



# FAMILY LETTER

ISSUE 2 — AUTUMN TERM

19TH DECEMBER 2020



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## BACK TO SCHOOL

We'll see you all back at school on Monday, 4th January 2021

## From the Head

I wish you all a peaceful, relaxing and restful Christmas, although I appreciate that may be a little challenging with excited children in the house! As a staff we would like to thank-you for your fantastic support and encouragement this term. We have really appreciated your engagement with our different ways of working, the affirmation and the feedback you have provided when things haven't quite gone to plan. The children have been amazing and have thrown themselves into everything in school. They should feel incredibly proud of themselves.

This week we have endeavoured to provide the children with a Christmas experience. It's been somewhat different to our usual events, but it's been a lovely week with lots of fun and excitement. Thank you to our wonderful PTA for supporting these events and also to Annalise Wright for donating wood for the Forest School activities. In the absence of our usual

Christmas performances, each class has recorded a song which has been shared on BGfL and a number of our instrumental teachers have also recorded offerings. Thanks to Mr Greenway for overseeing this and our participation in several Entrust Music Service virtual events. I also thoroughly enjoyed seeing some of our children performing with the virtual

music groups they have been participating in this term. Tuesday morning saw each class visiting our crib in the entrance hall, saying prayers and leaving gifts for Pathway and the Foodbank. We are extremely grateful for your very generous donations as are both organisations.

Thank you for your patience with us regarding the organisation of Virtual Parents' Evenings. After Christmas we will be offering a virtual meeting with your child's teacher. To ensure that our wi-fi holds out we will be running these over four weeks, beginning with Year 6. Information will follow when we return to school,

[see page 2]

## IMPORTANT—CORONAVIRUS CONTACT INFORMATION

Should you receive a positive Covid 19 result for **YOUR CHILD** during the holiday period up to and including Christmas Eve (Thursday) **YOU MUST CONTACT** Mrs Helen Robertson on the out of hours number below. Please send a text to the following number to notify school:

**07598 766041**

### **Information required:**

Name of child, class, date of positive test result, date child's symptoms started.

This is a no response number.

Thank you.

# Christmas Donations

*An amazing display of donations for the Food Bank and for Pathway*

Thank you all so much for your generous gifts for the Foodbank and Pathway Project. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and kindness. We know that the charities will be so very grateful and that our donations will help to bring some joy to those in need this Christmas and into the new year. The children enjoyed their time visiting the nativity scene in school and taking their donations. Each class wrote a prayer which was shared whilst traditional Christmas music played softly in the background. Reverend Ruth from St Michael's Church had also prepared a video and power point for the children to watch back in their classrooms. A lovely morning!



*[continued from the front page]*

but please see the weeks planned for each year group below:

Week beginning 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6
Week beginning 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 1
Week beginning 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Reception and Year 2
Week beginning 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Years 3, 4 and 5

We will be using the same system for booking parent consultations as before. When we return to school after Christmas, you'll receive a letter with the link to book your parent:teacher video consultation. There is also a link which contains very detailed information to parents on how to set your device up to be able to access your on-line appointment. Feedback from other schools has been positive and the system is easy and simple to use.

Congratulations to Wie-Men Ho who will be joining our Governing Body after Christmas. Thank you to all of the candidates who stood in the election; we are very blessed to have had such a rich pool of parents to draw from.

Fingers crossed that 2021 will bring some relaxations in our current ways of working. In the meantime please keep yourselves safe and well.

**Happy Christmas!**

# Reception

Wow, what an exciting half term we've had in Reception. We are really proud of all the children in Reception



for all their hard work and perseverance throughout this half term, but especially during our 2 week isolation! The children completed lots of activities based around the story of The Elves and the Shoe Maker, including designing shoes, writing letters and baking cakes.

At Muddy Monsters we made dens, hunted for treasure, bounced like Tigger and cooked up a storm in the mud kitchen, to name but a few.

December saw the excitement of Christmas preparations and the arrival of the cheeky elves. The children have made some beautiful cards and calendars and learnt about the Christmas story. We also enjoyed singing to the camera and wearing our Christmas jumpers.



# Year 1



What a busy Autumn Term and how it's flown by!

Now it's time to relax and enjoy a mince pie.



We've been on adventures to a fairy tale land,  
In Science, we learnt that glass comes from sand,  
Barvember in maths, catching in P.E,  
We even had to collect all the leaves  
from a tree!



Our teachers are proud of all we have done,

Learning a chore? In Year 1 it is FUN!

And now is the time for a well-earned rest,

Time with our loved ones - that is the best.

From the bottom of our hearts, we'd like to say,

"Thank you for brightening up every day."

In these tricky times, you've been an absolute credit,

"So switch off and enjoy," - there we said it!

We look forward to seeing you in 2021,

Toys is our topic and we'll have lots more FUN!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



From All in Year 1 😊



*Here are the year  
1 classes  
practicing their  
Christmas sing  
along.*

## Year 2 - a busy term

It has been another very busy half term in Y2.

In English we have been retelling some stories, focusing on bringing the characters and settings to life through the use of brilliant adjectives



and expanded noun phrases. We have also been continuing to read 'The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson and have started to see how Plop has been overcoming his fears of the dark.

In our topic lessons, we have been continuing to learn about the different dinosaurs and where they lived in the world. Whilst we were exploring these different places we were also learning about the continents of the world.

Our PE lessons have been really exciting—we've begun to learn how to play hockey and have been practising our new skills to pass and dribble the ball.

We had a brilliant time completing our sponsored event a few weeks ago and managed to collect lots of leaves! Thank you to everyone who contributed towards sponsorship—this really helps us to provide additional resources throughout the year.

We have also had lots of fun rehearsing and recording our Christmas songs during this half term which has helped us get into the festive mood. We had a great afternoon of partying on Wednesday and, because Santa couldn't actually come into school himself, he sent us a very special video message. We really hope he'll be able to come to school next year.

Finally, we are so proud of everyone's hard work during the past few months and hope that all the children and their families and friends enjoy a very restful and well-deserved Christmas break.

Happy Christmas everyone.

# Year 3



Year 3 have had a very busy half term indeed! The children have particularly enjoyed learning all about the different periods of the Stone Age (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic) and have very successfully created some of their own cave paintings too. They should also feel really proud of some of the written work they have produced, including some super narrative writing and instructions on how to wash a Stone Age animal! We have been working hard to master adding and

subtracting using the column method in maths and took on the challenge of Barvember too.

As the festivities began, it was lovely to bring singing back to the school too and Year 3 loved learning a number of songs for various virtual events.

We have been blown away by the enthusiasm and resilience shown this term. The children have worked incredibly hard and we wish them an enjoyable and restful break.

Merry Christmas!



# Year 4



In November, we spent some time in class discussing the meaning of Remembrance Day. We enjoyed Mr Hayward's worship, and produced some art work to show what Remembrance Day means to us.



Freya



Mehnaz



Harrison



Jo

In PE, we have been taking part in Outdoor Adventurous Activities, which have required us to problem solve as part of a team. We have also enjoyed using the Nail Trail Mr Hayward has set up. We combined maths and PE! We have been solving maths questions to find a number located on the

map. We then had to go to this location around school and record the symbol that was there.

We have also been practising our tennis skills in PE. We have relished the challenge of figuring out how to set up our new tennis nets. We have learnt how to serve and volley and have been polishing our skills.





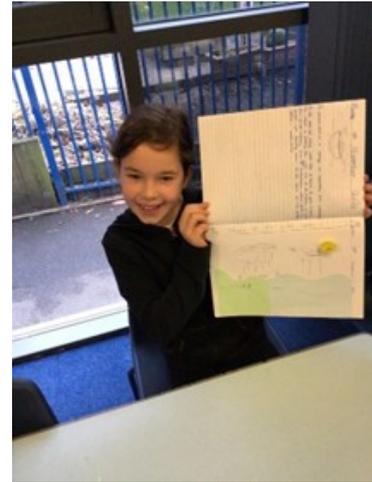
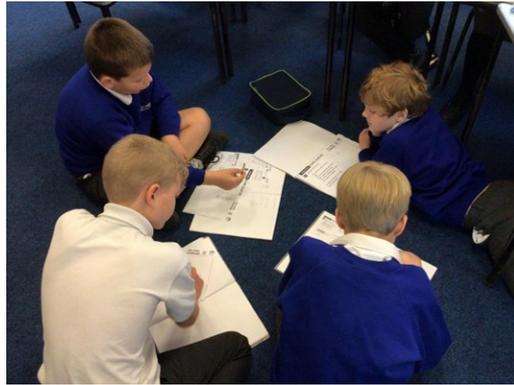
During our Chromebook sessions, we have loved using Interland to learn all about how to stay safe online. For each area of online safety, we have had a class discussion then played a game to test our knowledge. We have all earned certificates for passing each level.





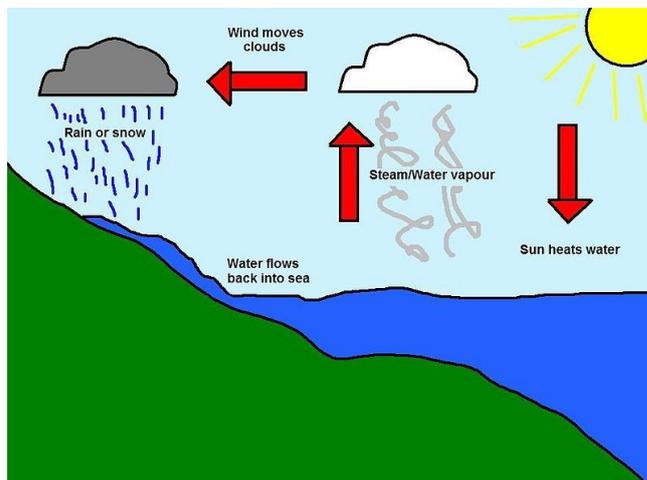
In maths, we have tried our hardest to apply our mathematical reasoning to harder problems, often working together as a team.

Look at all the hard work we've done during our learning about the Water Cycle.



In science, we have loved learning about The Water Cycle to complete our States of Matter unit. We each represented what we have learnt about the water cycle.

We have also loved having Miss Richardson to join us in 4L this term, she has helped to make our learning really exciting and we will miss her when she leaves our class.



## Year 5 - lots of lovely learning

### Journey to the River Sea

In year 5 we have been reading an amazing novel. The book is a mixture of adventure and true-to-life. The main characters are called Maia, Finn, Clovis, and Miss Minton. It's about Maia and how she gets sent to Brazil because she has relatives there. The family have two girls, twins and Maia imagines lovely welcoming children but instead they are spoilt, rude and racist. Suddenly, two mean looking men turn up looking for a certain 'Finn Taverner' then Maia encounters him and he doesn't want to go back so he gets Maia's friend Clovis to take his place.

We've really enjoyed this book as a class and if you read it we're sure you will too.

*Maisie, Year 5*

### Arts Award

We are working towards our Arts Award. During this term we have studied Pointillism, where we painted a picture of a park using paint brushes. We also listened to music and then painted what we thought it would look like in the song. Songs included: Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds by the Beatles and Sweet Bells by Kate Rusby.

*Izzy, Year 5*

### Brazil

In year 5 this term we have enjoyed learning about Brazil. It is a huge country with 183,888,841 people living there. It is the largest country in South America and it's bordering countries are Uruguay, Paraguay and Venezuela.

We have also learned about the danger that the rainforest faces.

*Joe, Year 5*

## Year 5 - Forest School Fun

This week, Year 5 and 6 went outside to Forest School for a festive treat. We all had a great time drinking hot chocolate and cooking marshmallow s'mores. We discovered there is definitely an art in eating them without getting sticky marshmallow all over you! Forest School was also invaded by Santa's reindeer as they prepared for a very busy Christmas Eve.



# Music

The whole school have been involved with the Virtual Big Sing run by Entrust. Several schools have participated and a variety of songs were performed. The song we recorded was the 12 Days of Christmas, in which every class that was in school that week participated. The Song was uploaded to the Entrust YouTube channel which you can still find by searching 'Entrust Inspiring Futures' on YouTube. Alternatively, this will be made available on the BGFL midway through the last week.



Years 2 and 3 have also been participating in the Virtual Lichfield Christmas Festival. The children had to learn up to 5 songs and perform these. Again these will be put onto Entrust's YouTube channel and again just search 'Entrust Inspiring Futures' in YouTube. These go live on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December from 1.30pm onwards. Unfortunately, these can't be put onto the BGFL but they should still be available on YouTube should you wish to watch them after the event.



St Michael's have also been holding their own, Virtual Big Christmas Song and each class/year group have learnt a song to perform. These videos will be made available on the BGFL mid-way through the last week.

As soon as any of the videos are made available on the BGFL we will inform you.

Enjoy and have a very happy Christmas!

# Year 6 Forest School

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, Year 6 went to Forest School. Whilst we were there we toasted marshmallows and when they were nice and gooey we put them in between two chocolate biscuits to make Smores. We all sat down on a sheet of tarpaulin and drank our warm hot chocolate which the teachers made for us. The Smores were delicious (they didn't last for very long!). We made up games and enjoyed being outdoors. By Flo, 6HB.

A special thank you to Mrs Beddow for organising this and Mrs Tranter for helping. We had a great time! Have a safe and happy Christmas from Year 6!



## DONATIONS TO PATHWAY

Year 6 children pictured here with some of the fabulous donations for the Pathway Project. Thank you to all parents who supported us.

# Year 6

During this term, I have especially enjoyed English! We have been reading a book named Kensuke's Kingdom which was amazing. It is about a boy called Michael who falls off his boat whilst he and his family are on a trip around the world! Michael and his dog, Stella, get washed up on an island with a man called Kensuke. They hate each other at first but become the best of friends. After a year of being on the island his parents find him and they all go home except Kensuke, he has to stay at Kensuke's Kingdom!

*Freya, Year 6*

During the final week of the Christmas half term, 6C have been doing a variety of Christmas related things. We had a lot of fun dressing up in different things like Christmas headwear, socks and jumpers!! On Thursday we cut out miniature houses and stuck them on our Christmas cards to make a scheme of Bethlehem. We have also been opening a digital calendar full of interesting pictures. Our elf (who is named Bob) has been moving around the classroom and getting up to mischief. It has been an extremely fun week!

*Lucas, Year 6*

## THANK YOU SO MUCH!

What a phenomenal response to our Amazon Wish List! Thank you so much to each and every one of you who have donated books to our classrooms. We have received over 300 books so far which will contribute greatly to pupils' reading experiences in and out of school. The list will remain open until the last day of term (18th December) so it is not too late to get involved by scanning the QR code shown - there are still some much-needed titles remaining!

We really are so grateful for your amazing support.

The St. Michael's Team



## From the PTA ...

What a year! We haven't given an update for a while, so we wanted to let you know what we've been up to, and thank you for all the support you have continued to give the PTA and the school.

We were able to carry on with our monthly '100 Club' draws even when the school was closed (after a quick lesson on how to use Facebook live!) and we really appreciate the support we've had meaning the club is full again at the moment. It's a monthly lottery with a top prize of £50 each month – membership renews in March so if you are interested in joining the waiting list get in touch via email or Facebook. We also ran an online summer raffle at the end of last year which raised £445. It was a particularly unusual time for our old year 6 pupils who didn't have quite the last year they expected, but we were pleased we were still able to fund the purchase of a leaving pen for all of them to take as they moved to High School.

The new academic year saw a return to school for pupils, but we haven't been able to run a lot of our usual events - I know a lot of families were disappointed we weren't able to have a Christmas Fayre and I'm particularly hopeful that Mr Hayward's quiz will be able to return next year. We were happy that we were still able to purchase an iPad for each class teacher to use as part of their teaching.

We couldn't plan a Christmas fayre, have a Christmas disco or design Christmas cards as usual but we did organise for each class to design a Christmas t-towel, and were overwhelmed with the popularity of them – we raised £1000. We also ran a Christmas colouring competition which raised over £100 and made Christmas activity bags for children to buy which raised over £500. We would like to say thank you to everyone who got involved in these two new initiatives and a special thank you to Beth Mordant for designing the colouring competition and to Ros Chapman who organised them both. We are also one of the local good causes that Lichfield Round Table is supporting as Santa visits the streets of Lichfield from a distance – so please give generously if he hasn't visited your street yet.





The fundraising meant we have been able to help the children get into the Christmas spirit – we purchased the Christmas tree for the hall, and we have also funded a Christmas treat for all the pupils which they will have participated in this week. We are also hoping to continue to support the school by funding licences for White Rose Maths, the ArtsMark initiative and other activities to enhance our children’s learning – whatever it looks like this year!

We know this last year has been particularly difficult for lots of families, and we just wanted to say how much we appreciate your support and a big thank you for embracing the new initiatives that we’ve had to introduce this year. Here’s to a healthy and happy 2021!

The PTA Committee

[Stmichaels.pta@hotmail.com](mailto:Stmichaels.pta@hotmail.com)  St Michael’s School PTA

## PTA Colouring Competition

What an absolutely fantastic response we had to the Christmas Colouring Competition. There were lots of really brilliant pictures which made the judging incredibly difficult. We are pleased to announce the two winners as follows:

Grace - Year 1 (for the Reception/KS1 Category)  
Harrison -Year 4 (for the KS2 Category)



# Times Tables Rock Stars

## Top of the Rocks

Wow St Michaels' Rockers, you have been busy! Over the past half-term, 82% of our KS2 children have logged-on to play TTRockStars - keep up the good work! Your hard work has paid off because St Michael's scored an incredible 706,017 points this half-term; more than any other Lichfield school. In fact, the next highest scoring school was Christchurch with 356,095 (I'm sure some of our older children can work out the difference!) Special mentions to Years 3 and 4 who made up four of the six top scoring class groups in all of Lichfield - 4AP were our top scoring class with 181,362 points! Individually, Year 3 dominated again - congratulations to Thomas W (3rd), Jacob H (2nd) and our champion (again), Oliver W.

In the Spring Term, we will be starting a house team competition alongside the Top of the Rocks Lichfield school's competition. There will be a reward for all members of our winning house (TBC depending on restrictions at that time) so please join in. To score points for your house team, all you need to do is log-on and play - good luck and keep rocking!



## Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Monday, 4th January	<b>STAFF AND PUPILS RETURN FOR SPRING TERM 2020</b>	
Friday, 15th January	CLOSING DATE FOR RECEPTION 2021 APPLICATIONS (on line applications to Staffordshire County Council).	