



St Michael's CE Junior School

Message from Mrs Jones

We have reached the Easter holidays after what has been a busy term. We have had a residential trip, various day trips, visitors in, sporting events and lots of learning opportunities. The children have continued to display good attitudes to their learning and have, on many occasions, made the adults at the school proud.

Children's Achievements

- Poppy B in Shackleton received a special recognition award for teaching dance to younger children, including choreographing the dances herself. Well done Poppy!
- Maria D in Morpurgo has for reached Stage 4 in her swimming lessons. This is fantastic, well done Maria!
- Mason C in Rowling who plays hockey at Aldershot & Farnham Hockey Club, recently achieved the U8 coaches' player of the year. Congratulations Mason!

If your child takes part in activities outside school which merit a mention in our newsletter, e.g. sporting or musical achievements, please let the School Office know, and we shall ensure it is included in the next newsletter.

adminoffice@st-michaels-jun.hants.sch.uk

Year News

Year 3

This term, our learning journey has been 'The Long Straight Road, which has been about the Romans and Italy. We have learnt how they lived, what jobs they had, which Gods and Goddesses they worshipped and how children were taught. We had a visit from The Open Box Theatre Company. We were told many new facts and we used them, along with the knowledge we already had, to have some fun and be Romans for the morning! We also had a virtual visit with Fishbourne

Roman Palace. They talked to us about the food, houses and mosaics that we would have been able to see in Roman times. We are now focusing on Italy using maps and search engines to find out information about where it is in the world and what man-made and natural sites there are. We have compared London to Rome and read Romulus and Remus with the legend of how Rome was created.

We would like to say thank you for your continued support. The children thoroughly enjoyed Roman Day and were very excited that their families were invited into school. We were really impressed with their Roman homework and have taken photos of all of them to create a gallery for display.

We hope that you enjoy your Easter break and look forward to seeing you all again in the summer term.

Year 4

We have reached the end of another busy term, and it was lovely to finish our Ancient Egyptian topic by baking some authentic Egyptian flat bread. The children will be bringing their delicious bread home to share with you.

Last month, the children loved taking part in the Hampshire Information Book Award 2022, organised by our school library service, where the children became book judges. Each child had to judge five shortlisted new non-fiction books using three categories: appeal, accuracy and authority. Votes were sent to the library service, along with the votes of other participating schools in Hampshire and the winning book was announced this week. The Hampshire winner had also been a firm favourite with our Year 4 children, so their evaluations of each book, and their votes, really did count.

This week, we visited our local church and took part in some Easter related activities. It was lovely for the children to have the opportunity to visit the church, particularly at Easter, and they were really engaged with the experience.

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Respect – Courage – Resilience



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Thank you all for the legacy homework projects that have been brought in this week. It is obvious that children and parents have put a lot of thought into these and the children were really excited about sharing them in class.

We have been writing poetry this week, contrasting a city before and after seeds have been planted. Here are some examples of the descriptive language that the children have created. We are sure you will appreciate the imagination and flair!

- skyscrapers scratch the clouds
- wind whispers softly
- bursting berries exploding with crimson colours
- hard hearted
- toxic fumes like mustard gas swallow the city

Year 5

We have now reached the end of our Ancient Greek learning journey: the children were especially excited to take part in our Art Day last week. Linked to our topic, the children were set the challenge to design a sculpture, then they had to research, and experiment with the clay, before finally creating their art. The children demonstrated plenty of resilience, especially if their design did not go according to plan!

This week, we were thrilled to see so many Ancient Greek homework projects in school, and the children were excited to share what they had learned whilst making them. We will upload a selection of project photographs onto our Google Classroom pages.

Year 5 have also been learning about modern day Greece too; the children have been making comparisons between Aldershot and Athens using a variety of sources. We have researched the economy, the climate, the land and the location of both places, to answer the question, 'Is Athens a world away from our local area?' Please do ask your child what they think.

On Wednesday this week, we visited our local church and took part in some Easter related activities, which linked to our learning in school. The children were all respectful and listened superbly.

Year 6

This term, our learning journey has been 'Shaky Ground' which has been all about extreme weather particularly volcanoes and earthquakes. The children have created information presentations during Computing using a range of software e.g. Microsoft PowerPoint, Adobe Creative Spark and Video Editor. Due to their hard work, they have created some brilliant outcomes to share information about volcanoes and earthquakes and their impact on the people and land around them. This has also linked to our artwork. Using Batik (a process of using wax and fabric dye to create images) and their sewing skills, the children have created wall hangings based on their chosen natural disaster. The children have been so creative and have shown pride in their creations.

Last week, the children took part in a mock SATS week to help them feel comfortable with how the classrooms will be set up and how the week will look when it arrives. They were all fantastic and put their best efforts into the week. We were so proud of them. Thank you for your continued support with homework and supporting the children during this time. Please remember that SATS week is the week beginning Monday 9th May and it is important that all of the children are in school.

Sport

The girls football team had a match last week and won 2-1 at home! They also played a match on Thursday, and won comprehensively. Once again they played well as a team and displayed our school values impeccably.

Parents' Consultation Meetings

It was lovely to see so many parents attend the recent Parents' Consultation Meetings, we hope that you

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enjoyed the face to face meetings that were reinstated after such a long time of not being able to do this due to the COVID restrictions.

Parents' Consultation Meetings for Curie and Columbus class have been rescheduled for 26th and 27th April – all bookings were transferred from the original times.

Change to PE Days

Following the Easter holidays there will be a change to PE days due to the Year 4 and Year 5 swimming timetables. The children are to continue to come into school in their PE kit on their PE day.

- Year 3 – Wed / Fri
- Year 4 – Tues (Swim) / Thu
- Year 5 – Tue / Thu (swim)
- Year 6 – Mon / Thu

Year 4 and Year 5 Swimming

The Year 4 and Year 5 swimming sessions will commence the week we return from Easter holidays. Year 4 will be starting on Tuesday 26th April and Year 5 will start on Thursday 28th April – please refer to the letters that were sent out earlier this term (available on our website).

Clothing and Safety (as requested by Aldershot Pool)

- All hair tied back, swimming hats must be worn by all children.
- In keeping with school policy and swimming pool Health & Safety regulations NO jewellery at all, including earrings.
- Verrucas – need to wear flip flops from changing room to poolside.
- No below the knee shorts or loose fitting t-shirts. Swim rash vests can be worn.

Children should bring a small PE bag with their underwear, towel, swimwear, swimming hat and goggles (optional).

Ukraine Day - Reminder

A reminder that Friday 29th April is our Ukraine Day where we are asking children to come dressed in blue and yellow and make a donation towards the humanitarian work in Ukraine.

Some of the Year 6 girls will be selling cakes on the playground at the end of the school day to raise more funds for the charity.

School Lunch Menu – April-November 2022

The school lunch menu, provided by HC3S, will change week commencing 25th April 2022 – please see attached to this Newsletter, they are also available on the school website.

There will also be a slight price increase for a school lunch commencing 25th April. A lunch will cost £2.60 per day.

Jubilee Party

As a school we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Friday 27th May. We will be inviting the children to dress up in red, white and blue outfits. We will do activities in the morning, a picnic lunch on the field, followed by outdoor games from the decades that the Queen has been on the throne. The children will also receive a small gift to commemorate the jubilee.

Inset day dates – 2022/2023

We have set the Inset day dates for the next academic year along with the Infant school. They will be:

- 1st and 2nd September 2022,
- 18th November 2022,

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- 3rd January 2023,
- 30th June 2023

Parent Forum and PTA

We would like to start the parent forum up again so that parents can feed their views into the way the school runs. We would also like to work on having an active PTA at the school to organise events and fundraising.

Parent Forum

This is open to all parents and will take place on Wednesday 27th April at 6pm in the school. Please do come along to find out about it and offer your views. This will only last an hour.

PTA

We are looking for people with good ideas, organisational skills and creativity to come and be part of our parent and teacher association. This is a chance to plan and organise events at the school that build our community, are good fun and sometimes raise money for the school. It is often a good way to make friends and get to know more parents. Please do come along on Wednesday 4th May at 6pm for an hour to talk about setting up an active PTA.

Parent Governors

We are looking for a parent governor. If you are interested please let us know.

Effective governance is based on six key features: Strategic leadership that sets and champions vision, ethos and strategy. Accountability that drives up educational standards and financial performance. People with the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity. Structures that reinforce clearly defined roles and responsibilities. Compliance with statutory and contractual requirements. Evaluation to monitor and improve the quality and impact of governance.

Sharing Food

It has been pointed out by our lunchtime supervisors, that some children are 'sharing' their packed lunches with their friends during lunchtime. This must not happen – we have a number of children within school that have severe allergies and this practice of 'sharing' could result in an emergency.

School Uniform

Unfortunately we appear to have dropped our standards with regard to school uniform (particularly in PE kit). School uniform forms part of our school community identity, and as such we should be ensuring our children wear their uniform with pride. As a reminder, we have attached our School Uniform list to this Newsletter so that we can ensure the children are wearing the correct uniform during their time at St Micheal's.

Please remember to write your child's name in their school uniform (including fleeces, jumpers and coats). We have a number of fleeces/coats/jumpers that get handed in without being named - it is extremely difficult to try to reunite them with their owner! Thank you.

Reporting your child absent

Please remember that if your child is not in school for any reason, you must let us know please. We have to account for each child's whereabouts in accordance with our safeguarding duties. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required. If your child is absent you must please:

- Contact us as soon as possible on the **first** day of absence
- Phone **on each day** on which your child is absent

If your child is absent because of an episode of either diarrhoea or vomiting (or both) then it is

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school policy that your child is kept at home for a full 48 hours following the last bout.

Coats

Please remember that the weather is still changeable so the children should all be prepared for the rain, and possibly snow – coats are **essential** please in school, as we go out in all weathers!

Diary Dates

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|---|---|
| 11 th -22 nd Apr | Easter Holidays |
| 26 th Apr | Year 4 Swimming |
| 27 th Apr | Parent Forum – 6pm |
| 28 th Apr | Year 5 Swimming |
| 29 th Apr | Ukraine Day |
| 2 nd May | Bank Holiday |
| 3 rd May | Year 4 Swimming |
| 4 th May | PTA Meeting – 6pm |
| 5 th May | Year 5 Swimming |
| 9 th -12 th May | Year 6 SAT's Week |
| 16 th -20 th May | Walk to School Week |
| 17 th May | Year 4 Swimming |
| 19 th May | Year 5 Swimming |
| 24 th May | Year 4 Swimming |
| 26 th May | Year 5 Swimming |
| 27 th May | Jubilee Party with Infant School |
| 30 th May-3 rd Jun | Half Term |
| 7 th June | Year 6 Swimming |
| 14 th June | Year 6 Swimming |
| 15 th June | Sports Day |
| 20 th June | Year 6 Leavers Service at Guildford Cathedral |
| 21 st -24 th June | Y6 Bikeability |
| 27 th Jun - 1 st July | Y6 PGL Residential |
| 5 th July | Year 6 Swimming |
| 12 th July | Year 6 Swimming |
| 19 th July | Year 6 Swimming |
| 21 st July | Last Day of Term |

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