



Family Letter

FROM THE HEAD

It has been an extremely busy half term here in school with lots of exciting learning taking place. The children have thrown themselves into everything on offer in their classrooms and it has been lovely to see and hear their enthusiasm around school. From a Bower procession in Year 1, via whole class violin lessons in Year 3, to amazing cities of the future created in Year 4, it has almost felt 'normal'. Yesterday it was lovely to see Reception children arriving as Julia Donaldson characters; so much thought had gone into their outfits. Thank you. Whilst we are not yet in a position for all year groups to go out on trips, we have managed to facilitate a day at Shugborough for our Year 6 children, with lots of protective measures in place. They had an amazing time. Year 2 has clearly been the place to be with food sampling and creating healthy recipes, whilst Year 5 have been courageous advocates learning about and supporting the work of Cool Earth as part of their Beneficio Brazil topic.

We are currently working closely with the Local Authority Health, Safety and Well-being team to ensure that we continue to take a pragmatic approach as the government's roadmap

[continued on page 6]

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



TRACK AND TRACE

Should you receive a positive Coronavirus Test result for YOUR CHILD during the holiday period **YOU MUST CONTACT** Mrs Robertson 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

FACTS ABOUT JULIA DONADLSON ...

- When Julia was young her father gave her a poetry book called 'The Book of a Thousand Poems' - she loved it so much it inspired her to begin writing her own poems.
- Julia and her husband Malcolm wrote a song called the 'Spaghetti Song' - it was a big hit in Italy!

You can find much more out about Julia on the following link:-

<https://gruffaloshop.com/blogs/news/julia-donaldson-facts>



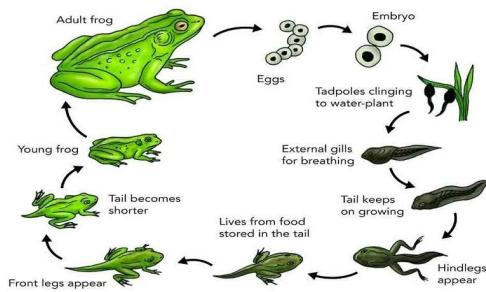
RECEPTION

What an exciting half term we've had in Reception. We have continued our topic on Julia Donaldson, reading, acting out and writing about all her wonderful stories. We had a wonderful theme day on Monday to celebrate. The costumes were fantastic and the children enjoyed recreating their favourite stories all day!



This half term we have also looked at the signs of spring both in class and at Muddy Monsters. In class, we have tadpoles which the children have enjoyed watching change and grow over the weeks. We don't yet have any frogs jumping about but some tadpoles have legs so it won't be long! We have also painted some spring flowers and the children have created their own grass heads, which are starting to sprout "hair".

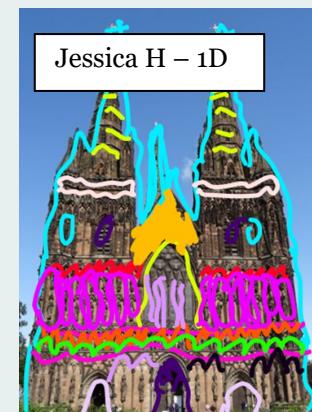
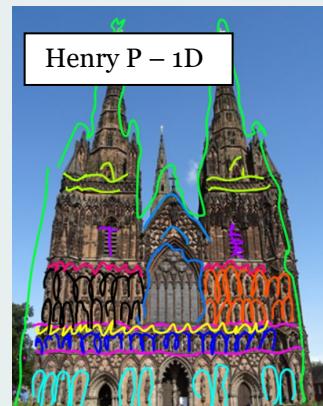
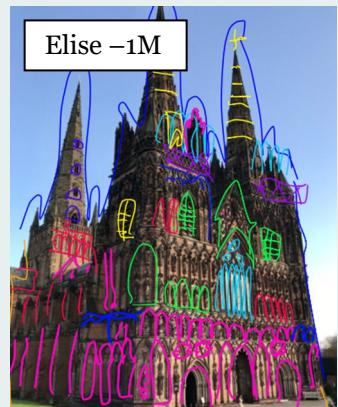
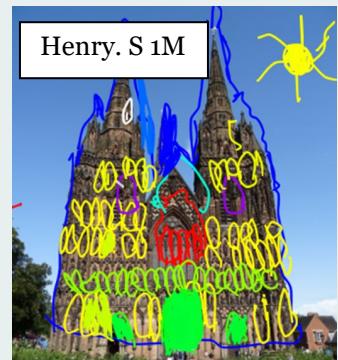
Well done to the children for all their achievements this half term.



YEAR 1

As part of our 'Where's Wally in Lichfield' topic ,we have been learning about the origins and the history of Lichfield Greenhill Bower. We challenged the children to create their own Bower floats in D&T. These Bower floats represented 4 things that are important to each child about Lichfield. We had ideas ranging from Lichfield Cathedral, to St. Michael's school, to friends and family and the Entertainer toy shop. In true Bower tradition we paraded our floats through the school to rapturous applause and of course it rained!

Also, as part of our exploration of Lichfield, we used our IT skills to create a piece of Art based on Lichfield Cathedral. Having uploaded a photo of the Cathedral, the children drew over the many different features using lots of bright colours, which resulted in some amazing masterpieces. Here are a few for you to see.



WINNERS OF THE TASTE KITCHEN CHALLENGE

Congratulations to our inventive cooks who have created delicious healthy recipes—why don't you try them for yourselves.



YEAR 2—TASTE KITCHEN CHALLENGE

Year 2 had the opportunity to participate in the Aldi and Team GB 'Taste Kitchen Challenge' which challenged young people aged 5–14 to get creative and design an original recipe, inspired by Team GB. Congratulations to Freddie and Phoebe from Year 2 for participating with these fabulous entries.

Freddie created this fresh and healthy 'Yummy cherry smoothie', ideal for Olympians cooling down after their sporting achievements.

Phoebe researched dishes from another continent entirely, perfecting her recipe for her fluffy, crispy, 'Curried potato cakes', a hearty and healthy treat to keep their bodies working at their best.

If you would like to have a go at recreating these recipes, let us know how you get on!"

Curried Potato Cakes

300g Potato
75g Sweetcorn
50g Peas
1 tsp Dried Coriander
1 Crushed Garlic Clove
1 tsp Cumin
15g Plain Flour
1 Small Egg

Gather ingredients.

Peel potato.

Boil potatoes for 15 minutes in salted water.

Boil peas and sweetcorn for 5 minutes.

Mix together flour, cumin, coriander and garlic.

Mash potato until smooth.

Mix everything together.

Split into 4 equal portions and shape.

Fry potato cakes for 3 minutes on each side in a little oil until crispy.

Serve with fresh vegetables

Enjoy your curried potato cakes!

By Phoebe, Age 7, Year 2

Freddie's Cherry Smoothie

1 banana
80g frozen cherries
150g cherry yoghurt
50ml apple juice

Put all the ingredients into a blender

Bled for 1 minute.

Pour into a glass and drink it!

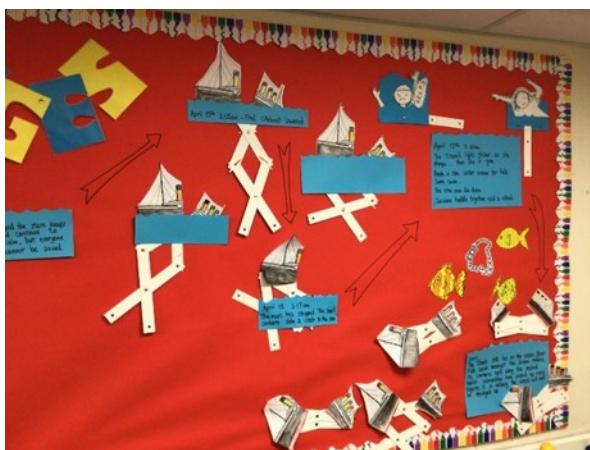
By Freddie, Age 7, Year 2



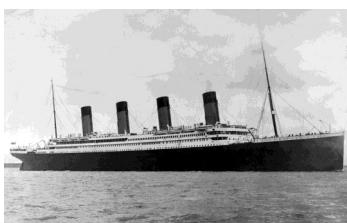
Taste Kitchen Challenge

YEAR 2—TITANIC

As part of our learning about the Titanic, we made movable Titanic models in D.T. We learnt about the 6 simple types of machines which includes levers and pulleys. We had great fun making them and you can see what they looked like in the pictures below.



We have also created our own PowerPoint presentations on the Titanic in Computing. We carried out our own research before putting our presentations together, having to ensure we included lots of features, such as interesting animations and pictures.



TITANIC FACTS

1. The **Titanic** lies 12,600 feet under water.
2. The wreckage of the **Titanic** lie nearly 2.5 miles beneath the surface of the ocean, approximately 370 miles off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada.
3. The ship broke in two, and the gap between the bow and the stern is about 2,000 feet on the sea bed.
4. Many of the passengers on the Titanic were high-ranking officials, wealthy industrialists, dignitaries and celebrities. First and foremost was the White Star Line's managing director, J. Bruce Ismay, accompanied by Thomas Andrews, the ship's builder from Harland and Wolff.
5. Passengers traveling first class on Titanic were roughly 44 percent more likely to survive than other passengers.

[continued from front page—from the Head Teacher]

JOIN THE PTA

If there are any parents interested in becoming part of the PTA team, please contact

Stmichaels.pta@hotmail.com.

Being part of the PTA team is lots of fun and a really good way to get involved in school life.

eases restrictions. With the Indian variant now affecting three local schools (at the point of writing), we continue to do everything we can in school to ensure that our bubbles are secure; additional cleaning is in place at key points throughout the day; social distancing is observed by staff; and the ‘Hands – Face – Space’ mantra is followed. We are hopeful that we can return to everyone’s day starting and finishing at the same time in September and that our one way system can be suspended, but we will be keeping up to date with the LA guidance throughout the Summer break.

At the end of this term we will say ‘Farewell’ to our outgoing PTA committee: Amy Walsh, Jenny Humble, Kate Adams and Michelle Bennett. For the last four years, along with their fabulous army of volunteers, they have thought of innovative and creative ways to support the school. As a staff we are extremely grateful for their contribution, especially during the last year. Moving forward we are welcoming Ros Chapman, Julie George, Jeff Williamson, Helen Peter and Kirsty Bishton as our new PTA committee. Their first event will be the Virtual Summer Fayre, which we hope you will all support. Plans are currently afoot for our Year 6 children to organise a Covid secure ‘Dragon’s Den’ event for the whole school on the last day of term.

I wish you all a relaxing, restful and peaceful Bank Holiday and half term. The children have certainly lived out our school values of Belonging, Friendship, Forgiveness, Respect, Courage and Perseverance this half term and deserve a well earned break.



YEAR 5 BENEFICO BRAZIL TOPIC

As part of our topic ‘Benefico Brazil’, we have been learning all about the Amazon Rainforest. The charity Cool Earth raise money to help protect rainforests and the people and animals who live there. With this in mind, we have designed and printed our own rainforest inspired eco-bags which we hope to sell in order to raise money for Cool Earth.

To make our bags, we created our own stencils with designs such as flowers, leaves, animals and other beautiful pictures of the rainforest. We then painted our stencils onto our bags using blue, green and yellow – the colours of the Brazilian flag.

We all really enjoyed designing and making our bags. If you haven’t already done so, you can purchase your child’s Eco-bag via your ParentPay account.

If you’re interested in Cool Earth, follow the link <https://www.coolearth.org>



YEAR 4 SUPER CITY CREATIONS

This term, Year 4 have enjoyed learning more about Super Cities! We kicked off our new topic by reading the picture book "Belonging" by Jeannie Baker, which shows the view out of Tracy's window from the day she is born right through until she is a grown adult. Although we loved the story shown by the pictures, there were no words to go with them. Over the course of a week, we drew our own 'window' pictures and wrote our own stories to narrate these. We are now reading Charlie and The Chocolate Factory in our English lessons, and enjoyed starting this new English focus with some chocolate and sweet tasting, just like Roald Dahl used to do as a child.

We later had two "city building days" inspired by the book "How To Build A City" by Isabel Otter. In the book, there are lots of pictures and facts which taught us all about how cities are planned and built. We spent a morning planning our cities, thinking about what important features we would need in our own cities. The following morning, we got creative, using our recycling to build our cities, even giving them names. Take a look at some of our finished cities!

In maths, we have been learning about money and time, and have enjoyed applying our new knowledge to some problem solving.

During our Chromebook sessions, we have finished off our coding topic, creating some super games on Scratch. We are now learning all about Databases, have filled in some ready made databases and are now starting to make our own in order to sort chocolate bars!



SUPER CITY MODELS



VOLCANIC FACTS!!!

- Volcanoes are mainly found where two of the earth's tectonic plates join.
- Lots of volcanoes are found in an area called the Ring of Fire. The Ring of Fire goes around the edge of the Pacific Ocean.
- There are three main types of volcano: a Composite volcano, a Shield volcano and a Dome volcano.
- An active volcano is a volcano that has erupted in the past 10,000 years and a dormant volcano is an active volcano that hasn't erupted recently but is expected to erupt again.
- We used the following website to visit some of the world's most famous volcanoes. Can you discover any more?

[https://
earth.google.com/
web/
da-
ta=CiQSIhIgNGFiYm
Q4OWNiNDUwMTFI
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YEAR 3

Rocks Rocks Rocks!

Year 3 have been having great fun learning all about our amazing earth and some of the natural disasters that can take place. We began the term by exploring the structure of the earth and tectonic plates before moving onto earthquakes and volcanoes and why eruptions occur. We have also been sorting rocks into three main categories: sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous and making predictions about which types are the hardest and the softest before testing this fairly.



'MusicShare' Fun!

Over the past few Tuesdays, year 3 have been joining in with the 'MusicShare' Live Virtual Singing assembly hosted by Cathy Lamb from the Lichfield Cathedral. It has been wonderful to get moving again in the classroom and Cathy has made sure the sessions are engaging and fun for all. We have learned lots of new songs already and the actions are always exciting too!

Fabulous Violins!

We are extremely lucky in year 3 at the moment to be learning the magnificent violin all together. Mrs Hayes will be teaching each class every Monday morning for the remainder of the term. We began last week by learning the names of the parts of the violin along with identifying the strings. Did you know the mnemonic for remembering the string names is Greedy Dogs Always Eat? It is important that we handle the instruments with care as to not damage them and to hold them correctly. After the first lesson, we even plucked along to The Grand Old Duke Of York. We can't wait to get the bows out next week!



YEAR 5— EXCERPT FROM OUR LEARNING

What Year 5 Have learnt About World War II So Far

Firstly, we started learning about who the Allied forces and the Axis powers were. The Allied forces (or Allies) were made up of Britain, America, the Soviet Union and a few other countries. The Axis powers were made up of Germany, Italy and Japan. Linked to that learning, we discussed the names of the different country leaders. Winston Churchill and Neville Chamberlain were the Prime Minister of Britain (not at the same time though), Franklin D. Roosevelt was the president of the United States, Josef Stalin was the leader of Russia, Adolf Hitler in Germany, Benito Mussolini in Italy and Emperor Hirihioto and General Tojo in Japan.

We then moved on to talk about the battle of Dunkerque in France where Britain escaped the wrath of the German army on boats known as 'small ships', which belonged to civilians along the coast of England that had not already been taken by the Navy. Some brave soldiers from Britain and France formed a ring around Dunkerque to protect the troops evacuating. For some unknown reason, the Nazis stopped advancing, some say Hitler wanted us to get away. Unfortunately, we had to leave all our weapons on the beaches of Dunkerque including tanks and guns. Churchill estimated we could only save 30,000 men but, we saved 300,000

by Maisie - 5H

The Ghost of Grania O`Malley

Jessie was looking for bones in the bog-oak field where her family dug to make fires. Her father found the wood for the fire from the wooden animal creatures. One of them was called Smiley and every day after school she would talk to the creature. Smiley was not like any of the others because it was a human skull when all the others was a kind of sheep bone. One fine morning Jessie had decided that she would bury Smiley and she did.

A few months later her cousin jack came over from America and they had lots of fun, but on the way, something made Jack very suspicious he saw a pirate ship heading for Claire island like Jack was. He did not know why though. When he got there after the long journey, he made friends slowly with people from Jessie `s school. When all of Jack `s friends were free they went to the park and played basketball. Jessie did not play, not because she did not want to, but it was because of her legs and arms. She had something called cerebral palsy

by Matilda—5H

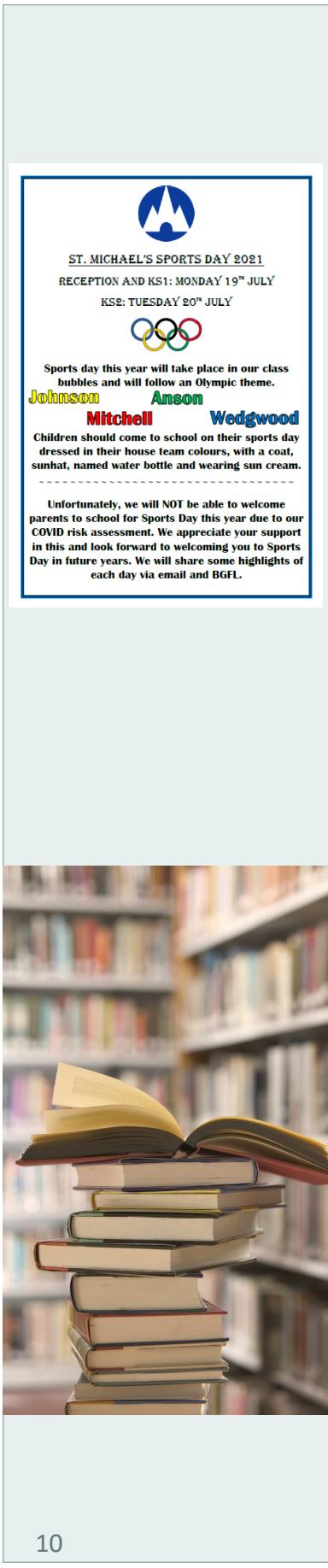
AMAZING ECO BAGS

In year 5 we have been making Eco bags. To make the bags we first designed a stencil by drawing a design on a piece of paper then improving it until we were happy. Then we laid the bag out and used yellow, green and blue fabric paint to fill in the stencil .

We are doing these bags because we are raising money for an amazing charity called Cool Earth. They help save the Amazon rain forest. They work with tribes and locals to preserve this incredible landscape for future generations.

We have enjoyed making these and hope you love them.

by Freya



ST MICHAEL'S PE KITS

PE Kit

At St. Michael's, we love getting active during our PE lessons. This year, as the children have been coming to school in their PE kits we haven't needed to spend any time changing out of school uniforms and we've been able to enjoy longer lessons.

We have been impressed with how smart the children have all looked on their PE days, and so have made the decision to continue to ask children to come to school in their PE kits on their assigned PE days. However, from September, we will be making a slight change to the school PE kit in the form of the colour of hoodie children wear. In order to celebrate our pride in our school house teams, we would like children to wear a hoodie in their house colour on PE days. Branded St. Michael's house team coloured hoodies will be available to purchase from White Lodge, Tel: 01543 250506, in either a pull-over or zip up style. Alternatively, your child may wear a plain hoodie (unbranded with no logos) in their assigned house colour. These should be worn with plain black or navy blue jogging bottoms (or shorts depending on weather) and a plain white T-shirt.

Please note, this is currently applicable only to Years 1-6; more information about PE kit for Reception will follow in September as part of the induction process.

THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE IS BACK!

10TH JULY - 13TH SEPTEMBER 2021

WILD WORLD Heroes

Presented by The Reading Agency.
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

WWF **WILDLIFE TRUSTS** **READING**

CAN ST. MICHAEL'S REPEAT THEIR SUCCESS FROM THE 2019 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE AND RETAIN THE COVETED READING CHALLENGE TROPHY?

We are pleased to inform you that the Summer Reading Challenge will be back in Staffordshire libraries in its physical format this year. This year's Challenge will be a blended offer in response to the changing Covid-19 restrictions. This means that there will be the option to complete the challenge on-line on the Reading Agency Website or at the library. If you choose the library option there will only be 2 visits necessary this year to complete the challenge.

This year's theme - 'Wild World Heroes' - will inspire children to explore ways of helping to save the planet. The Challenge focuses on taking action for nature and tackling real-world environmental issues, from plastic pollution and deforestation to wildlife decline and nature loss.

Every child who brings their certificate into school will receive 5 house points along with a special treat!

PIC•COLLAGE

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

AN INTERVIEW WITH A ROCK STAR!

Over the past 18 months our school have been competing on TT Rock-Stars against other Lichfield schools in half-termly 'Top of the Rocks' competitions and we've been doing rather well! There are many of our pupils that figure towards the top of the leaderboard but there's one that has done exceptionally well and consistently been our highest scorer... that's Smokey Alexander! You'll probably know him better as Oliver Walsh in 3G. Mr Downie wanted to ask Oliver some questions on how he has got to be so good at TT RockStars.

Oliver is one of 14 'Rock Heroes' at St Michael's; to be a rock hero you need to be able to answer 60 multiplication/division questions correctly in just one minute so one answer every second! Oliver's speed is actually 0.47s per answer and that means he's answering around 128 questions correctly in one minute! Seeing is believing so I asked Oliver to demonstrate and WOW; 136 correct answers (and 1 incorrect!) in just 1 minute – UNBELIEVABLE!

Now Oliver hasn't always been this quick; his initial studio speed was 5.31s per answer so that's around 11 questions answered correctly in one minute. So I caught up with him to try and find out how he's improved so much:

Q: How often do you play TT RockStars?

A: 20 minutes before school most days and sometimes when I get home. An hour a day is the absolute maximum at the weekends and during school holidays.

Q: What is your preferred device to play it on?

A: iPad because I can go quicker.

Q: Where's your favourite place to play TT RockStars?

A: On the sofa at home. I also like playing on the school iPads; they make me go even quicker!

Q: How has being so good at TT RockStars helped you in your school learning?

A: It helps me a lot in my maths work. I know all my times tables and division facts.

Q: What do your friends and family think of your achievements?

A: My friends are very impressed and are trying to beat me. My mum and dad are very proud of me – they can't believe how fast I am!

Q: Finally, what advice would you give your peers, who may like to improve their speed on TT RockStars?

A: Just practice, practice and practice and you'll get better. You just need to know your times tables and you'll be super quick!

Thank you Oliver! If you would like to improve your recall of multiplication and division facts, then log onto TT Rock-Stars and do as Oliver says and 'practice, practice, practice!'



Oliver casually getting a score of 136 (in 1 minute) whilst chatting away!



Proud of another great effort at home!

Reflections ...

My favourite activity was the Crystal Maze because you had to work as a team to succeed.

Riley

Shugborough was an amazing experience. The activity I enjoyed the most was the BMX, even though it was the hardest!

Eleanor

My favourite memory reaching the top of the climbing wall; it was fantastic!

Isabelle

It was the best school trip ever; it was amazing!

Adam

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

YEAR 6 SHUGBOROUGH TRIP

At long last we have been able to organise and enjoy a school trip—a very much missed part of the school curriculum.

In order for this to take place safely we observed and applied all the advice and guidance provided by Staffordshire County Council with our own Risk Assessments in place from the start of our trip on the bus until our return to Cherry Orchard. This thorough preparation allowed for a safe and enjoyable day for pupils and staff.

2 groups were formed from each class and each group enjoyed a variety of exciting activities.

Pictured here are children pushing their boundaries as they experience new challenges alongside their peers. It was amazing to see pupils achieving things they didn't know they were capable of: working alongside each other to solve problems on the crystal maze, work together as a team on the climbing wall, use new skills at archery and completely wear themselves out on the BMX trail!!

Thankfully the weather was very kind to us—sunny for most of the day with a timely downpour whilst we were safely undercover at lunchtime.

It was such an amazing day - everyone taking away with them a fabulous memory as they prepare for their onward journey to high school.



Memories made at Shugborough



SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

From time to time we learn about the exciting achievements pupils are celebrating outside of school.

Congratulations to Ned

Congratulations to Ned on his signing with the Aston Villa Youth Academy. We look forward to hearing more of Ned's achievements as the weeks go by.



Well done Amelia

Well done to Amelia (4AP) for her fund-raising for Edwards Trust and Child of Mine, who support child bereavement. Following the death of her cousin last year Amelia has raised £305 in support of the charities by completing a 50 lap cycle around Boley Park and making 50 cupcakes. Thank-you for being such a courageous advocate.

*Well done
Ned and
Amelia*

HAPPY RETIREMENT TO RECTOR SIMON

The children contributed to a PowerPoint to wish all the best to Rector Simon and his wife Diana on his retirement and their move to the Southwest. You can view the presentation by following this link is <https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/sermons--videos.html>. You can keep up to date with Church events by following their Twitter feed <https://twitter.com/StLichfield>

NEW DANCE FIT

Free dance fit classes at Nether Stowe School for parents in the local area!

Local dance fitness company, Dance & Beats!

Join in with others and get active in a fun, relaxed environment. Bringing the community back together again at Nether Stowe School!

Venue: Nether Stowe School on Wednesdays
Time: 10.15am to 11.00am
Book via: rchilver@netherstowe.com

FREE FOR PARENTS



Helping local people in crisis.

Call us on 01543 254596

Email:-
info@Lichfield.foodbank.org.uk

Nature watch

Over half term, if you notice anything that's happening in your gardens, walks in town or the countryside, we'd love to see some photographs and a little description of what you've seen—you could upload it to your child's BGFL.

If you'd like to learn more about the feathered visitors in your garden then hop onto the following website:-

[https://
www.rspb.org.uk](https://www.rspb.org.uk)

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

NEW LIFE AT ST MICHAL'S SCHOOL

New Life at St Michael's School

Over the past few weeks, we've noticed some activity in one of our bird boxes located on the allotment. After some close observation, we discovered what we believe to be a blue tit nest at the end of April and sure enough, we found 3 eggs inside. We've been cautiously keeping an eye on developments over the past few weeks and we're happy to announce, we have 3 healthy blue tit chicks. We sent Thomas (in 3G) and Mrs Downes to investigate further. Thomas said, "I first



Blue Tits Nesting at St Michael's



heard them when I went to the allotment and I think they are really cute." Thomas decided to name the chicks Bob, Dob and Rob and Mum is now known as Verna.

Mrs Downes captured a short video and carefully took some photos which you can find in the whole school shared area on BGFL. Have a look and please be respectful when you're near the allotment area.





TRACK AND TRACE

Should you receive a positive Coronavirus Test result for YOUR CHILD during the holiday period YOU MUST CONTACT Mrs Robertson 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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Monday 31st May—Friday 4th June	HALF TERM HOLIDAYS	
Monday 7th June	SUMMER TERM (2) BEGINS	
Thursday 22nd July - Tuesday 31st August	SUMMER HOLIDAY	
Wednesday 1st September	INSET DAY—Staff Training Staff return to school	All day
Thursday 2nd September	INSET DAY—Staff Training Staff return to school	All day
Friday 3rd September	AUTUMN TERM (1) BEGINS Staff and Children return to school	

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>

IMPORTANT – POLITE REQUEST

Very sadly, we have received a number of understandable complaints from a resident living near to the school who has, on a number of occasions, been prevented from leaving her home to collect her children from their school because her driveway has been blocked by parked cars.

Please can we urge parents/grandparents/carers to be mindful of parking courteously so that any further distress is avoided.

Could parents please share this information with anyone delivering or collecting children to/from St Michael's.



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>