) if you would like to join.

The money we raise through our fundraising activities is used by the school to provide well needed resources. In this term alone we have bought equipment for the children to use in their design and technology lessons, 15 Chrome books which the children will be using for their ICT lessons, and £750 worth of books. We couldn't fund these things without your support, so thank you.

If you are interested in keeping up to date with the work of the PTA please join our Facebook group: St Michael's School PTA.



# Sports News ..... Sports News ..... Sports News

## County Cross Country Finals

Having proved successful in the Lichfield and Burntwood Cross Country competition, some of our winning teams secured a place in the county finals at Keele University. Our Year 3 girls, Year 4 boys, Year 5 girls and boys and Year 6 girls donned their running shoes and travelled to Keele for a sunny day of competition. After the opening ceremony which showcased some dancers from schools in Staffordshire, the games began and we made our way to the cross country track. Year 4 started the day off, with all of the boys putting in sterling efforts to make it round the course. Our Year 3 girls then took to the track for their first time in the competition, again all giving their best and persevering to complete the race. Year 5 continued the brilliant performances, with Max storming his way to second place, securing a place on the podium and a medal. Finally, the Year 6 girls ended the day and their cross country careers at St. Michael's with pride. Following the races, we were eager to find out where each of our teams had placed overall in their races. Making our way to the medal ceremony, we were hoping for some glory, and luckily we weren't disappointed when our Year 4 boys were announced as 3rd place position in their race, all coming home with a medal. Well done to George, Josh, Adam and Harry! A huge well done to all of the runners and thank you to all parents for their support on the day.



## Swimming Gala

In our final sporting event of the school year, Marni, Robyn, Charlotte, Charlotte, Ollie, George, Tommy and and Tom attended the Lichfield Schools Swimming Gala. After a tense afternoon of heats in various races, we made it through to a number of finals, including both of the relays. By the end of the afternoon, all of the swimmers had persevered and given their all to their races and were eager to find out where we had placed. Overall, we came second place in the Boys Large School's Event, and first in the Girls' Large School's Event, sending us back to school with another trophy to add to our collection.



## PE Kits for next year

In preparation for the new school year, please make sure your child has both an **indoor** and **outdoor** PE kit. For indoor PE, children should wear a short sleeved t-shirt (preferably white) and shorts. For outdoor PE, children should wear trainers, shorts or trousers and a t-shirt. When it is cold, children may also wear a jumper to keep them warm outside. Please ensure that your child's PE kit is fully named, including shoes in case they are lost.

# Y3 Mediterranean Topic

## Class 3HB

As part of Year 3's topic *Fun in the sun* and our learning about the Mediterranean, we enjoyed a trip to Ask Italian Restaurant in Lichfield. The morning included learning about Italian traditions, sampling Italian foods and making pizzas. The children said it was "the best day ever" and asked to go back every week! Definitely a hit! The staff at Ask were fantastic and the company are kindly donating the money for this trip to their charity, Great Ormond Street Hospital.



## Class 3G

3G had a great time at Ask Italian Restaurant. As part of their Mediterranean topic, the children learnt all about the ingredients that are used in Italian cooking. To begin with the children enjoyed tasting a variety of ingredients followed by making their own pizzas which they were able to eat— delicious!



# On-Line Safety

National Online safety have issued a useful guide to parental controls, which can be found using this link: [https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/National-Online-Safety-Parents-Guide-to-Internet-Controls.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=WakeUpWednesday%20Internet%20controls%20-%20NOS%20Subs%20%20WuW&utm\\_content=WakeUpWednesday%20Internet%20controls%20-%20NOS%20Subs%20%20WuW+CID\\_e38b414e8adefc699ce5195fd3a87a45&utm\\_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm\\_term=DOWNLOAD%20GUIDE%20HERE](https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/National-Online-Safety-Parents-Guide-to-Internet-Controls.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=WakeUpWednesday%20Internet%20controls%20-%20NOS%20Subs%20%20WuW&utm_content=WakeUpWednesday%20Internet%20controls%20-%20NOS%20Subs%20%20WuW+CID_e38b414e8adefc699ce5195fd3a87a45&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_term=DOWNLOAD%20GUIDE%20HERE)



CEOP have also published the following articles which are available on the ThinkUknow website or by following the links on this newsletter.

## Gaming: what parents and carers need to know

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Many children will be spending time gaming online over the summer holidays. This article explores the different elements of gaming with a particular focus on how it can be used by offenders, but focusing on what parents can do to support their child while gaming.

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/?utm\\_source=Thinkuknow&utm\\_campaign=8a726bc872-TUK JULY EMAIL CAMPAIGN 2019&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0b54505554-8a726bc872-64795217](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=8a726bc872-TUK JULY EMAIL CAMPAIGN 2019&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-8a726bc872-64795217)

## Sharing pictures of your child online

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Lots of parents love sharing photos of their children with friends and family, particularly when they are on holiday or starting the new school year. A recent report found that 42% of young people reported that their parents had done this without asking their permission. Our article helps parents to protect their child while staying social.

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Sharing-pictures-of-your-children/?utm\\_source=Thinkuknow&utm\\_campaign=8a726bc872-](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Sharing-pictures-of-your-children/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=8a726bc872-TUK JULY EMAIL CAMPAIGN 2019&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-8a726bc872-64795217)

[TUK JULY EMAIL CAMPAIGN 2019&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0b54505554-8a726bc872-64795217](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Sharing-pictures-of-your-children/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=8a726bc872-TUK JULY EMAIL CAMPAIGN 2019&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-8a726bc872-64795217)

## DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Monday, 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September	INSET DAYS—Staff only in school	All day
<b>Wednesday, 4th September</b>	<b>Pupils and Staff return to school for the Autumn Term</b>	<b>All day</b>
Monday, 9th September	Y5-6 Parents' Information Event—Welcome and Meet the Teacher	6.00pm
Tuesday, 10th September	Y3-4 Parents' Information Event—Welcome and Meet the Teacher	6.00pm
Wednesday, 11th September	Y1-2 Parents' Information Event—Welcome and Meet the Teacher	6.00pm
Thursday, 12th September	Parents' Information Event—Welcome and Meet the Teacher (for anyone who was unable to attend the above 3 dates)	3.30—5.00pm

## Sponsorship Monies

### **Year 5 and 6 raised    £558.92**

School spent the following:

£300 on Learning resources eg., food tasting, craft, items for leavers' performance, science and games.

£258 on contributions to reduce cost of trips, eg., Y6 Stryker and Year 5 trips.

### **Year 3 and 4 raised    £340.00**

School spent the following:

£340 on Learning resources for science, art and food tasting.

### **Year 1 and 2 raised    £605.89**

School spent the following:

£262 on Learning resources for science, art and food tasting.

£345 on reducing the cost of trips and events.