



St Michael's CE Junior School

Message from Mr Sammes

We are three weeks into the term and the children have settled into the school routines really well. Staff continue to work hard not only in delivering a rich curriculum, but in constantly adapting practice to meet new expectations and guidance around Covid-19. Whilst we are operating more 'freely' than last year we still remain cautious in opening up activities and opportunities too quickly. In line with our Covid risk assessment we are operating staggered breaks and lunches to minimise direct contact of pupils across the whole school.

Parent meetings this term will remain, in the main, virtual using school cloud, with further details to follow soon. We are hoping to gradually offer after school clubs with a few opportunities starting in October and building on these as the year progresses. Thank you for your cooperation in these matters.

Voting for the election of Y6 House Captains took place earlier this week and my huge admiration goes to those who nominated themselves for the position and the speeches they prepared. Congratulations to all those who have been elected. They are as follows:

Blackwater

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| Attenborough | Miaa S |
| Columbus | Henry B |
| Shackleton | Chloe R |

Rowhill

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| Attenborough | Ruby D |
| Columbus | Orly Z |
| Shackleton | Harry H |

Brickfields

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Attenborough | Hannah M |
| Columbus | Ollie M |
| Shackleton | Hannah B |

Manor

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| Attenborough | Max S |
| Columbus | Freya H |
| Shackleton | Sasha F |

Governor Positions

We are looking to fill a number of governor vacancies. Details of the recent Governor position can be found at the end of this newsletter. However, we are also seeking interested members of the local community to consider the co-opted position also on offer. If you are aware of any work colleagues/local residents that might be interested, please ask them to get in touch with the school for further details.

Children's Achievements

- Chloe R in Shackleton recently took part in a swimathon to raise money for Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie. She swam 2500m as part of a team that swam 5000m, which is the furthest she has ever swum continuously! That's brilliant Chloe, well done!

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 3 News

Welcome everyone to a new school year and your child's first year with us at St. Michael's C of E Junior School. The children have settled in well, and are already working hard and forming new friendships. They are demonstrating our school values of Respect, Courage and Resilience. These are values that we promote throughout school, and we encourage the children to reflect upon their learning and behaviour in relation to them.

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Our Topic this term is 'Through the Ages'. The children will learn about British History from the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. They will handle real artefacts from each time-period giving them the opportunity to understand the tools, weapons and clothing that people would have used. They will visit Butser Farm and take part in workshops allowing them to get a feel for what life was like during those ages. At school, the children will find out about the food they ate, the clothes they wore, the camps they lived in and what a nomadic lifestyle means. They will be taught the different names for the periods within the Stone Age, and what changed for the people. They move onto looking at the Bronze Age and Iron Age, and how the introduction of working with those metals changed the way we lived and fought.

In Literacy, we are using two texts: Stone Age Boy and How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth. The children learn about 'Boy' who travels back in time to meet a Stone Age girl called Om. She shows him her family and their way of life. He learns a lot about the people and has great fun doing so. The children gain a lot of information from this text and they enjoy writing their own version of the story at the end of the unit. How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth is a delightful book and the children will see some beautiful illustrations as well as enjoying the antics that the girl and the mammoth take part in. They will then write their own set of instructions to guide others who may want to wash a mammoth.

In Maths, we have been focussing on Number and Place Value. The children revised how much numbers are worth, how they fit into the number system and how to order and compare them. They looked at how to spell some of the numbers in words and write them using numerals, ensuring correct formation of the numbers. We then moved onto adding and subtracting multiples of ten and one hundred. The children have been introduced to TTRS and Numbots, which they enjoyed. Their login for this is in the front of their reading record.

We would like to thank you for all of the support that you have shown already. We enjoyed meeting you during the 'Meet the Teacher' call yesterday afternoon. Please do not worry if you missed this as it has been recorded, and will be placed on Google Classroom for you to see at your convenience.

Year 4 News

We have had a fantastic start to the new term and the children have settled in beautifully. It is lovely to see our school values of respect, courage and resilience continuously being demonstrated. The children have such a positive attitude towards their learning, and we are looking forward to the many exciting learning opportunities that that we have planned for this term.

Our topic this term is 'Journey to Another World', which is about real and imagined journeys to new worlds. At the start of their topic, the children shared their opinions about their own personal journeys over Year Three, their successes over the year and their next steps in Year Four. They imagined they could journey to a new planet, and drew what that new planet would look like and wrote about the important and 'special' features it would include so that everybody took responsibility. We have been appreciating different pieces of music, and responding to these music through art. Next, the children will begin creating their own musical compositions based on a journey to a new world.

In Literacy, we have been developing our descriptive language to describe dragons. We have been extending our sentences using conjunctions. Using the texts 'Fantastic Beasts' by J.K. Rowling and 'Dare to Care Pet Dragon' as inspiration we created our own dragons and now we are writing explanation guides about how to be a responsible pet dragon owner.

Our Maths learning has been about place value and addition and subtraction. We have been learning to compare and order numbers using number lines, find 10, 100 and 1000 more and less of three and four digit numbers, and round numbers to help them to estimate

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answers to calculations. The children have been developing their mathematical explanations using mathematical vocabulary.

It has been wonderful to have the children back in the classroom and to see all of their fantastic learning. We hope that they have been able to talk to you about all of the brilliant things that they have been up to.

Year 5 News

It has been a brilliant start to the term with Year 5. The children have settled in to upper school beautifully and have been making us proud showing the school values of respect, courage and resilience. It has been fantastic to get to know them all and to help them settle back into school life after the summer holiday.

Our topic this term is 'Near, Far, Wherever You Are', which is all about the Titanic and the area of Southampton. The children thoroughly enjoyed the start to this topic. They received a boarding card and were transported back in time to experience life on board Titanic as a first, second or third class passenger. Afterwards, Year 5 enthusiastically shared their learning with each other. We have also started to look carefully at primary and secondary sources, and we generated questions about them.

In Literacy, Year 5 watched a short film clip called 'Pandora', which is about a fictional planet of the same name. This week, we completed diary entries from the point of view of an explorer visiting Pandora for the first time. We thought about how we could use adjectives, prepositions and different conjunctions to improve our writing. Next week, we will be creating a creature who could inhabit Pandora and we will write information texts too.

Our Maths learning has been about place value, addition and subtraction. We have also been rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000, and compared numbers by ordering them. More recently, we have practised different strategies for adding and subtracting.

It really has been fantastic to work with our Year 5 children and see their positive attitude towards their learning.

Year 6 News

Year 6 have made a fantastic start to the new school year and we have been so impressed with how they have settled to learning so quickly and have been role models to the younger year groups with their respect, courage and resilience. We have really enjoyed seeing them rise to the challenge of Year 6 and put themselves forward for roles and responsibilities, which will be selected later this half term.

Our topic this term is 'The Journey to Discovery' which is all about explorers and how we can identify the successes of different explorers. This is also a way to learn more about the explorers that gave our classes their names. To start the topic, the children looked at artefacts and tried to answer the question 'Whose case is it?'. They came up with some fantastic ideas and were able to explain the links they had made between different clues. Together, we have thought about 'success' and 'resilience' and the skills that an explorer might need, which will feed into all of our further learning on the topic.

In English, we have been using the book 'Survivors' by David Long. It is full of true stories about people who have found themselves in extraordinary situations. Over the last couple of weeks, we have read about Rob Tesar, a young man who got stuck in quicksand. Year 6 have done a fantastic job of putting themselves in his shoes and have produced some brilliant diary entries including relative clauses and showing how Rob might have felt. We will now be moving on to looking at retelling the story as a newspaper article, identifying how this type of recount differs from a diary.

In Maths, we have been focusing on number and place value. We have identified the place value of numbers up to ten million and have rounded to different degrees of accuracy, thinking about patterns that we can spot

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when using these skills. We have also looked at negative numbers and how they can be used in different contexts.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher event. We really appreciate your support. We are very proud of how positively Year 6 have approached their learning so far and we look forward to sharing more of their learning with you.

Free School Meals

We want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can. Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

Registering for free meals could also raise an extra **£1,345** for our school to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or other school activities.

To check if your child is eligible, we need information about **you** and your child. Please contact the School

Office by **Friday 1st October** if you believe you may be eligible for free school meals.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a parent governor which we need to fill as soon as possible. St Michael's CofE Controlled Junior School has always aimed for a partnership with parents which undoubtedly brings great benefits to the children. One of the most significant ways you can help in promoting this aim is to volunteer to be a parent governor.

The governing body's main tasks are:

- to ensure that the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- to hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- to oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Parent governors are welcomed as valued members of the team and play a vital role in ensuring the governing body is aware of the views of parents and the local community. We feel sure that there are parents prepared to take on this important role and give their time and commitment to helping us to continue to improve the school's performance.

Training and support will be available to help you develop into the role. This will include in-house mentoring and support as well as access to external governor training.

If you feel you can help in this capacity please contact the office for an application form which will need to be completed and returned to the school by 12.00 noon on 15th October 2021.

You should look at the information for prospective governors on the [Hampshire Governor Services website](#).

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Please note that for the protection of children all governor appointments are subject to an identity check.

If there are more applications than vacancies, we will hold an election and you will be sent a voting paper in due course. You may return the ballot paper either via your child or by post.

Diary Dates

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|--|---|
| 4 th – 8 th Oct | Walk to School Week |
| w/c 11 th Oct | Parents Evenings – More information to follow |
| 25 th – 29 th Oct | Half term |
| 21 st Dec-1 st Jan | Christmas Holidays |
| 4 th Jan | INSET Day - School Closed to all pupils |

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