



# Family letter



HANDS – FACE – SPACE

ISSUE 1 – AUTUMN TERM

22ND OCTOBER 2020

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Headteacher's News**
- **Summer Reading Challenge**
- **Year group News**
- **Harvest**
- **Guess the Pumpkin Weight**
- **Vacancy**
- **Poppy Appeal**
- **Diary Dates**

## From the Headteacher

Well done everyone – children, parents and staff – for all of your resilience, fortitude and determination in returning to school and making this half term a success. It's been hard and frustrating at times, but in school itself, the children have blown us away with their fantastic enthusiasm for learning. They have adapted to new ways of living and working and brought laughter back into school. It is all summed up by the Year 5 team, 'Year 5 have begun the new school year like greyhounds out of the traps at White City.' I loved my Gingerbread Men, courtesy of Year 1; I couldn't possibly comment on whether 1Ds or 1Ms tasted better! It has been lovely to welcome our new Reception children into school; you have settled so well and it is as though you've always been with us. Our Year 6 children are setting a fine example to everyone else

and it is lovely to see your Harvest prayers celebrated in this edition of our Family Letter.

This week we have celebrated Harvest Festival in school. It has been a very different Harvest, but thank-you for your generous donations to the Foodbank. When we delivered them to the Warehouse the volunteers were extremely grateful for our contributions. They will make a significant difference. Thanks too to Rector Simon for recording a Harvest Worship which has been shared in each classroom and enjoyed by the children. Mr Hayward has also entertained everyone with a virtual harvest story. (For those new to school, Mr Hayward who teaches in Year 5, is an accomplished story teller who inspires us all throughout the year.)

When we return after half

term we will be focusing on Remembrance and will mark 11<sup>th</sup> November in classrooms. We will be supporting the Royal British Legion appeal again this year and information is included later in our newsletter.

Our Phase Leaders (Mrs Elcock, Mr Jones and Mrs Culverwell) are currently exploring different ways in which we can celebrate Christmas this year. Each class in Reception, Year 1 and 2 will have their own Christmas party. Plans are in place for our annual Christmas lunch. Sadly we are not able to hold our Christmas Discos this year for Key Stage 2, but please be assured that a special event will be planned for each class. Similarly we are not able to hold our Christmas performances, but we are hoping that some year groups will be able to take part in several virtual Christmas events. Other events are in the pipeline which we look



**We return to school on Monday, 2nd November**

**St Michael's: 'excited about learning'**





forward to sharing with the children.

Thank you for all of the positive comments and feedback that we have received. As I said in my letter last week, it has been a challenging time for everyone and we do appreciate your support. Please do share any concerns or queries that you have with us. Yesterday we were visited by an HSE (Health and Safety Inspectorate) Inspector as part of their routine checks of how schools are implementing their risk assessments. We were praised for our fantastic, detailed and comprehensive risk assessment and were given no areas for improvement. I hope that you all have a well-deserved half term break and look forward to working with everyone again next half term.

## SILLY SQUAD

Summer Reading Challenge 2020

[sillysquad.org.uk](http://sillysquad.org.uk)

This year's Summer Reading Challenge was slightly different to the previous ones – it was all online! A huge well done to all of the children who showed great resilience and took part despite the library being closed for much of the summer.

If you have not already done so, remember to show your teacher your certificate (which can be downloaded once the challenge is completed) to receive 5 house points.

- Mr Freeth, Literacy Coordinator

## Reception

Our Reception children have settled in really well and had a fantastic start to their learning journey here at St Michael's. They have enjoyed exploring all the new activities on offer and making lots of new

friends. They were very excited to experience their first Muddy Monsters' session; making mud pies, moving logs and hunting for worms.

The children finished their first half term off with an impressive 10 lap walk of the school field for our sponsored Welly Walk. A massive 'well done' to all the children and a big thank everyone who sponsored them!



# Year 1

Wow, what a busy first half-term in Year 1! Firstly, a huge thank you to all families for your patience and support during what could have been a very tricky transition and we are delighted with how well your children have eased back into school life. They are an absolute credit to you all - we're very proud of them!

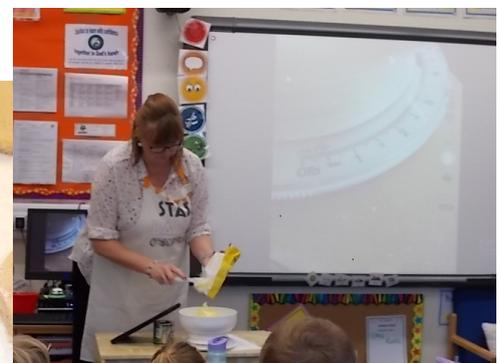
We have done all sorts linked to our traditional story topic; we've built bridges for the billy goats Gruff, explored the properties of materials to build a house for the 3 little pigs, made origami boats and even baked gingerbread people. We hope your children have enjoyed it - us teachers certainly have!



We hope you have a safe and restful half-term break. We won't set any homework for your week off but the online programs will be available and feel free to upload any fun things you do in your week off and we'll share these back at school.

Thank you once again, from your Year 1 Teachers 😊

## Baking with Mrs Mack



# Year 2

## A Busy Half Term in Year 2!

During this half term we have been very busy in Year 2. We started off the half term with everybody sharing their fantastic 'All About Me' projects which everyone had put a lot of thought and effort into.

In English we begun the half term by reading the book 'Dinosaurs Love Underpants' by Claire Freedman and we were completing lots of descriptive writing to describe some of the characters in the story. 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.

We have been learning about a whole host of different dinosaurs during our Topic lessons on a Monday and have put all of the fantastic facts that we have learnt onto our dinosaur posters. In Science, we have been looking at the different type of habitats around the world and have been exploring why certain animals are adapted to living where they do.

**2H** - We have had lots of fun at Forest School with Mrs Beddow on a Thursday afternoon exploring a variety of natural colours and making dens for people and animals, whilst we have also been exploring the different mini beast habitats. In class, when we have not been outside having fun, we have been making some fantastic owl bowls out of clay with Mrs Henson–Bailey and Mrs Kidner which are looking awesome!



**2J** – We have been having lots of fun completing various dinosaur art projects with Mrs Steele during this half term. We have created some dinosaur artwork using pasta shells and we have also been decorating a variety of dinosaurs with different shades of paint. We ended this half term by making a dinosaur using paper plates.

Have a restful break and we look forward to seeing everyone after half term!



# Year 4

Year 4 are loving being back altogether in school.

We have been fascinated by our current topic of the Romans. During our Chromebook slots this year we have been perfecting our research and presentation skills by finding out new information about the Romans. We have used a resource called "Romans Revealed" to investigate four different Roman dig sites.

Since the start of the year we have improved our computer skills by using J2Office to present our findings.

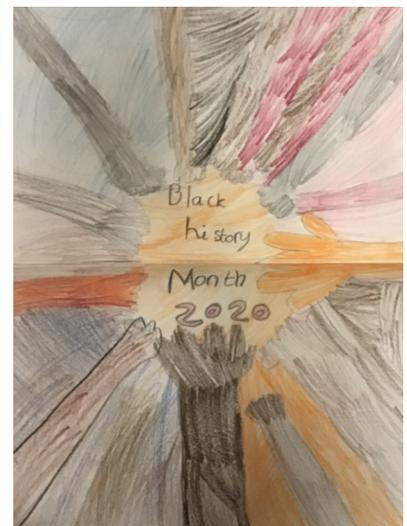
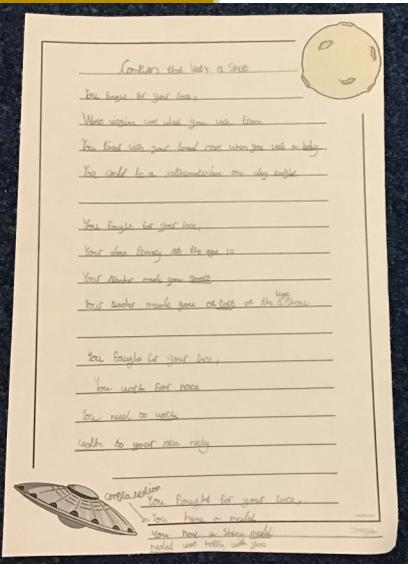
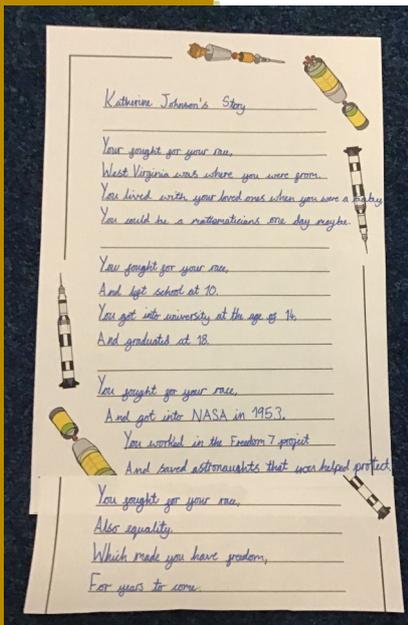
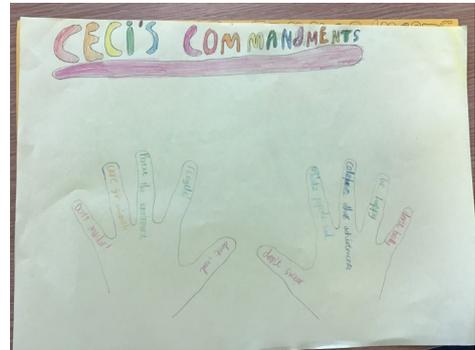
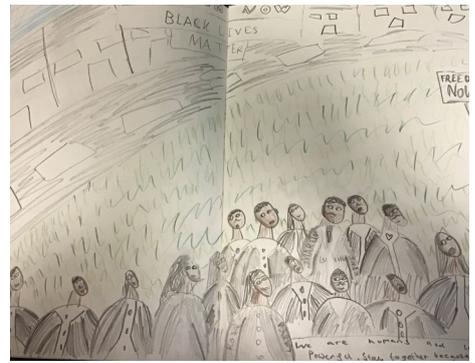
During English, we have really enjoyed our class focus texts including Krindlekrax and Escape from Pompeii. We are also spending lots of time reading, trying to complete the Year 4 Reading Challenge.

Our science topic of 'States of Matter' has really captivated us. We have already investigated the weight of gasses by carrying out an experiment, and we now can't wait to investigate the melting point of chocolate after half term!

In RE, our starting unit of work is Creation. In class, we have discussed all of the beautiful things we are thankful to God for creating. We learnt about the Ten Commandments and have made our own ten commandments to live life by.

In maths, we have been perfecting our knowledge of place value and are now challenging ourselves to add and subtract large numbers using exchanging.

This past week, we have enjoyed learning about and discussing influential black people, in recognition of Black History Month. The children were so inspired by this and produced some beautiful artwork and lovely poems about Katherine Johnson.



## Year 5

Well the summer holidays are a long and distant memory and Year 5 have begun the new school year like greyhounds out of the traps at White City. They have all adapted well and are enjoying their new learning as the “nearly eldest” in the school. Amongst the favourite learning is the “Benefico Brazil” topic which has



incorporated using chrome books to research the wildlife of the Amazon Rainforest, the science topic Changing Materials and our class novels, *Journey to the River Sea* and *The Vanishing Rainforest*.

“I like researching and writing descriptions of the rainforest animals using expanded noun phrases.” (Harley)

“I’ve enjoyed art, especially drawing rainforest animals and learning to use the watermark technique.” (Abbie)

“I liked writing about Remaema (Vanishing Rainforest)

as I love learning about rainforest animals.” (Elysia)

“I really enjoy reading *Journey to the River Sea* and I really found it funny when Clovis hugged Miss Minton” (Bertie)

“I’ve really enjoyed the science experiments when we tried to dissolve different materials in water.” (Maisie)

As it’s important to be outside as much as possible we have been developing our football skills over the past 6 weeks and we are very proud of our achievements in passing, controlling and dribbling with the ball.



## Year 6 - happy to be back

Being in year 6 is fun because we feel more responsible. As the oldest children, we are able to set an example to the rest of the school. We are happy to be back in school, doing all the things we like to do including my favourite subject which is Science. We are reading Kensuke’s Kingdom in English, writing and making predictions about different parts of the story. In Maths, we have been learning about lots of different things including squared and cubed numbers. Today, we enjoyed PE where we have been doing some circuit training. Year 6 has been great so far and we’re looking forward our time in Year 6!

By Ava and Yusuf



Dear God

Thank you for the farmers who give us the crops to make the food we eat every day.

Help us to donate more to the Foodbank and to charity.

Let us help the people who can't afford food every day.

Thank you for giving us sunny days and rainy days so the crops can grow.

Please help us to remember to be grateful for the food we are given.

Amen

By Jack



Harvest is a time for giving to the less fortunate.

A time of donating food and water. Respecting farms is really important.

Very scrumptious feast get laid on our tables.

Every farmer works hard all year round. Supplies are needed like combine harvesters.

Thank you farmers for helping us to live.

Dear God

Help us when we plant each seed,

To remember those who are in need.

And as each seed is carefully sown,

Help us to remember the kindness you've shown.

And when the harvest festival comes around, Help us to remember those who barely have a pound.

And lastly, when we eat our tea,

Help us to remember the Foodbank, yippee!

Amen

By Megan



Harvest time is here, let's bring joy and cheer.

All farmers work really hard. Respect goes to all the farmers.

Volunteers help to run the food banks.

Every farmer puts so much work into their crops.

Supplies from the farmers help us to live.

Thank you for all the food you give us to eat.

By Warren



## School Prayers

Thank you so much to all the children who wrote a school prayer, they are all so thoughtful.

The chosen prayer for each Key Stage will be announced after half term.

# Year 6 (continued)



Dear God

Harvest is a time to celebrate the seeds that are sown,  
To join in with the kindness that is shown.

Harvest is a time to give people what they need,  
All this starts with a little seed.

Harvest is a time to celebrate the food we see,  
But remember how it came to be.

Harvest is a time to remember people who have less,  
And help them with our kindness.

This harvest please help us to spread happiness and care for  
those who need it most.

Amen

By Paige

## Harvest

We had a lovely morning in school celebrating Harvest. Rector Simon prepared a wonderful video and power point all about the journey of a can of baked beans and Mr Hayward shared one of his super stories with us. A big thank you to them both. Thanks to your kindness and generosity, we supported Lichfield Foodbank with all this wonderful food too - thank you as ever for your continued support.



## Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin!

Over the past few weeks, children have been guessing how heavy our 'prized pumpkin' is - grown here on the school allotment. Thank you for everyone who joined in! As we had so many entries (and a few more pumpkins), we decided that we'd have a pumpkin prize for the 3 closest answers. The actual weight of the pumpkin is 12300g and the winners are as follows:



**1. Henry (1D) - 12120g    2. Jayan (6HB) - 15000g    3. Lewis (RE) - 15123g**

Congratulations - we'd love to hear what you did with your pumpkin prize on BGFL!



## Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancies

*Please make contact with the school if you're interested in learning more about this position.*

We're hoping to recruit **casual lunchtime supervisors** to join our existing lunchtime team. You would form an integral part of the lunchtime staff ensuring the safe and efficient running of dining and play between 12 noon and 1.10pm every week day.

If you enjoy working in a fast paced environment with adults and children, you may be just the person we're looking for. Tasks are varied and involve maintaining the cleanliness of the dining areas, supporting children with their food, encouraging safe play and happy relationships.

If you feel you have the skills for this role and would like further information, please contact Mrs Manton on 01543 227425.

# Poppy Appeal

Poppies and a number of other items will be on sale from **Monday 2nd November**. Merchandise will be sold and distributed in a Covid-Safe way.

Please take a look at the items for sale so that when teachers take orders in the classroom your child will know what to order and have the

correct money with them - there will be no change given.

Suggested donation for a poppy to wear is 20p.



**Suggested Donation 50p**



*Orders will be taken from children in their class bubbles. Please bring the correct money as we won't be able to give change.*



**Suggested Donation £1.00**



**Suggested Donation 50p**



**Suggested Donation 50p**



**Suggested Donation 50p**



**Suggested Donation £1.50**

## DIARY DATES/Information

DATE	EVENT	TIME
	<b>Please note—other dates for events leading up to Christmas will follow when we return to school after half term.</b>	
Wednesday 16th December	<b>Christmas Dinner Day</b> — staff and pupils	11.30-13.00
Friday 18th December	<b>Christmas Jumper Day</b> —children can wear their Christmas jumpers or favourite jumper instead of their blue school jumper. <b>BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS AT NORMAL END OF DAY TIME</b>	All day
Monday 4th January	<b>STAFF AND PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR SPRING TERM</b>	